

Question for oral answer O-000041/2025

to the Commission

Rule 142

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Subject: EU plan to promote gender self-ID without age limits under LGBTIQ+ equality strategy 2026-2030

On page 15 of the LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026-2030¹, the Commission declares its intention to ‘facilitate exchanges of best practices among Member States to support the development of legal gender recognition procedures based on self-determination that are free from age restrictions’.

This formulation is profoundly concerning. By encouraging the removal of age-related safeguards, the Commission appears to overlook the fundamental duty of Member States to protect minors and to regulate matters relating to family law and child welfare, which remain an exclusive national competence under the Treaties.

Such an approach risks undermining the EU’s core principles, as well as its obligation under Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all actions concerning minors.

Furthermore, the strategy fails to indicate which stakeholders were consulted in developing this position. The absence of clear input from parents, child protection experts, educators, paediatric and psychological professionals, and Member State authorities raises serious concerns about the transparency, legitimacy and balance of the Commission’s consultation process.

Given the sensitive nature of legal gender recognition for minors, the Commission’s endorsement of procedures that are ‘free from age restrictions’ is unacceptable, both procedurally and substantively, and merits urgent clarification and parliamentary scrutiny.

In the light of the above:

1. Which stakeholders, experts and Member State authorities did the Commission consult when drafting the section of the LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026-2030 that refers to ‘legal gender recognition procedures based on self-determination that are free from age restrictions’?

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/lgbtiq-equality-strategy-2026-2030-0_en.

2. Specifically, were child protection bodies, medical professionals, parents' associations and educational experts included in this consultation?
3. How does the Commission justify promoting the removal of age restrictions in legal gender recognition procedures, given that family and child protection law falls under Member States' competence and considering the EU's obligation to ensure that the best interests and welfare of minors are paramount?

Submitted: 19.11.2025

Lapses: 20.2.2026