

**Priority question for written answer P-002337/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Robert Biedroń (S&D)**

Subject: Support for women aborting pregnancies in Poland

Polish media have reported on the appalling story of a woman from Kraków named Joanna. The woman contacted a doctor when her health deteriorated after taking an abortion pill. While she was in hospital, it became clear that the doctor had informed the police about her situation, thereby breaching medical confidentiality.

During her medical examination, four police officers violated her personal dignity by forcing her to undress, do squats and cough. The police officers also confiscated her phone and laptop. Once all of this had happened, the patient was escorted to a different hospital where another police patrol was waiting for her.

Polish law does not prohibit women from performing abortions on themselves. The patient was not a suspect, and there was no prospect whatsoever of indicting her. There was therefore no legal basis for the police to intervene or take repressive measures, as confirmed by the District Court for Kraków-Krowdrza in Kraków in a ruling dated 12 June 2023 (file II Kp589/23/K).

Given the above,

1. What is the Commission's stance on the systemic persecution of women in Poland who have made the decision to terminate their pregnancy?
2. How can the Commission help women who find themselves in such a situation? Are there any support schemes through which victims of such malpractice could seek assistance and are there any programmes allowing victims to access support free of charge in other EU Member States?

Submitted: 24.7.2023