

## Basic information

2016/0062R(NLE)

NLE - Non-legislative enactments

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence: EU accession

Accompanying procedure [2016/0062A\(NLE\)](#)

Accompanying procedure [2016/0062B\(NLE\)](#)

### Subject

4.10.09 Women condition and rights

7.30.30.02 Action to combat violence, trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling

Procedure completed

## Key players

European  
Parliament

### Joint committee responsible

**LIBE**

Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

### Rapporteur

KOHUT Łukasz (S&D)

### Appointed

16/03/2022

**FEMM**

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

KOKALARI Arba (EPP)

16/03/2022

### Shadow rapporteur

ARŁUKOWICZ Bartosz (EPP)

PICIERNO Pina (S&D)

TOOM Jana (Renew)

RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS María Soraya (Renew)

SPUREK Sylwia (Greens /EFA)

DE LA PISA CARRIÓN Margarita (ECR)

KANKO Assita (ECR)

ANDERSON Christine (ID)

FEST Nicolaus (ID)

BJÖRK Malin (The Left)

RODRÍGUEZ PALOP Eugenia (The Left)

### Committee for opinion

**JURI**

Legal Affairs

### Rapporteur for opinion

The committee decided not to give an opinion.

### Appointed

Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Justice and Consumers	DALLI Helena	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/02/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/02/2022	Referral to joint committee announced in Parliament		
25/01/2023	Vote in committee		
02/02/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0021/2023	Summary
14/02/2023	Debate in Parliament		
15/02/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0047/2023	Summary
15/02/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2016/0062R(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Interim report under consent procedure
Amendments and repeals	Accompanying procedure <a href="#">2016/0062A(NLE)</a> Accompanying procedure <a href="#">2016/0062B(NLE)</a>
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 107-p5 Rules of Procedure EP 59
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CJ01/9/08352

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE737.351</a>	16/11/2022	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A9-0021/2023</a>	02/02/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T9-0047/2023</a>	15/02/2023	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	<a href="#">SP(2023)219</a>	25/05/2023	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

## Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

### Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
<a href="#">KOKALARI Arba</a>	Rapporteur	<a href="#">FEMM</a>	05/12/2022	Gömda Kvinnor
<a href="#">KOKALARI Arba</a>	Rapporteur	<a href="#">FEMM</a>	29/06/2022	Ukrainian Embassy

### Other Members

Transparency		
Name	Date	Interest representatives
<a href="#">TOLLERET Irène</a>	08/06/2022	attenti

## Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence: EU accession

2016/0062R(NLE) - 15/02/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 469 votes to 104, with 55 abstentions, a resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, by the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

One in three women in the EU, totalling around 62 million women, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence, while more than half of women (55%) in the EU have been sexually harassed at least once since the age of 15. Members considered that at this rate, the EU will take around 60 years to reach gender equality at the current pace; whereas the eradication of gender-based violence and especially violence against women and girls is a prerequisite to achieving real gender equality.

### *EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention*

Parliament welcomed the Commission's proposal on 4 March 2016 for the EU to accede to the Istanbul Convention, the most **comprehensive legally binding instrument at international level** on preventing and combating violence against women and gender-based violence, including domestic violence.

While welcoming the signing of the Istanbul Convention by the EU on 13 June 2017, Members regretted that, six years later, the EU has still not ratified the Convention due to the refusal of some Member States in the Council of the European Union. The Council is urged **not to delay any longer the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention**, which should be considered as the minimum standard to eradicate gender-based violence.

### *Right to safe and legal abortion*

Strongly condemning all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and LGBTIQ+ people, Parliament affirmed that the denial of sexual and reproductive health and rights services, including the right to safe and legal abortion options, is a form of violence against women and girls.

Members condemned the fact that in some Member States women's sexual and reproductive rights, in particular the right to safe and legal abortion, are constantly under threat. They welcomed the initiatives of some Member States, such as France, to enshrine the right to abortion in their constitutions and called for the right to a safe and legal abortion to be enshrined in the EU **Charter of Fundamental Rights**.

### ***Ensuring the proper implementation of the Convention***

Parliament called on the Commission to ensure that **the Convention is fully integrated into the legislative and policy framework of the EU** and asked all Member States to ensure that measures arising from the Convention are fully implemented in their national laws and policies. It condemned attempts by some Member States to revoke measures already taken to implement the Istanbul Convention and to combat violence against women and domestic violence.

The Commission and the Member States are called on to refer to the Istanbul Convention's definition on violence against women in their relevant legislation accordingly.

