

**Question for written answer E-005305/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The seventh Spain-Turkey Summit and the Member States' consistent implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan III

On 1 July 2021, Turkey withdrew from the Istanbul Convention. The Copenhagen criteria, which are the conditions for EU membership, include full respect for all human rights – including gender equality and women's human rights. Negotiations for the accession of Turkey to the EU are at a standstill, among other reasons because of Turkey's extremely limited commitment to upholding EU human rights standards. The denunciation of the Istanbul Convention is another step that calls into question Turkey's status as a candidate for EU membership.

On 17 October 2021, President Erdoğan expressed contempt for the rights of women and LGTBI people in front of the Spanish Prime Minister, who did not react or censure his statement¹. This humiliation is not so different to the 'sofagate' scandal, after which Parliament criticised the President of the European Council's passive attitude to the discriminatory treatment of President Ursula von der Leyen.

The Gender Action Plan III aims to improve coordination between the EU and the Member States to ensure they work together on gender issues in partner countries.

As regards the gender dimension of foreign policy, how will the Commission ensure that the Member States act in a way that is consistent with the EU's approach?

¹ <https://www.elperiodico.com/es/internacional/20211117/sanchez-erdogan-amistad-turquia-espana-12865150>