

**Question for written answer E-005525/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Ricardo Cortés Lastra (S&D)

Subject: Combating gender-based violence

On 22 November 2012, in its conclusions on 'Combating violence against women, and the provision of support services for victims of domestic violence', the Council of the European Union stated that the Member States had to ensure that support services for victims of violence were in adequate supply and apply a gender equality perspective in particular with a view to protecting and empowering women and children, and that such services were tailored to their specific immediate and longer-term needs and safety.

In contrast to this, the current Spanish Government's policy of cuts is affecting the most vulnerable groups in society, including female victims of violence by men. This is shown in the 43 % cut in the 2013 general budget for Cantabria for equality and women's policies. It is also seen in the dismantling in Cantabria and in other autonomous communities of centres and services providing assistance to the victims of gender-based violence and their children, and the reduction in financial and human resources to support them. Notwithstanding the cuts in public policies and health services, there were 303 cases of abuse and 25 cases of sexual assault in Cantabria in 2012.

We cannot allow the progress made up to 2011 to come to nothing, now the government is not condemning murders, is not raising awareness and is ceasing to support victims.

Does the Commission think that the current policy of national and regional cuts in Spain is at odds with the EU's efforts to combat gender-based violence?