

**Question for written answer E-001533/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Angelo Ciocca (ID)

Subject: Drop in birth rate and abandonment of new-born babies

Italy's birth rate fell to its lowest ever level in 2022: a total of 392 598 new births were recorded. Of those, according to the Italian Society of Neonatology, 3 000 are abandoned every year, around 1 child in every 1 000. What is more, the number of incidents where new-born babies are being left on the street or rubbish containers continues to rise.

The reasons behind that phenomenon are complex and varied, but are often attributable to the shortage of support from the national system, which fails to intercept and take action during the nine months of pregnancy.

Although resolution 1624/2008 of the Council of Europe calls on the Member States to 'provide support for pregnant women' and 'assistance during childbirth' and 'postnatal medical and social support for mother and father as well as for the child', the problem of abandonment of new-born babies remains an unacceptable social issue not only in Italy but throughout Europe.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend, with a view to detecting difficulties in advance and offering practical help, to introduce EU policies to support pregnant women?
2. Does it not take the view that this state of affairs – in which women are not protected and are therefore experiencing a form of violence – constitutes a violation of the Istanbul Convention?

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