

**Question for written answer E-004687/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Understaffing in the network of structures for abused women

The state of the network of structures for preventing and tackling violence against women is a danger to the women who have experienced violence as well as to its staff, since European funding is set to expire on 31 December 2025.

Significant blame lies with the current and previous governments, as for 14 years they have made the financing and operation of the network almost exclusively dependent on European programmes with expiry dates.

EU and Member States guidance is part of the problem, not the solution. Directive (EU) 2024/1385 recommends the development of fee-based structures to protect abused women.

In the light of the above:

1. What is the Commission's view on the permanent establishment of contract staff and the large-scale permanent recruitment of all kinds of specialised staff, and the creation and unhindered operation of free state structures to prevent and respond to violence against women, without the involvement of NGOs and private actors?
2. What is the Commission's view on the fact that the structures' functioning is defined by the 'cost-benefit' policy, as evidenced by Directive (EU) 2024/1385, which is completely at odds with the real needs of abused women for protection?
3. What is the Commission's view on the fact that, while it is provocatively calling for ordinary people to make sacrifices to fund huge amounts of military equipment, it is simultaneously – in the name of budgetary discipline – cutting funding and creating dangerous avenues for the commercialisation of the network of structures to prevent and tackle violence against women?

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