

**Question for written answer E-002952/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Censorship of books containing LGBTI themes

In Burriana (Castellón, Valencia), the far right has ordered that books on LGBTI topics be removed from children's and young people's section of the municipal library to 'protect minors from pornographic and scandalous content.' A technical report is in favour of keeping books selected in line with specific criteria, with content adapted for young readers to promote equality and sexual diversity, in that area of the library¹.

The Commission recognises² that equipping young people and children with the right knowledge and skills helps them make informed decisions concerning their bodies and develop respectful social and sexual relationships. What is more, the Commission announced in a communication³ that it would support 'projects that use cultural expression to tackle discrimination, build trust and acceptance, and promote the full inclusion of LGBTIQ people'.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission believe that the decision to remove these books is consistent with the European Union's values and the protection of minors' fundamental rights?
2. How will the Commission provide support for cultural institutions, such as libraries, so they can continue to contribute to the full inclusion of diversity?

Submitted: 5.10.2023

¹ <https://elpais.com/espana/comunidad-valenciana/2023-09-28/un-informe-de-la-biblioteca-de-burriana-avala-mantener-en-el-area-juvenil-los-libros-lgtbi-que-quiere-apartar-un-concejal-de-vox.html>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-001342-ASW_EN.html.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0698>.