

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1224/09
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to the Commission

Subject: Safe use of the Internet

On the occasion of the European Safer Internet Day a great deal of research was reported in the press. There are currently 41.7 million users in the EU, a number that is expected to increase to 107 million by 2012. However, use of the Internet brings with it serious dangers. According to data from MSN-Microsoft, one third of European teenagers aged 14-19 have received threats through the Internet. European parents, who are often not familiar with new technologies, are worried that their children may become addicted and also about the dissemination of violent images in cyberspace. Typically, 52% of Greek parents are concerned about their children's personal data being published on the Internet.

Is the Commission aware of the above concerns?

Given that the Commission has concluded a *voluntary* agreement with 17 social networking sites on measures to be taken to protect users, can the Commission say what the likelihood is of an obligatory agreement on this subject, and what further measures it intends to take to protect young users and also to familiarise their parents with the Internet?