

**Question for written answer E-002522/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Niyazi Kizilyürek (The Left)

Subject: Abortion law in Malta

Last week, an American woman was hospitalised in Malta after experiencing severe bleeding in her 16th week of pregnancy, which put her at greater risk of haemorrhage and infection. Doctors told her the fetus had no chance of survival, but still refused to perform an abortion owing to the country's strict abortion laws. The Maltese health authorities turned down her request despite fears for her health.

Malta is the only EU country with a total ban on abortion, which forces women to seek help elsewhere. Women travelling abroad can be at risk of health complications if the procedure is not performed in medically safe conditions.

With this in mind:

1. How will the Commission safeguard women's rights, as described in Article 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and ensure that universal, safe and free access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is guaranteed across the EU?
2. Until Member States safeguard universal access to SRHR, does the Commission intend to put in place mechanisms that will help to safely transport women in urgent need of an abortion, in the event that the Member State in question refuses to perform the procedure?