

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004337/25
to the Commission
Elena Kountoura (The Left)
(4 November 2025)

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

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 come primarily from general homicide statistics, which mainly allow the identification of femicide committed by intimate partners or family members. Therefore, the true extent of the phenomenon is underestimated, as murders of women outside of these relationships are ignored ⁽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⁾.

Given that:

- EIGE has repeatedly called for a common definition of femicide ⁽³⁾ 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 data on violence against women and adhere to common standards for units of measurement, counting rules and classification of offences,
- the lack of harmonised data hinders the effective implementation of Directive 2024/1385,

the following questions arise:

1. Does the Commission intend to propose the establishment of a European definition of femicide?
2. How does the Commission intend to ensure that Member States adhere to common standards and systematically cooperate with EIGE in collecting and disaggregating data on femicide, in accordance with Article 44 of Directive 2024/1385?

Submitted: 4.11.2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(5 January 2026)

1. The Commission acknowledges the importance of legal recognition of the crime of ‘femicide’. The definition of the crime of femicide at EU level would have required a legal basis in the Treaty, which is currently absent. Nevertheless, the directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence ⁽¹⁾ puts in place a system of early detection, intervention and prosecution that is expected to prevent many potential cases of femicide. Among the measures of prevention, for example, the directive requires to promote changes in behavioural patterns rooted in the historically unequal power relations between women and men or based on stereotyped roles, through awareness-raising campaigns or programmes. Where acts of violence have been reported, the obligation on the police and social services to carry out a thorough risk assessment of the victim can help save her life. Article 44 requires indicating the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, which may indicate cases of femicide.

2. The directive is currently in the transposition phase and the Commission is conducting workshops to ensure correct transposition by Member States. Once the transposition deadline expires in June 2027, the Commission will conduct transposition checks to ensure the correct application of the directive. The Commission can also collect statistics on femicide in collaboration with Eurostat. Even if the Member States do not have such statistics prepared, Eurostat can request proxy statistics based on factors, such as the gender of the victim.

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

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

³ 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).

⁽¹⁾ 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, p. 1-36.