**Question for written answer P-000999/2019**

**to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Philippe Lamberts (Verts/ALE), Molly Scott Cato (Verts/ALE) and Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Gender discrimination on the single market

Gender equality is promoted in Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union, which set out the values on which the EU is founded and its objectives. The single market is one of the most tangible and successfully completed manifestations of the European project.

On 23 February 2019, *The Guardian* published an article in its opinion column describing a whole (but incomplete) list of ways in which women are discriminated against on the EU’s internal market. This discrimination arises from the standard profiles – typically masculine – being used in the design of appliances, technology and standards.

The examples given show how ineffective Directive 2004/113/EC has been in implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services.

Sadly, in its Communications on the future of both its standardisation policy (COM(2016)0358) and the single market (COM(2018)0772), the Commission has not considered the gender issue, which penalises almost 250 million European women.

Has the Commission been informed about this latent discrimination?

Will it undertake a wide-ranging update of Directive 2004/113/EC in line with Article 16 thereof?

Will it make representations to enterprises that place on the market goods or technologies that discriminate against women and will it take disciplinary action against these enterprises?