

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002933/25
to the Commission
Carolina Morace (The Left)
(16 July 2025)**

Subject: Domestic violence and child protection in Greece

An Italian resident in Greece has reported serious incidents of domestic violence by her former spouse, including documented beatings of their children, who are minors. Despite complaints, psychological reports and statements from children, the man has been acquitted, against a backdrop that suggests a biased approach to justice and that external pressure was applied.

The Istanbul Convention, ratified by the EU and Greece, imposes clear prevention and victim protection measures. It is complemented by Directive (EU) 2024/1385, which lays down binding obligations on Member States with regard to the protection of victims, the recognition of the rights of child witnesses and victims of violence, along with effective and non-discriminatory judicial procedures.

The case also raises doubts about observance of fundamental rights, including the protection of children and the prohibition of inhuman treatment, as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of any similar cases, particularly in Greece?
2. Does it take the view that Greece is in breach of its obligations under EU law, the Istanbul Convention and Directive (EU) 2024/1385?
3. What instruments will it use to ensure that European children exposed to domestic violence are properly protected?

Submitted: 16.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Labbib on behalf of the European Commission
(22 August 2025)**

The Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) is the Council of Europe's body mandated to monitor the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

Based on GREVIO's baseline evaluation report of Greece's implementation of the Convention, Recommendations ⁽¹⁾ were issued, i.e., to ensure that children exposed to domestic violence receive support and ensure that courts are obliged to consider all issues relating to violence when taking decisions related to custody and visitation rights.

Directive (EU) 2024/1385 ⁽²⁾ requires Member States to ensure that: a child is provided adequate support as soon as the competent authorities have reasonable grounds to believe they might have been subject to or witnessed domestic violence; judges have access to information regarding cases of violence involving children to be taken into account in civil proceedings (e.g. when deciding custody or visitation rights); safe places (supervised by trained professionals) are established to allow safe contact between a child and a holder of parental responsibility who is an offender.

The directive must be transposed by June 2027. The Commission is holding implementation workshops with Member States to ensure its complete and timely transposition.

Furthermore, child victims of domestic violence can benefit from the Victims' Rights Directive ⁽³⁾ as well as from the provisions of its revision ⁽⁴⁾ once the latter is adopted.

⁽¹⁾ <https://rm.coe.int/ic-cp-inf-2023-14-cop-recommendation-on-greece-/1680ada32d>.

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence, OJ L, 2024/1385, 24.5.2024, pp. 1-36, implements the requirements of the Istanbul Convention in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

⁽³⁾ Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, pp. 57-73.

⁽⁴⁾ To strengthen the rights of victims of crime in the EU, including the rights of the most vulnerable victims, such as child victims, in July 2023 the Commission adopted a proposal for the revision of the Victims' Rights Directive that is currently under negotiations by the co-legislators. For reference: Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, COM/2023/424 final.

The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the Commission Recommendation on Integrated Child Protection Systems call on Member States to ensure early identification, coordinated intervention, and child-friendly justice in case of violence against children. If the holder of parental responsibility is involved, or if a conflict of interest exists, the child's best interests must prevail.
