

**Question for written answer E-000065/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Mathilde Androuët (ID)**

**Subject:** Does the Commission's action to combat crimes against children mean stepping up the fight against illegal immigration networks?

Ten years ago, Maud De Boer-Buquicchio, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, stated that in Europe 'one in five children is a victim of sexual abuse'. EU action since then seems to have done nothing to reverse that trend. In fact, the very same statistic was repeated verbatim by the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, on 24 July 2020 when she was introducing action plans designed to combat the exponential spread of child pornography on the internet.

Is the statistic an old one? Or is it based on a new study, and if so, which one?

In 2015 the Commission confirmed, in this context, that some 250 000 children go missing in the EU every year. That figure includes many unaccompanied migrant minors, who are particularly vulnerable to exploitation by prostitution networks and child sex offenders.

Does the Commission recommend, therefore, that as part of crucial action to combat sexual violence against children, the fight against illegal-immigration networks should be stepped up too, with tougher penalties for offenders?