

**Question for written answer E-000547/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Rights of and safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings

Directive (EU) 2016/800¹ introduced common rules to bolster protection for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings. The directive laid down additional rights and safeguards in order to ensure that such children can participate effectively in the proceedings, as well as to preserve their potential for development and reintegration into society.

In June 2022, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) published a report on the practical implementation of the directive in nine Member States². Although it is not representative of the situation in each Member State or the EU as a whole, the report offers an insight into how the directive is being applied, identifying best practice and highlighting some shortcomings.

Considering this:

1. When does the Commission intend to submit the report required under Article 25 of the directive, the deadline for which was 11 June 2022, assessing the extent to which the Member States have taken the necessary measures to comply with the directive?
2. What initiatives could it undertake to promote the dissemination of the best practice and address the shortcomings identified in the FRA report, in particular with regard to the rights to prompt, understandable and child-friendly information, effective participation, the protection of privacy, effective legal assistance and an individual assessment of each child's situation?

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¹ Directive (EU) 2016/800 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings, OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 1.

² Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, Italy, Malta, Poland and Portugal.