

**Question for written answer E-001535/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (PPE)**

Subject: Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention

Turkey's recent decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, the first legally binding international instrument designed to prevent and combat gender-based and domestic violence, once again demonstrates the continued reluctance of this neighbouring country to align itself with European values and international law.

This is a particularly serious setback for the protection of women's rights and fundamental rights in general, which Turkey is being called upon to respect with a view to future accession.

The difficulties caused by the pandemic, with a dramatic rise in the incidence of domestic violence, leave no room for complacency and it is vital to avoid sending out the wrong messages. Turkey keeps no official statistics regarding the incidence of violence against women, which nevertheless occurs on a daily basis and is one of its most egregious social ills.

Given the position of the EU a leading global advocate for gender equality and in view of the new EU 'Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025':

1. What immediate action is being envisaged by the Commission in response to the recent decision of the Turkish Government to ride roughshod over the rights of women?
2. What does it think will be the implications of this unfortunate decision for women's rights in Turkey and worldwide?