

**Question for written answer E-004993/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Data protection in the digital age for underage pupils

In Germany, it was recently revealed that a huge data leak led to the personal information of hundreds of thousands of children being made available online¹. Digitalisation in schools is currently a hot topic due to the COVID-19 restrictions and the protection of data, especially when it comes to children, should be at the top of the list of priorities.

The app involved in this case is used not only by pupils but by teachers too, for timetables, homework and other organisational tasks. However, it also acts as a social network, offering games and chat rooms. According to a group of experts, the personal profiles obtained from the data were poorly protected. Amongst the free chat rooms set up for children on the app were two entitled 'Christians' and 'LGBTQ', meaning that the religion and sexual orientation of mostly underage individuals were also leaked.

1. In the Commission's view, what risks could the digitalisation of schools and use of internet platforms pose to minors?
2. What measures has it taken or does it intend to take to educate minors about the dangers of the internet and protect them against those dangers?
3. Has it made recommendations to the Member States on how to protect children from these dangers?

¹ <https://www.heise.de/news/Daten-von-400-000-Schuelern-ungeschuetzt-im-Netz-6229272.html>