

**Priority question for written answer P-006691/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: NDICI support to vulnerable children and their families in the Republic of Moldova

The European Union promotes care reform for children through the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care. This commitment has focused on EU internal action, but the Commission gave proof of its commitment globally by including it in its Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) proposal and the recently adopted EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024.

For more than two decades, successive governments in the Republic of Moldova have worked to achieve comprehensive childcare reform. However, despite this progress, many children, in particular children with disabilities and children under the age of three, have been left behind by the care reform efforts due to a lack of financial and human resources. Furthermore, child poverty is very likely to increase due to COVID-19 and its accompanying measures, and consequently the number of children at risk of separation from their families, in need of additional support, or in alternative care is also likely to increase.

How will the Commission, European External Action Services and EU delegation to Chișinău, make sure the NDICI will be used to advance care reform for children in the Republic of Moldova, and thereby support the most vulnerable children and their families?