

**Question for written answer E-000760/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Robert Biedroń (S&D)**

**Subject:** Access to contraception: alarming differences across the Member States

On 8 February 2023 the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights published the latest issue of the Contraception Policy Atlas<sup>1</sup>, which revealed alarming differences across Member States when it comes to access to contraception. What is more, Poland, the worst-performing EU country, is ranked lower than Russia and Belarus.

Given that access to contraception is key to achieving gender equality in the EU, the European Parliament has repeatedly called on the Member States to provide high-quality contraceptive services in line with WHO standards, emphasising that they constitute essential healthcare services<sup>2</sup>. Parliament has raised the issue on a number of occasions, including in its resolution of 26 November 2020 on the de facto ban on the right to abortion in Poland, in which it emphasised that sexual and reproductive rights are closely linked to human rights, and that any backsliding with regard to contraception policies makes them difficult to implement, while also undermining European values and fundamental rights<sup>3</sup>.

With that in mind:

1. What action is the Commission taking to ensure equal access to contraception in the EU, in line with the international standards in place and the recommendations of the European Parliament?
2. What is the Commission doing to ensure that human rights in sexual and reproductive health are fully upheld, especially in the countries with the worst standards in this regard?
3. Will equal access to contraception be addressed in the European health strategy?

Submitted: 6.3.2023

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epfweb.org/node/89>

<sup>2</sup> e.g. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021IP0314> or <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52019IP0111>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0336\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0336_EN.html)