

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4396/08
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to the Commission

Subject: Protection of children using the Internet and other communications technologies

The Internet and other communications media have become an essential instrument of social, economic and cultural progress, without which it is difficult to imagine how one could advance in modern daily life. Concurrently with the opening-up of new horizons thanks to ICT, the conditions for adverse effects also exist, especially for children using the Internet and other modern communications devices and technologies. The Commission has been aware of this problem for years now, and is currently implementing three multiannual programmes for the protection of children using the Internet and other communications technologies. The next logical step is to propose a new multiannual Community programme for the period 2009-2013: such a programme should be supported by sufficient funding to ensure the achievement of the proposed objectives.

In the interests of transparency and the efficient use of Community funds, can the Commission provide information on the impact of the three multiannual Community programmes implemented so far for the protection of children using the Internet and other communications technologies, in the light of the sum of over EUR 80 m allocated over the period 1999-2008?