

**Question for written answer E-002589/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Sentences handed down in the 'Wolf Pack' case

The Court in Navarre has sentenced five young men calling themselves 'the Wolf Pack' ('la Manada') to nine years imprisonment for sexual abuse, but acquitted them on the charge of sexual assault and, therefore, of rape.

Only nine European countries recognise that non-consensual sex is rape. The lack of any legal recognition that non-consensual sexual relations constitute rape fosters the idea that women are expected to take responsibility for protecting themselves against rape.

The Istanbul Convention, which the EU and 17 of its Member States have ratified, recognises the legal definition of rape based on the absence of consent. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has also urged a number of countries to bring their legislation on rape into line with international standards, and to define rape on the basis of the absence of consent. Bearing in mind that approximately nine million women in the EU aged 15 or over have been raped, we wish to ask the Commission:

- 1) What is its reaction to this sentence?
- 2) Will it urge Member States to fall into line with international standards and define rape as the absence of consent?
- 3) Does it believe a directive against gender violence is needed to standardise the definitions of these offences and create a common framework for victims?