

**Question for written answer E-000369/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Gianna Gancia (ID)

Subject: Strengthening the principle of consent in EU legislation on gender-based violence

The 2011 Istanbul Convention is a key pillar in the fight against gender-based violence, putting the concept of consent at the core of defining the crime of rape.

The 'only yes means yes' principle, which emphasises the importance of explicit consent in sexual relations, is crucial to protect women's dignity and rights, by reducing the room for legal ambiguity that can leave perpetrators unpunished.

In the context of the inter-institutional negotiations on the proposal for a directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence, the attempt by some Member States to remove Article 5, which defines the crime of rape on the basis of consent, is a serious case of backsliding on women's rights and in the fight against gender-based violence.

In view of the above:

1. How will the Commission ensure that the EU's legal environment around gender-based violence holds onto its crucial advances and does not suffer any weakening that could endanger women's safety and rights?
2. What actions can it take to actively promote consent-based legislation at EU level, taking national best practices as examples?

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