

**Question for written answer P-003130/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Stefania Zambelli (ID)

Subject: Investigation in Bibbiano and illicit business relating to children

In summer 2018, the investigation 'Angels and devils', concerning criminal activity at the expense of children, was launched in Bibbiano.

According to investigators, the offences involved politicians and social and medical workers colluding in encouraging children to tell them stories about alleged abuse and ill-treatment, which in fact never took place, with the aim of removing them from their own families and placing them, in return for payment, with friends and acquaintances.

If the accusations of illegal fostering are confirmed, hundreds of thousands of euros could have changed hands in the cases concerned.

In view of the above and having regard to Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union, Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing 'minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime' and including specific provisions to this effect, and noting that the interest of children, catered for within their families, is a fundamental principle that should be respected as a rule guiding all decisions on the protection of children at all levels:

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation?
2. How will the Commission prevent any recurrence of these appalling deeds in Europe?
3. Do any instruments exist to provide aid and support to the families involved in these cases?