

Question for written answer E-006415/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Cindy Franssen (PPE)

Subject: Ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention

The Istanbul Convention is the first legally binding international instrument to address and prevent violence against women in a comprehensive manner. Currently, all Member States of the European Union have signed the Convention, but only 21 have ratified it. Moreover, Poland intends to withdraw from the Convention.

In some Member States, the implementation of the Istanbul Convention appears to represent an important step forward in the fight against violence against women. In Belgium, for example, health care centres for victims of sexual violence have been set up as a result of the Istanbul Convention. Victims of sexual violence can go to such centres for a full range of assistance: medical care, forensic investigation, psychological assistance, reporting and follow-up. It is planned to introduce more of such centres across the country.

1. Does the Commission have sufficient platforms and networks in place for the Member States to be able to exchange such positive examples of approaches being adopted?
2. What concrete steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure that all Member States ratify the Istanbul Convention and that it is fully implemented?
3. What other measures does the Commission plan on adopting in the years to come to tackle violence against women?