

Question for written answer E-003381/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Prostitution and the system of national and regional accounts: in contradiction to the EU's fundamental principles

Regulation (EU) 549/2013, which establishes a European system of national and regional accounts (ESA 2010), requires all economic activities to be registered, including illicit activities (Section 1.79). However, only some of these activities are listed, reflecting a degree of arbitrariness.

The regulation's uniform application via the NACE nomenclature has led statistics bodies in some countries, such as Spain, to include 'offering or providing sexual services'. This inclusion could legitimise prostitution, despite the fact that Section 1.79 requires economic activities to be by 'mutual agreement', which is difficult to establish in an environment that is closely tied to a lack of opportunities, exploitation and people trafficking.

This harmonisation of statistics appears to adopt a regulationist view of prostitution that is not dominant in the majority of Member States and does not have Parliament's support, as indicated by the Noichl Report (2023) on the regulation of prostitution in the EU.

In light of the above:

1. What incentives is the Commission planning to put in place to correct this contradiction between the harmonisation of statistics and national diversity?
2. What mechanisms exist to establish whether these activities are voluntary and to avoid legitimising transactions connected to sexual exploitation?
3. Or, on the contrary, will prostituted women, pimps and traffickers be included in the population in employment?

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