

**Question for written answer E-015049/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Measures to prevent and penalise female genital mutilation in the EU

A number of organisations such as UNICEF are expressing concern at the increase in female genital mutilation (FGM) in the European Union. The Wassu-UAB foundation warns that 17 000 girls in Spain are at risk of being subjected to it.

Experts such as Virginija Langbakk, Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), consider it vital to remedy the lack of EU data regarding the number of girls at risk of FGM in order to plan asylum policies and develop appropriate measures in this area.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission intend to extend to all Member States the pilot project undertaken this year by the EIGE in Ireland, Portugal and Sweden, with a view to estimating the total to number of girls at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the European Union?
2. Does it consider it necessary to adopt further measures and programmes for the provision of medical, social and psychological care for the victims of FGM, as well as taking steps to prevent this practice in the EU?
3. What action will it take to increase the number of Member States ratifying and transposing the Istanbul Convention, which calls for this practice to be treated as a criminal offence, making it an effective and essential instrument in this and other areas relating to gender equality?