

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003733/26
to the Commission
Cynthia Ní Mhurchú (Renew)
(17 September 2026)**

Subject: Representation of women at the 23 June 2026 meeting with the Taliban

On 23 June 2026, representatives of the Commission and 15 EU Member States participated in a meeting with representatives of the Taliban. In the light of the EU's stated commitment to women's participation and representation in its external relations:

1. Can the Commission confirm which of its officials and which 15 EU Member States were represented at the meeting, and provide the names and institutional roles of the participants?
2. How many women were among the Commission and Member State representatives present, and does the Commission maintain an official record of the gender composition of participants at such meetings?
3. If no women were present among the European participants, can the Commission explain why, and can it also explain what measures it takes to ensure appropriate representation of women in high-level meetings with the Taliban?

Submitted: 17.9.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(23 October 2026)**

On 23 June 2026 in Brussels, the Commission and Sweden co-chaired a technical-level meeting with representatives of the *de facto* authorities of Afghanistan responsible for return and readmission. 15 Member States participated.

The Commission provided details of the technical meeting in-camera to the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) on 2 July 2026 and 14 July 2026.

The Commission is not in a position to disclose the names and other details of the participants in the technical meeting as disclosure of this type of information would undermine the protection of the privacy of these individuals in accordance with EU data protection legislation ⁽¹⁾.

Women constituted approximately half of the participants on the EU side in the technical meeting.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj/eng>.