

**Question for written answer E-003078/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Gaston Franco (PPE)

Subject: Abuse of European women

According to the new report published by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on 4 March 2014, one in three women has been a victim of physical or sexual violence in Europe. More specifically, on the basis of the 42 000 European women interviewed, 62 million have been a victim of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15, 22% have been the object of physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner and 5% of women have been raped.

1. In light of these alarming results, how does the Commission intend to follow up this study that casts light on the extent of the violence that women are subjected to throughout Europe?

According to this same study, it appears to be the women of northern Europe who suffer the most from physical or sexual violence. In Denmark, more than one out of every two persons interviewed (52%) admits to having been a victim of abuse, followed by Finland (47%), Sweden (46%) and the Netherlands (45%).

2. What guidance does the Commission intend to give the Member States with a view to strengthening their national policies on combating violence against women and rectifying the imbalance that exists between the Member States in order to guarantee European women a secure and effective framework within the Union?

Moreover, the Agency has appealed to the EU Member States to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, referred to as the Istanbul Convention. To date, only Austria, Italy and Portugal have ratified this convention.

3. Does the Commission intend to encourage the Member States to sign this convention with a view to protecting the fundamental rights of women and attempting to reinforce the action taken by the EU in this area?