

**Question for written answer E-003333/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Giorgos Georgiou (The Left)

Subject: Facilities for juvenile offenders in Cyprus

In Cyprus, Law No 55(I)/2021 on children in conflict with the law is not being implemented in any meaningful way because the necessary facilities have not yet been developed – in particular there is still no suitable detention facility for children – and neither have the mechanisms regulating the recruitment of staff scientifically trained in the field of children's rights. Minors are arrested, questioned and take part in legal proceedings as accused persons, without the arrest and questioning processes being overseen by relevant persons who should have already been recruited. The Ministry of Justice has appointed police officers to carry out the task of supervisors. This unprecedented practice, whereby members of the police force take on the role of both investigator and supervisor, may eliminate the guarantee of protection of the rights of minors.

A catch-22 situation is created because the lack of a suitable detention facility means it is not possible to impose a custodial sentence on juvenile repeat offenders, as a last resort.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

Bearing in mind that the Republic of Cyprus is bound by Directive 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, what measures does the Commission intend to take regarding Cyprus' implementation of the relevant articles, in particular Article 12(5), which concerns special detention facilities for minors?

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