

**Question for written answer E-012402/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Nikola Vuljanić (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Deciding on minorities' constitutional rights by referendum

On 1 December 2013, a national referendum will be held in Croatia on whether marriage should be defined in the Constitution as a union existing solely between a man and a woman. The referendum will be held after the '*U ime obitelji*' ('In the Name of the Family') citizens' initiative gathered enough signatures from Croatian citizens.

What is the Commission's view on taking decisions on human, gender and minority rights by referendum?

Is it in keeping with fundamental European values for a majority to be able, through referenda, to take decisions to change the Constitution which strike at the position and rights of minorities, be they ethnic, religious or sexual?

Does the Commission not agree that taking decisions on issues of basic human rights in such a manner threatens to put minorities in a less favourable position than they currently enjoy, subjecting them to discrimination that is unacceptable in civilised societies?