

**Priority question for written answer P-003911/2019
to the Council**

Rule 138

Giorgos Georgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention

In Europe, one woman in three has experienced some form of violence, that is to say psychological, physical or sexual abuse.

Women are also victims of grave injustices resulting from infringement of their labour rights, pay and benefit cuts, abolition of all types of welfare, dismissal of pregnant women and general austerity measures exacerbating inequalities.

Violence against women is a key obstacle to gender equality, one of the EU's fundamental values, as set out in Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union.

The European Parliament has therefore adopted numerous resolutions calling for full EU accession to the Istanbul Convention, thereby providing a coherent set of European legal framework provisions to prevent and combat violence against women.

In view of this:

1. Why is the European Council not seeking full EU accession to the Istanbul Convention? Why has it decided to sign up to only two areas, namely judicial cooperation in criminal matters on the one hand and asylum and non-refoulement on the other?
2. Why is the European Council dragging its feet and failing to proceed with the ratification and full implementation of the Istanbul Convention?