

**Question for written answer E-003118/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Tudor Ciuhodaru (S&D)

Subject: Dangerous internet practices

The emergence and growth of the internet, and particularly of social networks, has also resulted in the emergence of controversial and dangerous practices. Live chat applications such as those on Facebook and WhatsApp, Snapchat and Instagram are being used by pimps, paedophiles and traffickers to lure young girls into their world. According to official reports on the way prostitution functions, two thirds of prostitution now takes place online, while the steady rise in the number of minors adopting on-line practices owes much to the spread of new information and communication technologies. Child protection organisations have sounded the alarm about these practices and are calling for a tightening-up of the penalties for exploiting minors and other vulnerable persons for sexual purposes.

1. Is the Commission keeping a watching brief on this situation?
2. What steps does it plan to take, in conjunction with the Member States and the big internet companies, to pinpoint such networks and punish the perpetrators as soon as they are identified?