

**Question for written answer E-013736/2013  
to the Council**  
Rule 117  
**Evelyn Regner (S&D)**

Subject: Anti-gay and lesbian policy in Russia

One of the current features of Russia is its discriminatory anti-lesbian and gay legislation. The adoption of the anti-propaganda law has resulted in increasing reports from Russia about the rise in the number of violent attacks against homosexuals. Lesbians and gays are being attacked and insulted in the open street, as well as being subjected to restrictive violence from the State.

Håkon Haugli (Norway, SOC), general rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), made the following observation in a report from 6 September 2013.

Following the flagrant violation of the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly by the law on so-called homosexual propaganda, the right to respect for private and family life is now under threat. This legalisation of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity is at variance with the Russian Federation's international obligations and implies the risk of legitimising and promoting homophobic and transphobic attitudes and violence.

Parliament recently launched stinging criticism of the Russian legislation in June 2013.

Can the Council answer the following:

1. What does the Council intend to do to make Russia aware in explicit and no uncertain terms that Russia's legislation is unacceptable?
2. What provision will the Council apply if Russian nationals seek protection in the EU on the grounds of being homosexual?
3. Will the Council recommend Member States to grant lesbians and gays from Russia asylum or temporary residence?
4. What measures does the Council plan to adopt in support of Russian associations in the LGBTI sector or of key activists?