



Brussels, 2 May 2022  
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LIMITE

PE-QE 50

## REPLY TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representations of the Member States

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Subject: PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPLY TO QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER  
E-001100/2022 - Sylwia Spurek (Verts/ALE), Terry Reintke (Verts/ALE),  
Saskia Bricmont (Verts/ALE), Magdalena Adamowicz (PPE), Gwendoline  
Delbos-Corfield (Verts/ALE), Evin Incir (S&D), Monika Vana (Verts/ALE),  
Arba Kokalari (PPE), Frances Fitzgerald (PPE), Maria-Manuel Leitão-  
Marques (S&D), Maria Noichl (S&D), Ewa Kopacz (PPE)  
'State of play regarding the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the  
EU'

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1. Delegations will find attached:
  - the text of the above question for written answer;
  - a preliminary draft reply prepared by the General Secretariat.
2. If no comments have been received from delegations by 18 May 2022 (17.00), this preliminary draft reply will be submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) and to the Council for approval.

Any comments received will be examined by the Working Party on General Affairs.

**Question for written answer E-001100/2022  
to the Council**

Rule 138

**Sylwia Spurek** (Verts/ALE), **Terry Reintke** (Verts/ALE), **Saskia Bricmont** (Verts/ALE), **Magdalena Adamowicz** (PPE), **Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield** (Verts/ALE), **Evin Incir** (S&D), **Monika Vana** (Verts/ALE), **Arba Kokalari** (PPE), **Frances Fitzgerald** (PPE), **Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques** (S&D), **Maria Noichl** (S&D), **Ewa Kopacz** (PPE)

Subject: State of play regarding the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the EU

It will soon be five years since, on 13 June 2017, the European Union signed the Act of Accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Parliament has repeatedly called on the Council to conclude its work on the EU's ratification of the convention immediately.

On 6 October 2021, the Court of Justice confirmed that the accession process to the convention can be completed at any time by the Council through a qualified majority vote, which gives it the possibility to complete the EU's ratification of the convention through a procedure that does not require unanimity.

In view of the above, I would like to ask the Council the following questions:

1. What is the status of its work on finalising the EU's ratification of the convention?
2. What specific steps has it taken following the Court of Justice ruling of 6 October 2021 on ratifying the Istanbul Convention, and when did it take them?

**Supporter<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)

The Council has repeatedly expressed its strong commitment to preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and acknowledged the importance of the Istanbul Convention as a landmark on the path towards that goal<sup>1</sup>. In this context, the Honourable Member is invited to refer to the Council's reply to Written Question E-002076/2021.

Since the Court of Justice of the European Union adopted Opinion 1/19 on 6 October 2021<sup>2</sup>, discussions within the Council have been relaunched.

The Council is not in a position to foresee the outcome or the duration of these discussions.

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. Council conclusions on preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation, available at:  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/28077/143103.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Opinion 1/19 of the Court (Grand Chamber) of 6 October 2021, ECLI:EU:C:2021:832.