

**Question for written answer E-003839/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Dolors Montserrat (PPE)

Subject: Free legal aid for child victims of serious non-sexual crimes

The ‘Bolaños Law’ in Spain has done away with the automatic granting of legal aid to child victims of certain serious non-sexual crimes, instead forcing them to prove they cannot afford legal assistance. The Spanish Public Prosecutor’s Office has warned that this new arrangement may lead to people being left without assistance and has called for protection to be restored.

In the light of Directive 2012/29/EU, which requires the best interests of the child to be a primary consideration and guarantees victims access to legal aid under the conditions established in national law:

1. Does the Commission consider it compatible with EU law for child victims of serious crime to be left without specialised legal assistance if it cannot be proved that they cannot afford it themselves?
2. Has the Commission assessed whether this reform really protects the child’s best interests and prevents unjustified differences in how child victims are protected depending on the crime?
3. Does the Commission intend to request information from the Spanish authorities or take any action to ensure that Spanish legislation is fully consistent with the obligations arising from Directive 2012/29/EU?

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