

**Question for written answer E-003570/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Maria Spyraiki (PPE)

Subject: Increase in domestic violence as a result of lockdown measures

According to data from the Greek General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality, there was a significant increase in reports of violence and domestic violence incidents during the mandatory lockdown at home due to the coronavirus pandemic. In April the SOS telephone line received a total of 1 769 calls about violent incidents, compared to 325 calls in March. Equally worrying is the increase in domestic violence in April; 648 calls were received in that month, four times the number in March, when 166 calls were recorded. In particular, 41 calls related to requests for accommodation in hostels, 15 of which required exceptional intervention involving the immediate removal of the victims from their environment.

Given that one of the aims of the new European gender equality strategy 2020-2025 entitled 'A Union of Equality' is preventing and combating gender-based violence:

In view of this:

1. What steps has the Commission taken to implement the above-mentioned strategy?
2. What measures does the Commission propose to enhance support and protection for victims of domestic violence offences?