

**Question for written answer E-005256/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Issuing of virginity certificates, a practice still authorised in the European Union

In the context of a draft law on combating religious separatism, the French Government is seeking to ban the issuing of certificates of virginity and penalise the medical personnel that produce them. This move has indirectly brought to light the existence of this practice in the European Union.

The certificate is supposed to 'prove' the virginity of a woman, and it is issued following a gynaecological examination to determine whether the woman concerned has already had penetrative vaginal sex.

The examination, which is often demanded by a relative in order to attest the virginity of a future wife in a religious marriage, is an archaic practice reflecting radical Islamic dogma.

It is not only a violation of ethical standards and of women's fundamental rights, but also a violent attack on women's physical integrity. Accordingly, does the Commission intend to:

condemn this practice and seek to have it banned in the European Union?

recommend to the Member States that they impose penalties on the preachers who promote such practices and the family members who insist on such examinations being carried out?

Supporters¹

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Jean-Paul Garraud (ID), Thierry Mariani (ID), Christine Anderson (ID)