

Question for written answer E-003912/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: The need for an equality strategy and a directive to combat violence against women

On 4 March 2016, the Commission proposed that the EU should accede to the Istanbul Convention on action against violence against women and domestic violence as the first tool in Europe setting legally binding standards for the prevention of violence against women and girls, the protection of victims and the punishment of perpetrators. As indicated in the roadmap issued by the Commission, the accession of the Union to the Convention comes as the response to calls that the Union should be at the forefront of the fight for gender equality, while ratification of the Convention will decisively contribute to improved coordination of the policies of the European institutions and the provision of adequate resources.

Given the Commission's declared commitment that the EU should put an end to violence against women, the following questions naturally arise:

1. Will the Commission propose a directive on combating violence against women, ensuring that the Istanbul Convention is incorporated into European law?
2. Why has the Commission not come up with a holistic EU strategy to combat violence against women which includes a comprehensive action plan to combat all forms of gender-based violence?