

**Question for written answer E-014426/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Edite Estrela (S&D)

Subject: Lack of resources and political support from the EU for gender equality

The European Institute for Gender Quality (EIGE) has published a report on the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms and gender mainstreaming in the European Union between 2005 and 2012.

According to the EIGE, 'gender equality in the EU is facing serious challenges', including a lack of resources and 'support from political leaders', and there is a 'tendency to marginalise national institutional structures that are specifically focused on the advancement of gender equality'.

The number of bodies working in this area halved between 2005 and 2012 and they 'are increasingly replaced by bodies for protection against discrimination on various grounds', and according to the EIGE, 'strengthening national gender equality bodies is a necessary condition for the effective implementation of all EU policies and making equality between women and men a reality in the EU'.

Policies advocated by the EU do not provide for gender mainstreaming in all areas of EU action, as laid down, moreover, by the Treaties.

1. What steps is the Commission currently taking to ensure the effective application of the principle of gender equality?
2. In view of the conclusions of the EIGE report, what additional measures does the Commission plan to present?