Question for written answer E-002868/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Magdalena Adamowicz (PPE), Ewa Kopacz (PPE), Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz (PPE), Bartłomiej Sienkiewicz (PPE), Marta Wcisło (PPE), Andrzej Buła (PPE), Maria Walsh (PPE), Łukasz Kohut (PPE), Rasa Juknevičienė (PPE), Javier Zarzalejos (PPE), Lukas Mandl (PPE), Caterina Chinnici (PPE), Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski (PPE), Malik Azmani (Renew), Jeroen Lenaers (PPE), Krzysztof Brejza (PPE)

Subject: Missing and runaway children as an indicator of violence, abuse and grooming

According to Missing Children Europe's 2025 Figures and Trends report, published in June 2026, runaway children accounted for 58 % of cases reported to Europe's 116 000 hotline network for missing children in 2025.

Missing Children Europe, AMBER Alert Europe and other watchdog organisations warn that running away is often the final result of violence, including bullying, both online and offline, and of grooming.

Bullying and grooming increasingly occur online. While very large online platforms (VLOPs), especially Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok, are well-known channels, the misuse of chat and messaging features within online multiplayer games for the purpose of grooming remains less known, documented and addressed.

1. Will the Commission promote use of return home interviews and standardised indicators across Member States to identify whether grooming or violence preceded a child's disappearance?

2. How does the Commission intend to use existing instruments, especially the Digital Services Act, to improve the early detection of violence that may lead to children going missing or running away?

3. Does the Commission intend to assess how online grooming, including through chat and messaging features within online multiplayer games, contributes to cases involving missing or runaway children and identify the main channels involved?

Submitted: 13.7.2026