

**Question for written answer E-000099/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: Joan of Arc: a woman and an example for Europe

Every year, the Commission celebrates International Women's Day by paying tribute to outstanding women who have shaped Europe. For example, Marie Curie, the Nobel Prize-winning French scientist of Polish origin, is often held up as an exemplary individual in Brussels.

However, all the women selected were alive in the recent past. This practice reinforces the prejudiced view that women have always played a negligible role in history. Yet the most extraordinary heroic figure from history in Europe is a woman: Joan of Arc.

Hailing from the sheepfolds of Lorraine, she inspired and led the King, Captains and Knights of France and won a number of battles which were decisive in the liberation of France. A woman of peace, she offered peace to the enemy before any blood was shed.

Envied, slandered and wounded, she cut a lone figure in her prison, where she was surrounded by men. She was loved by the French people but was accused of being a witch, subjected to intimate advances and burned at the stake by the occupying English forces in Rouen on 30 May 1431 'for wearing men's clothing'.

Will the Commission finally celebrate Joan of Arc, the most extraordinary woman in history, on International Women's Day, 8 March 2022?