

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4213/09
by Niki Tzavela (EFD) and Athanasios Plevris (EFD)
to the Commission

Subject: Law in Afghanistan which violates human rights

Shortly before the presidential elections in Afghanistan, the international community is very concerned about a new law which flagrantly violates women's human rights, since it treats them as objects for satisfying their spouses' sexual desire, thereby making them their chattel. Given the daily struggle undertaken by the civilised world to strengthen human rights and human values world-wide, it is inadmissible that we should allow this abusive treatment of women who are forced to become objects for their spouses if they are to receive anything to eat. This issue has attracted considerable attention in the international press, with clear indications that the reactions of western states have so far been low-key because of the elections (see The New York Times, 17 August 2009). However, the EU must not remain indifferent to human rights violations of this kind and should possibly link any financial aid to respect for these rights.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

Does it intend to take measures to exert pressure on the new government in Afghanistan and prevent the implementation of this law?