

EN

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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.7.2025)

To ensure a coherent and coordinated approach to all the risks faced by children in relation to crime, the EU will, as announced in ProtectEU: A European Internal Security Strategy¹, develop an action plan on the protection of children against crime. The plan will encompass both the online and offline dimensions.

In the meantime, many initiatives have been or will be undertaken at EU level to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Promoting the full inclusion of young people aged 15 - 29 within society is a key objective of the EU youth strategy², Erasmus+ Youth³, the European Solidarity Corps⁴ and the European Youth Work Agenda⁵.

The Reinforced Youth Guarantee⁶ remains a priority to support young people becoming unemployed or leaving formal education. Through the Union of Skills⁷ and the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion⁸, the EU will work to provide stronger educational foundations for everyone and promote social inclusion, integration, and resilience to recruitment into crime.

The 2024 EU Recommendation on integrated child protection systems⁹ also emphasises that children involved in legal proceedings as victims, suspects, accused or convicted persons, witnesses or as other parties must be treated in a child-centred, individualised, and rights-based manner, with a focus on prevention, rehabilitation, and the best interests of the child.

The Commission is planning to issue guidelines on the protection of minors under Article

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on ProtectEU: A European Internal Security Strategy, COM(2025) 148 final.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:4617911>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32021R0817>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/888/oj/eng#:~:text=Regulation%20%28EU%29%202021%2F888%20of%20the%20European%20Parliament%20and,%28EU%29%20No%20375%2F2014%20%28Text%20with%20EEA%20relevance%29%20PE%2F30%2F2021%2FINIT>.

⁵ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC_2020_415_R_0001.

⁶ Council Recommendation of 30 October 2020 on A Bridge to Jobs – Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee and replacing the Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee, OJ C 372, 4.11.2020, p. 1–9.

⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on The Union of Skills, COM(2025) 90 final.

⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027, COM(2020) 758 final.

⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=celex:32024H1238>.

28(4) of the Digital Services Act¹⁰. These will describe the measures that the Commission considers that provider of online platforms accessible to minors should take to ensure a high level of privacy, safety and security for minors on their services. The Commission will also issue an action plan on cyberbullying.

¹⁰ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1–102.