

**Question for written answer E-001152/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Declining mental health of young people in Europe

According to press reports, one in four young people with psychological problems in Italy slip through the social services net, putting them at an increased risk of substance abuse (drug and alcohol addiction) or of developing a gambling habit (particularly online, where the number of young players, between the ages of 15 and 19, is on the rise).

Given that the mental health of young people in Europe is on a downward spiral (between 2005 and 2017, depressive symptoms among adolescents rose by 5.2%), partly owing to the disastrous effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is reasonable to suppose that things could continue to get worse.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the declining mental health of Europe's youth?
2. What will it do to address this phenomenon at EU level?

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