Question for written answer E-002304/2021

to the Commission

Rule 138

Jorge Buxadé Villalba (ECR)

Subject: Depiction of oppressive female Islamic garb in a Eurostat publication on schools and kindergartens in Europe

On 27 April, the Eurostat office posted on its Twitter account an item concerning young people’s access to education in the EU, accompanied by an illustration showing a female secondary school pupil wearing a niqab. A niqab is an Islamic garment that conceals a woman s face entirely, leaving only the eyes uncovered. The wearing of this garment is banned in public places and buildings in several EU Member States, such as Denmark, France, Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Belgium, for example.

In Europe and much of the Western world, this particular garment is regarded as oppressive and discriminatory against women.

Bearing in mind that gender discrimination is prohibited under both national laws and the treaties, not to mention the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and given that the Commission is referred to as ‘guardian of the treaties’:

1. Does the Commission consider that it has been exercising due diligence in ensuring compliance with the treaties?

2. What prompted Eurostat to post an illustration showing an adolescent wearing a niqab?

3. Does it intend to withdraw the illustration and issue an apology?