

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001610/24
to the Commission
Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left)
(3 September 2024)**

Subject: Children's exposure to violence

In 2018, in its concluding observations on Spain's report, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) called on Spain to end children's access to, and participation in, bullfighting. The CRC will carry out a further review in 2024-2025.

During the summer, it was common in some municipalities to see free or subsidised bullfight tickets on offer ⁽¹⁾. In addition, some children were injured during bull runs ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾, yet the Youth Commissioner did not comment or issue any warnings.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission believe that such events respect the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child?
2. Will it incorporate the CRC's recommendations in its binding legal framework for the Member States?
3. Is it aware that bullfighting is infringing children's fundamental rights?

Submitted: 3.9.2024

**Answer given by Vice-President Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(13 November 2024)**

As the Commission noted in its reply to written questions E-000431/2024 and E-000766/2024, the rights of the child are enshrined in Article 24 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights ⁽¹⁾. The EU strategy on the rights of the child ⁽²⁾ aims, among others, to combat violence against children and ensure child protection. The Commission has adopted a recommendation on integrated child protection systems ⁽³⁾.

The EU is not party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) ⁽⁴⁾, but as Article 24 of the Charter is based on the UNCRC, the latter needs to be considered when interpreting the rights of the child.

In a situation where Member States are not using EU funding for activities mentioned in the question, it is for their authorities, including their judicial authorities, to ensure that fundamental rights are effectively respected and protected in accordance with their national legislation and international human rights obligations, including the UNCRC.

¹ <https://www.lavanguardia.com/sociedad/20240827/9893710/fundacion-franz-weber-critica-ofertas-menores-toros-tomelloso-alude-indicaciones-onu-ep-agenciaslv20240827.html>

² https://www.elconfidencial.com/espana/comunidad-valenciana/2024-08-09/menor-cogida-bous-carrer-meliana-valencia-1tna_3940418/

³ <https://elpais.com/espana/comunidad-valenciana/2024-08-20/herido-un-menor-de-edad-al-ser-corneado-por-un-toro-en-los-festejos-de-vilamarxant.html>

⁽¹⁾ These include the right to such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being as well as that child's best interests must be a primary consideration in all actions relating to children, whether taken by public authorities or private institutions.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0142>

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/36591cfb-1b0a-4130-985e-332fd87d40c1_en?filename=C_2024_2680_1_EN_ACT_part1_v8.pdf, 23 April 2024

⁽⁴⁾ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>