Question for oral answer O-0000/2014
to the Commission
Rule 128
Iratxe García Pérez
on behalf of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Subject: Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

In its Communication towards the elimination of FGM of 25/11/2013 the Commission takes a holistic and cross-cutting approach to ending FGM. It lists actions, but does not give timelines. The EP is concerned about the practical aspects of the implementation of this action plan and of the other political and legal tools at the EU’s disposal to eliminate FGM on the Union territory and beyond.

Which actions has the Commission taken so far to ensure the implementation of the recommendations made in the Council Conclusions of 5-6 June 2014? What concrete measures will the Commission take to encourage Member States to develop specific indicators on FGM as part of the EU’s follow-up of the UN Beijing Platform for Action? In its communication, the EC acknowledges that "Legislation, effective prosecution, and the conviction of guilty parents and cutters appear to be essential as deterrents [...]" How will the Commission support Member states to enact and enforce legislation prohibiting FGM\(^1\) and contribute to this policy in its external relations? In particular, which measures will be taken to ensure a better implementation of the sanctions against the perpetrators by the Member States? Does the EEAS staff in delegations receive appropriate training? Is the Commission willing to fund vital support services as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men\(^2\)? What concrete measures will the Commission take to ensure the protection of Asylum seekers with claims relating to FGM under the recast Asylum Procedures Directive? How will the Commission make sure that its work on the operational planning of the justice and home affairs area will be connected to the existing commitments to end violence against women? What concrete steps were taken so far to ensure the accession of the EU and MS to the Istanbul convention? Has the Commission the intention of following the recommendations of the EP resolution of 25 February 2014 on combating Violence Against Women and submitting soon a proposal for an act establishing measures to promote and support the action of Member States in the field of prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG)?

Tabled: ...
Forwarded: ...
Deadline for reply: ...

\(^1\) FGM is prosecutable in all EU Member States, either through general criminal legislation or through specific criminal law provisions. A principle of extra-territoriality is often included, making it possible to prosecute FGM when it is committed abroad, if the victim and /or the person(s) exercising or planning the procedure are nationals of the investigating country.

\(^2\) According to a report by the EIGE there have only been 41 criminal court cases across 11 different Member States as there is a lack of services with sufficient expertise and knowledge to provide support to victims.