

**Question for written answer E-006332/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL), Sophie Auconie (PPE), Mary Honeyball (S&D), Nicole Kiil-Nielsen (Verts/ALE) and Antonyia Parvanova (ALDE)**

**Subject:** 1949 UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others

On 15 April 2013 the Commission published data on the scale of trafficking in human beings in Europe. The majority of identified and presumed victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, i.e. prostitution (62 %). Women account for 68 % of identified and presumed victims, girls 12 %. Eighty-four per cent of suspected traffickers traffic human beings for sexual exploitation.

In its answer to parliamentary question E-008411/2012 from MEP Zuber, the Commission said that it 'acknowledges the interplay between prostitution and trafficking in human beings'.

However, neither the EU directive nor the EU Strategy on trafficking in human beings refers to the 1949 United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. This acknowledges the direct link between prostitution and trafficking in women. The Convention makes it clear that trafficking in human beings, the great majority of whom are women, is fuelled by prostitution. 'Prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person'.

- Why does the Commission not refer to this international instrument in EU legislation and action on trafficking?
- While 18 EU Member States have ratified the 1949 UN Convention, is the Convention regarded as part of the Community's *acquis*? If not, why not?

Many reports and studies, including the 2006 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, show that there is a direct link between policies on prostitution and the scale of trafficking. Policy approaches that criminalise the demand (i.e. procurers of sex) while supporting prostituted persons, are proven to deter trafficking successfully, while legislation that regulates prostitution and pimping fails to reduce trafficking.

- Why does the Commission keep on taking a 'neutral' approach to the issue of prostitution, despite stating officially that ending trafficking is one of its policy priorities?