

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005072/25
to the Commission
Elena Kountoura (The Left)
(24 December 2025)**

Subject: Urgent need for universal protection and promotion of sexual and reproductive rights in all EU Member States

Sexual and reproductive rights are protected as human rights in international and European human rights law ⁽¹⁾ and constitute a key element of comprehensive healthcare provision. However, it is estimated that more than 20 million women in the EU still lack access to safe and legal abortion, as well as to sexual and reproductive health services and related rights.

Considering that some Member States maintain particularly restrictive legal or practical barriers that lead women to forced pregnancies, illegal or cross-border solutions, constituting a violation of their fundamental rights and a form of gender-based violence ⁽²⁾, and taking into account the European Citizens' Initiative 'My Voice, My Choice', which has collected over 1.2 million signatures, calling for the establishment of a financial support mechanism for Member States that provide universal access to safe and legal abortion ⁽³⁾:

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure full and non-discriminatory access to sexual and reproductive health services, including safe and legal abortion, for all women in the EU?
2. Does the Commission intend to propose the creation of a European funding mechanism to support Member States that choose to provide universal access to such services?
3. Does the Commission intend to include a specific pillar on sexual and reproductive rights in the annual rule of law report, in order to ensure systematic monitoring, accountability and compliance of Member States with the fundamental rights and principles of the Union?

Submitted: 24.12.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(17 April 2026)**

Respect for private and family life, access to healthcare and the right to benefit from medical treatment under the conditions established by national law are fundamental rights protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. In the Roadmap for Women's Rights ⁽¹⁾, the Commission commits to furthering the principle of the highest standard of health.

Upholding and advancing this principle include pursuing the objective of protecting women's health by supporting and complementing, in full respect of the Treaties, health action by the Member States regarding women's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). This Roadmap commitment is followed up with concrete actions in the Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 ⁽²⁾.

The Commission replied positively to the European Citizens Initiative 'My Voice, My Choice' on 26 February 2026 ⁽³⁾.

In its reply, the Commission highlights that Member States may use EU funds via the European Social Fund Plus to enhance access to safe and affordable abortion, on a voluntary basis and in accordance with their national laws, to women in vulnerable situations.

The Rule of Law Report is one element of a broader endeavour at EU level to strengthen the founding EU values, including democracy, equality, and respect for human rights.

¹ Including the ICCPR and the ICESCR, CEDAW and the ECHR.

² In Malta, abortion is only permitted when the woman's life is at risk, while in Poland access is limited to cases of serious threat to the life of the pregnant woman or pregnancy resulting from sexual violence. In addition, many Member States impose additional barriers that delay or hinder timely and equal access to abortion, such as mandatory waiting periods, mandatory counselling, gestational age limits and the invocation of conscientious objection by health professionals.

³ The lack of access to abortion as basic women's healthcare in some Member States not only puts women at risk of physical harm, but also causes undue financial and psychological distress for women, often in marginalised communities who are less able to bear the costs (<https://www.myvoice-mychoice.org/>).

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/roadmap-womens-rights_en.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en#gender-equality-strategy-2026-2030.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52026XC01383>.

The Commission also publishes reports on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Commission has furthermore developed targeted strategies and measures to address the needs and challenges of specific groups of rights holders, including the above-mentioned Roadmap.
