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## Parliamentary questions

30 November 2015

E-015220-15

Question for written answer  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Ángela Vallina (GUE/NGL)

► **Subject:** Appeal to the Commission to declare 2016 European Year for combating violence against women and girls

 Answer(s)

At its meeting on 25 November 2015, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality asked an oral question to discuss the EU's role in eliminating gender violence, which, according to some sources, affects more than nine million women in Europe.

On 9 June 2015, European Parliament adopted a resolution on the EU Strategy for equality between women and men post-2015, paragraph 14 of which reiterates Parliament's call for the Commission to declare 2016 European Year for combating violence against women and girls.

Will the Commission officially designate 2016 European Year for combating violence against women and girls?

If not, why not?

Will the Commission call for the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention in 2016?

Original language of question: 

Last updated: 9 February 2016

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## Parliamentary questions

14 April 2016

Answer given by **Ms Jourova** on behalf of the Commission

The Commission has not made a proposal to the European Parliament and the Council to designate a European Year for 2016 or future years. Any future European Year dedicated to a worthy topical issue would need to have demonstrable added value over and above the ongoing and programmed actions at European and Member State level.

As concerns violence against women and girls, many concrete activities are already being carried out by the Commission — including funding awareness-raising campaigns in Member States and supporting grassroots organisations, NGOs and networks working to prevent violence — and by Member States. The Commission has committed to continuing focused actions to end all forms of gender-based violence and raise awareness of the issue in the *Strategic Engagement for gender equality 2016-2019*.<sup>(1)</sup> The Commission would also like to refer the Honourable Members to the statement made on the occasion of the most recent International Day for the elimination of violence against women<sup>(2)</sup>.

On 4 March 2016 the Commission made the necessary proposals for the accession of the European Union to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. This is to be decided by the Council and requires the consent of the European Parliament.

<sup>(1)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/documents/151203\\_strategic\\_engagement\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/documents/151203_strategic_engagement_en.pdf)

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-15-6149\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-6149_en.htm)

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