

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001198/19**  
**to the Commission**  
**Francis Zammit Dimech (PPE)**  
(6 March 2019)

*Subject:* EU measures to combat long-term consequences of child abuse

Child maltreatment and abuse can physically or emotionally harm a child or young person, and prolonged maltreatment in particular can have lifelong, even intergenerational consequences.

What efforts will be made by the Commission to prevent and address the long-term mental and physical health issues caused by child abuse?

Has the Commission considered promoting trauma-informed care and trauma-specific, evidence-based treatments?

**Answer given by Mr Andriukaitis on behalf of the European Commission**  
(7 June 2019)

The Commission works with the Member States to share good practices on childhood mental health, including practices to address the consequences of maltreatment and abuse. The 'European Framework for Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing' <sup>(1)</sup> proposes key actions to ensure a sustainable and efficient promotion of mental health, prevention and treatment of mental disorders, to support multisector cooperation, and to strengthen partnership and networking among Member States and stakeholders.

Dedicated funding is earmarked for combating violence against children under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme — and the ninth EU Forum on the rights of the child elaborated the 10 principles for integrated child protection systems to guide Member States in their prevention of and responses to violence <sup>(2)</sup>.

Directive 2011/93/EU <sup>(3)</sup> sets measures for victims of sexual abuse and on prevention of trauma through criminal investigation, assistance and support as soon as there are reasonable grounds to suspect an offence, and special protection in case of abuse within the family. The Commission has published two reports on the state of implementation of this directive by Member States <sup>(4)</sup>. The Commission also funds research to prevent child sexual abuse <sup>(5)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/non\\_communicable\\_diseases/mental\\_health\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/non_communicable_diseases/mental_health_en)

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/child-protection-systems\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/child-protection-systems_en)

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0093&from=EN>

<sup>(4)</sup> COM(2016) 871 and COM(2016) 872. To the extent to which the question might concern trafficking in human beings: several provisions of Directive 2011/36/EU are based on the best interest of the child and establish additional protection measures for child victims. Extensive information on the legal and policy framework to address trafficking in human beings is available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/node/4598\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/node/4598_en)

<sup>(5)</sup> See for example, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/over-eu-230-million-available-security-research-projects-2019-mar-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/over-eu-230-million-available-security-research-projects-2019-mar-19_en), call SU-FACT01-2018-2019-2020.