

**Question for written answer E-003522/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Elena Kountoura (The Left)

Subject: Perpetuation of gender stereotypes in a new school textbook in Greece

In recent months there has been scathing criticism of a new textbook titled ‘Social and Political Education’¹. The textbook, which is to be used as of 2027, is intended for pupils attending the final year of lower secondary school. The criticism centres around passages on gender roles and gender-based violence that perpetuate gender stereotypes and shift the burden of protection from abuse onto the potential victim. According to the book, the woman’s role in the family is to ‘bring up children and take care of the household’, while the man’s role is to perform ‘heavy chores, handyman tasks and take care of things outside of the home’.

Moreover, instead of clearly articulating the fundamental principle that responsibility for any form of abuse rests solely with the offender, the chapter on abuse advises girls to follow ‘practical advice’, which includes ‘avoiding unsafe situations’ and ‘violent, aggressive and manipulative’ men².

Given that Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women requires Member States to take measures to prevent the perpetuation of harmful gender stereotypes and to carry out awareness-raising campaigns aimed, inter alia, at children³, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it consider the perpetuation of such stereotypes in a school textbook to be consistent with the obligations arising from Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on the prevention and elimination of harmful gender stereotypes?
2. How does it intend to ensure that the correct transposition of the Directive is not undermined by practical or educational material perpetuating the very stereotypes that it seeks to combat?

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¹ Social and Political Education - School textbook for pupils of the final year of lower secondary school Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, Institute of Educational Policy (<https://ebooksdl.cti.gr/view?item=20.500.14040/30230>).

² Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combatting violence against women and domestic violence, Chapter 5 ‘Prevention and early intervention’, Article 34 ‘Preventive measures’ and Article 35 ‘Specific measures to prevent rape and to promote the central role of consent in sexual relationships’ (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/En/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202401385). The Greek Government has failed to fully transpose Directive (EU) 2024/1385 into Greek law.

³ It should be noted that gender-based violence is still on the rise in Greece. In 2026, 14 femicides have been recorded in Greece within a period of nine months and according to EIGE’s Equality Index for 2025 the rate of gender-based violence in Greece is above the EU average (<https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2025/domain/violence/EL>).