

**Priority question for written answer P-003500/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Promoting the right to breastfeed in public places

Breast milk provides essential nutrients for infants' growth, immune system and cognitive function. It is associated with fostering a unique bonding experience between infants and their mothers.

However, cultural attitudes contribute to reluctance to breastfeed in public places and discomfort when doing so. Breastfeeding women may face shame, judgement, disapproval or social stigma. This can impact maternal mental health, hinder successful breastfeeding practices and limit the accessibility of breastfeeding as an aspect of caregiving.

Ireland is an example of good practice because its Equal Status Act (2000) protects mothers who breastfeed in public, meaning it is against the law to ask a breastfeeding mother to move or to stop breastfeeding.

It is crucial to guarantee the right to breastfeed in public for all women in the EU, while also acknowledging other feeding choices that align with a mother's personal circumstances and preferences.

Given that the majority of Member States, such as Croatia, Poland and Slovenia, lack specific legislation addressing the right to breastfeed in public places:

1. Does the Commission plan to introduce a legislative proposal guaranteeing the right to breastfeed in public places?
2. How can the Commission support Member States in promoting public places as safe spaces for women who breastfeed?

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