

**Question for oral answer O-000030/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 136

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on behalf of the Committee on Culture and Education

Subject: The new European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+)

In the past decade, children have started using technology more intensively and at an ever younger age. This creates opportunities, but also challenges. Under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, children must be protected in the digital environment. Violence and sexual and other forms of abuse against children have increased to a worrying extent recently, with a major impact on the physical and mental health of the younger generation. At the same time, social services and protective institutions have become highly inaccessible. This is why the Commission came up with a new European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+), which tackles several issues that were missing from the 2012 BIK strategy and aims to address persistent challenges. The Commission announced that the strategy has three pillars: 1) safe digital experiences for children; 2) children's digital empowerment; and 3) active participation of children.

- 1) How does the Commission intend to help the Member States and industry to implement the objectives set out in the BIK+ strategy and ensure that adequate funding is allocated to support hotlines, helplines and Safe Internet Centres so that they can achieve the objectives set out in the strategy, in particular in relation to prevention, awareness-raising campaigns and support to victims?
- 2) How will the strategy foster an inclusive and holistic approach in order to bridge the digital divide and enhance the digital skills and competences, including media literacy, of children, parents and educators, including people with disabilities and those from vulnerable backgrounds?
- 3) How is the Commission planning to ensure that pan-European data collection and research will be carried out on prevention and victim assistance programmes and on the digital activities of children, and how will it guarantee that future digital policies and initiatives take new technological developments into account?
- 4) How does the Commission intend to involve children of all ages in the monitoring process and the effective implementation of the strategy?

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