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Answer given by Ms Dalli
on behalf of the European Commission
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There is no systematic data collection on forced marriages in the EU. A survey by the Fundamental Rights Agency¹ notes the limited data on the prevalence of forced marriage at the national level. Some examples can be found, for example, in the reports of the Member States parties to the Istanbul Convention² under its reporting mechanism.

The GREVIO³ report on the Netherlands⁴ noted four cases of forced marriage in 2017. According to the GREVIO report on Austria⁵, the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs dealt with seven cases of imminent or actual forced marriage in 2015. The GREVIO report on Belgium⁶ indicates numbers of cases recorded in the country's three regions which totalled 10 cases in 2015, increasing to 15 cases in 2016 and up to 20 cases in 2017, which is double in just two years. The GREVIO report on France⁷ notes that in 2016, 17 protection orders have been issued in cases of forced marriage. The GREVIO report on Greece⁸ found three cases of forced marriage among women and girls victims of trafficking in 2019, and none among this category of victims in 2020.

In many cases the numbers reported are from the police. The legal study carried out in preparation of the Commission's proposal on combating violence against women and domestic violence⁹ noted the low amount of cases in court coupled with the fact that in some Member States forced marriages do not have criminal law consequences, but are dealt with under civil law; as a result, the number of cases reported by the police probably do not reflect the full extent of the phenomenon.

¹ Addressing forced marriage in the EU: legal provisions and promising practices, Publications Office of the European Union, 2014. It covered five Member States: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

² Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention); <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention>

³ Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe, that monitors the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention). See <https://www.coe.int/en/web/civil-society/combating-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence-grevio>

⁴ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/netherlands>

⁵ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/austria>

⁶ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/belgium>

⁷ <https://www.coe.int/fr/web/istanbul-convention/france>

⁸ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/greece>

⁹ Criminalisation of gender-based violence against women in European States, including ICT-facilitated violence, available here: <https://www.equalitylaw.eu/downloads/5535-criminalisation-of-gender-based-violence-against-women-in-european-states-including-ict-facilitated-violence-1-97-mb>