

**Question for oral answer O-000007/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 136

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Subject: Children's rights

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child in the world – i.e. every human being below the age of eighteen years – is entitled to the same set of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, regardless their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities, migration status, sexual orientation or any other status.

Article 3(5) of the Treaty on European Union lists the protection of children's rights among the objectives of the European Union, while the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union guarantees the protection of the rights of the child by the EU institutions, and by the EU Member States when they implement EU law. Nevertheless, the reality shows that much still needs to be done and that persisting and existing challenges still need to be addressed.

Commission Vice-President Dubravka Šuica announced the four pillars that will be covered by the upcoming strategy: 1) the rights of the most vulnerable children; 2) children's rights in the digital age; 3) the prevention of and fight against violence; 4) the promotion of child-friendly justice.

Could the Commission explain:

1. how it intends to help the Member States to work out national plans to implement the objectives set out in the strategy within the time frame given;
2. how the strategy will support an inclusive and holistic approach to protecting all children and safeguarding the best interests of the child – especially the most vulnerable – in all EU policies, programmes and actions in accordance with EU fundamental rights;
3. how it intends to recognise children as agents of change, ensuring that children meaningfully participate in the design and implementation of the strategy;
4. how it is planning to mainstream children's rights and ensure that adequate funding is allocated to achieve the objectives set out in the strategy in both EU external and internal actions;
5. how the strategy could be made mandatory for the EU institutions and how it will be aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the EU's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
6. taking into consideration the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its long-term impact on children, how the strategy will take into account the challenges that have emerged in the context of the crisis?

Submitted: 03/02/2021

Lapses: 04/05/2021