

**Question for written answer E-002470/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: Supporting transparency and best practices in childcare: the potential for unified statistics in the EU

Throughout the EU, Member States address the issue of child protection and the removal of children from families through varied approaches and differing regulations, with some countries not publishing statistics on the reasons for or numbers of children being taken into state care¹.

Collecting unified and harmonised statistics in this area would not only enable a comprehensive overview of the reasons for and frequency of such actions, but would also promote greater transparency and comparability between childcare systems in different countries and encourage the sharing of best practices. This would be beneficial for researchers and experts, who would have access to up-to-date data for analysis and recommendations within their countries, as well as for parents².

1. Is the Commission considering the possibility of harmonising data collection on child removals across Member States, including the reasons for and frequency of the removals?
2. Is the Commission planning to develop proposals for a unified framework that would encourage Member States to collect and share this information, creating a basis for future policy development in child protection?
3. Would the Commission consider it useful to explore this issue and possibly consult experts, researchers and representatives of Member States so as to better understand the differences in child protection practices across the EU?

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¹ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2024/mapping-child-protection-systems-eu-update-2023>.

² <https://eurochild.org/uploads/2022/02/UNICEF-DataCare-Technical-Report-Final-1.pdf>.