

**Question for written answer E-004401/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tom Vandendriessche (ID)

Subject: Instances of discrimination in Liège with the support of the Belgian Government

On Friday 3 September 2021, the Belgian Ecolo party and Etopia research centre organised a VertPop event. One of the activities included an 'inspiring walk' through the City of Liège to discuss the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus crisis on women. However, the organisers specified that only women and sexual minorities were welcome to participate, thereby excluding around half of the population. Sarah Schlitz, Belgian State Secretary for Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities and Diversity, attended the march and expressed her support for her party's initiative.

Given that Ms Schlitz, in her capacity as State Secretary, was present at an activity that was actively discriminating against half the population:

1. What can the Commission do to help prevent such discriminatory events being held in future?
2. Does it consider attendance by the Belgian State Secretary for Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities and Diversity at an openly discriminatory event and her support for it to run counter to the values of the European Union under Article 2 TEU?