

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0521/03  
by Miet Smet (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Women's rights in Pakistan

In 2001 the European Union and Pakistan signed a cooperation agreement. Article 1 of that agreement contains a clause relating to respect for human rights and democratic principles.

In spite of the fact that Pakistan subscribes to these principles, the rights of women in Pakistan are not always respected. AFP, Reuters and the New York Times report that some Pakistani women have been the victims of violence as a result of blood feuds, including rape, burning, murder etc. Blood feuds can be decreed by local councils.

Has the EU yet reacted to these grave infringements of women's rights? If not, does it intend to do so?

Is there any provision for a mechanism to systematically monitor and enforce respect for women's rights in Pakistan? Is there provision for the possibility of suspending cooperation between Pakistan and the EU if women's rights, and human rights in general, are continually violated in Pakistan? If not, will the EU make provision in future for such possibilities?

If there is provision for the monitoring and enforcement of respect for human rights and for the possible suspension of cooperation between Pakistan and the EU, does this apply to all the countries which have signed a similar agreement (i.e. a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation agreement containing explicit references to human rights) with the EU?