

**Question for written answer E-010790/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 117

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Subject: VP/HR - The EU on child marriage

Despite an overall decrease in the number of child marriages, the figure still remains high. According to UNICEF, nearly 70 million young women aged between 20 et 26 were married before the age of 18 and 23 million of them were married from as young as age 15.

Moreover, child marriage has profound implications for young girls who may abandon their studies, fall victim to violence or experience premature pregnancies. According to UNICEF, 14 million girls aged 15 to 19 give birth every year.

This alarming phenomenon is a reality as the recent events in Yemen, India and Somalia remind us.

Therefore, I should like to ask the following questions of the European Union's High Representative:

1. What measures have been taken by the European Union within the framework of its relations with third countries to ensure that international obligations, and particularly human rights, are respected?
2. The High Representative commented on the death of a young Yemenite girl on her wedding night: what measures have been taken to monitor the situation in Yemen and, in particular, the call for legislation establishing a minimum age for marriage and the implementation of such legislation?
3. What is your assessment of Yemen's international commitments to protecting the lives and rights of young girls?