

**Question for written answer E-006036/2013  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)  
Rule 117  
Mikael Gustafsson (GUE/NGL) and Barbara Lochbihler (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Child marriage and girls' education

The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy implementing the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy foresees the following outcomes:

- Promotion and protection of children's rights (Outcome 19), implemented inter alia through '(a) [...] a targeted campaign on the rights of the child with a specific focus on violence against children';
  - Protection of the rights of women, and protection against gender-based violence (Outcome 20), implemented inter alia through actions to '(b) support relevant initiatives against harmful traditional practices [...], (c) promote the prevention of early and forced marriages affecting children, (d) implement the nine specific objectives of the EU plan of action for gender equality and women's empowerment in development 2010-15', and '(e) support initiatives, including of civil society, against gender based violence and femicide'.
1. In light of these commitments, and in light of child marriage being a form of violence against children and gender-based violence as well as a harmful traditional practice, what actions are being and will be taken by the EEAS to fulfil the aforementioned outcomes in order to prevent child marriage on a global level, and to mitigate its harmful consequences by offering support to those affected by the practice? In particular, what is the timeframe and concrete planning for implementing action 20c?

Secondary education (minimum of nine years of schooling) for girls is not only a human right, it is also one of the key drivers of development. Child marriage, and gender-based violence in and around schools, are two of the key barriers to girls accessing and completing such education. With its European Consensus on Development, the EU has made a commitment to pay particular attention to promoting girls' education and safety at school.

2. What efforts are being and will be made by the EEAS in its policy dialogues with third countries to raise the issues of quality education for girls, child marriage and gender-based violence in and around schools?