

Question for written answer E-002301/2022
to the Council
Rule 138
Nathalie Colin-Oesterlé (PPE)

Subject: Inclusion of the right to abortion in the Charter of Fundamental Rights

During his speech to Parliament on 19 January 2022, the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, announced that he would like to see the right to abortion included in the Charter of Fundamental Rights. However some obstacles stand in the way of this. As there is no common position on abortion at EU level, it is unlikely that the unanimity needed for any revision of the Charter could be found.

Moreover, there is no uniform definition of the right to abortion in the European Union. While in some Member States abortion is only circumscribed by time limits, in others this right can only be exercised under certain circumstances, such as when pregnancy is the result of rape or incest, for example.

1. How does the Council Presidency plan to achieve the unanimity needed in order to revise the Charter of Fundamental Rights while at the same time adopting an ambitious definition?
2. Are opt-out clauses being envisaged for Member States that do not want to be tied by this new provision?
3. Will the wording of the article guaranteeing the right to abortion enable abortion to be performed solely under conditions determined by the Member States, or will it grant an unqualified right to abortion?