

**Question for written answer E-004232/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Roman Haider (ID), Georg Mayer (ID)

Subject: Prostitution of asylum seekers

Migration to the European Union has also led to an increase in the legal and illegal prostitution of asylum seekers. For example, Austria is the only Member State in which asylum seekers may exercise a liberal profession (without proof of qualifications) three months after lodging an asylum application ¹. People from third countries can thus enter Austria illegally and three months later engage in legal prostitution. Article 15(1) of Directive 2013/33/EU ² stipulates that asylum seekers must be granted access to the labour market within nine months at the latest. In order to close this loophole, which people smugglers and their backers are exploiting, and protect asylum seekers against sexual exploitation and human trafficking, a new directive should be drawn up or an existing directive, for example 2011/36/EU ³ or 2013/33/EU, amended.

1. Does the Commission regard it as legally possible to explicitly prohibit prostitution for the purpose of protecting asylum seekers against sexual exploitation and human trafficking in the European Union?
2. In the absence of such a ban, does the Commission regard the protection of the persons concerned against physical and psychological harm as adequate?

¹ <https://rdb.manz.at/document/ris.n.NOR40198562>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?qid=1574852112546&uri=CELEX:32013L0033>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?qid=1574852229487&uri=CELEX:32011L0036>