

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002872/26  
to the Commission**

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(13 July 2026)

**Subject:** Support for the development of sexual assault centres in the EU

France was recently shaken by a case of violent child sexual abuse that resulted in the victim's death. The case exposed systemic failures and illustrates the need for a rapid, coordinated and victim-centred response to sexual violence.

In Belgium, ten sexual assault centres provide an integrated model of care, offering medical, psychological and legal support under one roof, including emergency nursing care, case management and the possibility of a police interview at a single location. Such multidisciplinary centres can contribute to the earlier detection of sexual violence, improved collection of forensic evidence, and coordinated follow-up between healthcare and judicial services, thereby reducing the risk of further escalation and repeat victimisation.

Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and domestic violence <sup>(1)</sup> requires Member States to provide victims of sexual violence with access to free medical and forensic examinations through coordinated support centres. The deadline for transposition is 14 June 2027.

1. What steps is the Commission taking to provide Member States with guidance and resources for implementing Directive (EU) 2024/1385 by June 2027?
2. Which EU funding instruments can support the establishment of sexual assault centres, including facilities for minor victims?

Submitted: 13.7.2026

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission**  
(13 October 2026)

The Commission supports Member States in transposing the directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence <sup>(1)</sup> ('VAW Directive') through a range of practical measures aimed at ensuring timely and coherent implementation by June 2027.

For example, the Commission is organising implementation workshops with the overall aim of promoting a common understanding of the directive's provisions.

The Commission has also established a dedicated EU network on prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence <sup>(2)</sup>. At its twice-yearly meetings, the network addresses specific aspects of the directive and provides a platform for practitioners to exchange knowledge and share successful approaches.

The Mutual Learning Programme in gender equality <sup>(3)</sup> offers a further opportunity for Member States to exchange experience and good practice.

In addition, the Commission remains available for bilateral exchanges with Member States, where appropriate, to address questions arising during the transposition process.

The Commission also supports the implementation of the VAW Directive through EU funding, including under the Daphne stream of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme <sup>(4)</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>).

<sup>(1)</sup> 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>.

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/eu-network-prevention-gender-based-violence-and-domestic-violence\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/eu-network-prevention-gender-based-violence-and-domestic-violence_en).

<sup>(3)</sup> [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](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).

<sup>(4)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/funding-and-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme-overview\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/funding-and-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme-overview_en).

This funding directly supports the prevention and fight against violence against children and gender-based violence, as well as victim support.

Recent Daphne calls have explicitly supported one-stop shops and coordinated specialist support centres, including Children's Houses (Barnahus) and Family Justice Centres, while promoting integrated support for victims of sexual violence through strengthened child-protection systems.

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