

**Question for written answer E-003407/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Marietta Giannakou (PPE)**

Subject: Forced marriages and education of minors

Forced marriages involving minors are one of the most serious human rights violations in Turkey. Educating, informing and teaching young women play a major role in preventing this situation and related studies illustrate that forced marriages are more frequent among poor, uneducated girls.

A large proportion of the female population in Turkey is uneducated and 40 % of underage women suffer violence within the family and are forced into marriage for cultural or financial reasons. Despite modern means of communication, underage girls in Turkey still risk becoming victims of crimes of honour. 80 % of underage girls in rural and isolated regions of the country are forced into marriage before the age of 18, which is illegal and prohibited under Turkish law. Forced marriages expose underage girls to the risks inherent in underage pregnancy, due to a lack of welfare and information services. Numerous young girls die during pregnancy, leaving their new-born babies orphaned.

The same problem even occurs within immigrant Turkish communities in Europe. In Germany, where there are more than three million inhabitants of Turkish origin, the large majority of forced marriages involve members of the Turkish community.

In light of the above and the positive dialogue with Turkey, will the Commission say:

– Has it obtained more recent data on this problem and, if so, how does it intend to step up efforts to eliminate such marriages and crimes of honour, inform and educate inhabitants of problem areas about their rights and promote respect for women's rights?