

**Question for written answer E-003173/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Creating a better internet for children to protect them from online threats during the current lockdown

During these challenging times of the COVID-19 outbreak, digital technology is playing a crucial role in the daily life of all, including children, with the continuity of education, for example, being ensured through educational content and digital tools.

This unprecedented opportunity offered by digital technology does, however, extend the time spent by children in front of screens, which means increased vulnerability to certain digital threats and unsuitable content, such as online pornography.

Online pornography is known to portray a fictitious and stereotyped vision of sexuality, and in young users can generate misleading perceptions of sexuality, inadequate expectations of relationships and a vision of women and men as sexual objects. In this context of uncertainty, the Commission is committed to guaranteeing that children can continue their education under the best possible conditions.

1. How does the Commission intend to make sure that while children and young people explore the numerous opportunities offered by the internet, their dignity is protected from harmful content?
2. Will the Commission provide a set of common guidelines to protect children from involuntary exposure to online pornography, starting with raising awareness about the harmful impacts of pornography and equipping both parents and children with the means to actively protect themselves? .

Supporter¹

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Maria Grapini (S&D)