

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002707/26
to the Commission
Gabriela Firea (S&D)
(30 June 2026)**

Subject: Women's safety at festivals and cultural events in the European Union

The violence seen at this year's 'Fête de la Musique' festival in France is very worrying. What was supposed to be a celebration of culture, music and the joy of being together, turned into a traumatic experience for many women and young women. Around 145 people reported that they were attacked with syringes during the festival. Meanwhile, the authorities have launched an investigation and have arrested a number of suspects.

Against this backdrop:

1. With a view to preventing and combatting the needle spiking phenomenon, what meaningful measures is the Commission considering taking to ensure data collection and awareness-raising and how will it ensure the exchange of best practices between Member States?
2. Is the Commission planning on drawing up a set of European guidelines on the safety of women and young women at festivals and other public cultural events, to support Member States in adopting rapid intervention protocols and support, care and protection mechanisms for victims?

Submitted: 30.6.2026

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(18 August 2026)**

Directive 2024/1385 ⁽¹⁾ obliges Member States to have a system in place for the collection, development and dissemination of statistics on violence against women (VAW), such as: the annual number or reported offences and convictions of VAW, the number of victims killed due to VAW, the number of shelters and the number of calls to national helplines. The statistics should include data disaggregated by age group (child/adult) of the victim and of the offender and, where possible and relevant, their relationship.

Member States are also obliged to conduct population-based surveys to assess the prevalence of VAW and transmit such data to the Commission. The Member States will be assisted by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

When it comes to exchange of best practices between the Member States, that is possible through the Mutual Learning Programme ⁽²⁾. The programme provides an opportunity for the stimulation of debate and exchange of experience between governmental representatives, independent experts and other relevant stakeholders.

Member States can also exchange experiences through the EU network on prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence ⁽³⁾. It provides a space for Member States to discuss needs for violence prevention, map effective measures and share knowledge and tools for effective risk assessments.

The Commission has not planned to create a guideline for safety at festivals, but it will pay close attention to this emerging violent trend.

⁽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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj>.

⁽²⁾ Mutual Learning Programme in gender equality https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/who-we-work-gender-equality/mutual-learning-programme-gender-equality_en.

⁽³⁾ EU network on prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence https://commission.europa.eu/eu-network-prevention-gender-based-violence-and-domestic-violence_en.