### ***Concrete implementation proposals***

Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States are asked to:

- refer to the Istanbul Convention's definition on violence against women in their relevant legislation;
- appropriately address, through **legislative and non-legislative means**, issues such as custody and visitation rights to children, civil consequences of forced marriages, stalking, denial of rights and access to reproductive health care, and to protect victims;
- **implement preventive measures**, including enhanced primary prevention of gender-based violence in schools, as well as an approach to victim support services and protection measures for survivors such as financial assistance, psychological support, helplines, shelters and access to social housing, and 'safe leave', as well as measures helping victims to continue living in their homes safely, such as restraining orders for perpetrators and specialist support for children;
- conduct **information campaigns** on the Istanbul Convention and ensure the development of appropriate gender-sensitive training, procedures and guidelines, as well as specific victim-oriented support and protection measures for all relevant professionals, including law enforcement, judiciary and prosecutors.

### ***Disinformation***

Members condemned the growing opposition to the Istanbul Convention in some Member States and the attempts to disparage the Convention and its positive impact on the eradication of gender-based violence. While condemning all disinformation campaigns about the Istanbul Convention, Parliament called on national authorities to fight against disinformation and launch awareness campaigns to dispel all doubts about the Convention and its benefits for society as a whole.

### ***Urgent conclusion of the Convention***

Parliament stressed that there is no legal obstacles to the Council's proceeding to ratify the Convention, as a qualified majority is sufficient for its adoption. Members called on the Council to urgently conclude the EU ratification of the Istanbul Convention on the basis of a broad accession without any limitations, and to advocate its ratification by all Member States. The remaining six Member States that have not yet done so - Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic - are called upon to ratify the Convention without delay.

Members called on the Commission to draw up a **holistic EU strategy** on combating violence against women and gender-based violence that includes a comprehensive plan to prevent and combat all forms of gender inequalities, integrating all EU efforts to eradicate violence against women.

The Council is invited to activate the passerelle clause by adopting a unanimous decision identifying gender-based violence as one of the areas of crime listed in Article 83(1) TFEU.

## **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence: EU accession**

2016/0062R(NLE) - 02/02/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality adopted the interim report by Łukasz KOHUT (S&D, PL) and Arba KOKALARI (EPP, SE) on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, by the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

One in three women in the EU, totalling around 62 million women, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence, while more than half of women (55%) in the EU have been sexually harassed at least once since the age of 15.

Members welcomed the Commission's proposal on 4 March 2016 for the **EU to accede to the Istanbul Convention**, the most comprehensive legally binding instrument at international level on preventing and combating violence against women and gender-based violence, including domestic violence.

While welcoming the signing of the Istanbul Convention by the EU on 13 June 2017, Members regretted that, six years later, the EU has still not ratified the Convention due to the refusal of some Member States in the Council of the European Union. The Council is urged not to delay any longer the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention, which should be considered as the **minimum standard to eradicate gender-based violence**.

The report strongly condemned all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and LGBTIQ+ people and called on the Commission to ensure that the Convention is **fully integrated into the EU legislative and policy framework**.

The Commission and the Member States are asked to:

- refer to the Istanbul Convention's **definition** on violence against women in their relevant legislation;
- appropriately address, through **legislative and non-legislative means**, issues such as custody and visitation rights to children, civil consequences of forced marriages, stalking, denial of rights and access to reproductive health care, and to protect victims;
- carry out **information campaigns** on the Istanbul Convention and its provisions, as well as programmes to facilitate the implementation of the Convention's provisions;
- ensure the development of gender-sensitive **training**, procedures and guidelines, as well as specific victim-centred support and protection measures for all relevant professionals, including law enforcement, judiciary and prosecutors.

The report stressed the responsibility of Member States to **combat impunity** in cases of violence against women and other forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, and to preserve the dissuasive function of penalties and prosecutions. It acknowledged the extensive work of the GREVIO (body of independent experts) in monitoring the implementation of the Convention and called on all parties to follow the recommendations addressed to each country.

Given the important role played by the Istanbul Convention during the COVID-19 pandemic, Members called for an EU protocol on violence against women in times of crisis and emergency.

Members strongly condemned the **political instrumentalisation of the Convention** by some Member States and attempts to disparage the Convention and its positive impact on the eradication of gender-based violence. Member States are invited to **speed up the negotiations related to the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention** and to strongly condemn all attempt to reverse measures already taken under the Istanbul Convention to combat violence against women. Parliament should be fully involved in the Convention's monitoring process after the accession of the Union to the Convention.

The report also condemns Poland's attempt to denounce the Istanbul Convention. It called on national authorities to **fight against disinformation** and launch awareness campaigns to dispel all doubts about the Convention and its benefits for society as a whole. The six remaining Member States that have not yet done so - Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic - are called upon to ratify the convention without delay. Members reiterated their call on the Council to **urgently conclude the ratification of the Istanbul Convention** by the EU, on the basis of broad accession and without any limitations, and to encourage all Member States to ratify it.

Members called on the Commission to draw up a **holistic EU strategy** on combating violence against women and gender-based violence that includes a comprehensive plan to prevent and combat all forms of gender inequalities, integrating all EU efforts to eradicate violence against women.

The Council is invited to activate the passerelle clause by adopting a unanimous decision identifying gender-based violence as one of the areas of crime listed in Article 83(1) TFEU.