

**Question for written answer P-002948/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Relevance of the directive on the percentage of women on boards of directors

In 2012, the European Commission proposed a Directive on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges, also called the 'Women on Boards Directive'.

The proposed directive requires Member States to adopt laws to introduce mandatory quotas: the aim is to have at least a 40 % female presence on the boards of private and public companies.

The European Parliament has supported the Commission proposal, but some Member States have opposed it and this has impeded the legislative work on the directive in the Council.

- Is the Commission considering following the opinion of those Member States and discontinuing legislative work on this directive?
- Does the Commission not think that Member States are better placed to decide on their employment policies?
- Does it not agree that membership of company boards should be based on the professional experience and qualifications of female candidates rather than their gender, and that these mandatory quotas for the representation of women on boards prevent this principle from being applied?