

**Question for written answer E-015934/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Gender equality strategy after 2015

On 7 December 2015, the Commission announced that the proposed gender equality strategy for the period after 2015 (2014/2152) would be assigned the status of an internal working document. This decision not only clearly demonstrates the Commission's view that work to promote equality deserves low priority, which affects all EU citizens, but also fails to take up various important fields mentioned in the own-initiative report adopted by the European Parliament. When the European Parliament, large parts of the Council and interest groups throughout the EU are calling for an equality strategy for the years after 2015, it is quite shocking that the Commission opts instead to weaken the legal basis that equality measures require in order to secure further progress.

If the Commission wishes to continue to be seen as a legitimate advocate of equality measures and to prioritise progress in this field in the EU up to 2020, the following points need to be explained.

Why exactly did the Commission decide to assign a weaker legal basis to future equality measures than in previous periods?

Why exactly did the Commission decide to remove documents about full legal recognition of a person's desired gender identity?