

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5011/08
by Vural Öger (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Paedo-criminality at European level

Children's aid organisations are calling for a single European directive under which providers of websites selling files containing so-called 'child pornography' would be blocked and held liable. The same organisations also want to see a clear Europe-wide strengthening of the penalties for downloading such paedo-criminal files. In Germany, for example, doing so is punishable by only two years' imprisonment, whereas illegally downloading Hollywood films is punishable by up to three years' imprisonment.

Is the Commission of the view that uniform European legislation is necessary in this area? How can cooperation between Member States' police authorities be improved when it comes to combating paedo-crime? Is the Commission planning to extend youth-protection campaigns relating to children's safety on the internet, and does it view as desirable the immediate launching of a European child-search programme triggered when a child is reported missing?