

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000872/25
to the Commission
Loucas Fourlas (PPE)
(27 February 2025)**

Subject: Tackling child abuse by parents or guardians

Physical abuse of children by their own parents or guardians is a serious and widespread form of violence, with long-term consequences for the mental and physical health of the victims. Although the protection of children is guaranteed by both Member State legislation and the European institutional framework, challenges remain in identifying, preventing and responding to such incidents, particularly when they go unreported.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess the effectiveness of Member States in preventing and responding to physical abuse of children by their parents or guardians?
2. Will the Commission consider establishing a single European reporting and intervention mechanism for physical child abuse, in order to ensure a timely and coordinated response by the competent authorities?

Submitted: 27.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Micaleff on behalf of the European Commission
(27 May 2025)**

The protection of children's rights is a priority for the Commission, as confirmed in the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child ⁽¹⁾, and the Commission Recommendation on integrated child protection systems ⁽²⁾, which calls on Member States to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, including corporal punishment and by actively raising awareness of the rights and needs of children among those who are in contact with children, including parents and care givers.

In addition, the Victims' Rights Directive ⁽³⁾ recognises the special needs of child victims and the pending revision proposes an improved access to integrated and multidisciplinary support and protection services, to ensure that child victims are better supported and protected.

The directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence — which Member States need to transpose by June 2027 — equally recognises the need to protect child victims of domestic violence.

Reporting procedures need to be accessible in a child-friendly manner, the child shall be assisted by a trained professional and authorities shall implement state-wide effective, comprehensive and coordinated policies.

The Commission is fully committed to monitor implementation of the above-mentioned recommendation, pursue the adoption of the revision to the Victims' Rights Directive and ensure the timely and appropriate implementation of the Violence Against Women Directive, which aims to ensure a speedy and coordinated response to domestic violence by competent authorities.

⁽¹⁾ EU strategy on the rights of the child (COM(2021) 142 final), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0142>.

⁽²⁾ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/1238 of 23 of April 2024 on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2024/1238/oj>.

⁽³⁾ Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 57, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2012/29/oj>.