

**Question for written answer E-004338/2025
to the Council**
Rule 144
Elena Kountoura (The Left)

Subject: Need for a common European definition and uniform data collection standards for femicide in the European Union

Every year, thousands of women in the EU lose their lives because of their gender. Femicide is the most extreme form of gender-based violence. In the EU, the available data on femicide comes primarily from general homicide statistics, which mainly allow the identification of femicide committed by intimate partners or family members. Femicide committed outside intimate and family relationships is therefore ignored, which leads to an underestimation and downgrading of the true extent of the phenomenon.¹

Most Member States have not legally recognised the term ‘femicide’, which makes it difficult to measure and makes it ‘invisible’ in general homicide statistics.² At the same time, there is still a lack of standardised methods for collecting and categorising the relevant data.³

Given that:

- EIGE has repeatedly called for a common definition of femicide⁴ as a basis for reliable data, effective policies and recognition of the gender dimension of violence,

- Article 44 of Directive 2024/1385 states that Member States must cooperate with EIGE in collecting comparable data on violence against women,

the following questions arise:

1. Does the Council intend to include the issue of femicide in its work priorities?
2. How does the Council intend to contribute, within its remit, to the promotion of a common European definition of femicide among Member States and to the coordination of cooperation with EIGE on the implementation of harmonised data collection standards, in accordance with Directive 2024/1385?

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¹ For example, femicide committed against women working in the sex trade or other vulnerable groups is not taken into account.

² Only five out of 27 Member States have legally recognised the term ‘femicide’.

³ The lack of a single definition leads to incomplete and incomparable statistics, while different legal approaches in Member States lead to inconsistencies in addressing the problem. The systematic collection of national and regional administrative data is essential to understanding the true extent of the phenomenon in Member States. Furthermore, it helps to identify high-risk groups and to develop targeted laws and policies to address the root causes of femicide, ensuring that these cases are effectively investigated and prosecuted.

⁴ EIGE defines ‘femicide’ as the killing of women and girls because of their gender (https://eige.europa.eu/publications-resources/thesaurus/terms/1192?language_content_entity=en).