

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002034/25
to the Commission
Mélanie Disdier (Pfe), Fabrice Leggeri (Pfe), Marie Dauchy (Pfe), Mathilde Androuët (Pfe)
(21 May 2025)**

Subject: Paedophilia in sports clubs and cooperation on criminal record checks

Not a week goes by without a child in the EU being attacked by a sexual predator.

Currently, many European countries do not have a database listing every person convicted of crimes against children.

Worse still, sports club managers are neither obliged to request nor authorised to require a criminal record check from another Member State.

Given that the easiest way to be in contact with children is through sport, we urgently need to completely reassess the checks on coaches and managers to combat crimes against children.

Just recently in France, in the Dunkirk area, a Belgian educator, who had already been convicted of paedophilia by the Tournai criminal court, was able to work as a coach without the club's managers being able to run a check on his past. Several reports, followed by complaints, revealed that the individual in question had already been convicted.

Does the Commission have plans for a system to check a person's criminal record in other Member States, in particular their country of origin or residence, before they are employed in sensitive positions (for example, as educators working with children or as school bus drivers), as the person may have been convicted when working in such positions before?

Supporter ⁽¹⁾

Submitted: 21.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(11 September 2025)**

The directive on combating the sexual abuse and exploitation of children ⁽¹⁾ obliges Member States to ensure that employers are entitled to request criminal records when recruiting for professional or organised voluntary activities involving direct and regular contacts with children.

It also requires Member States to ensure that the information concerning the existence of criminal convictions or disqualifications is transmitted between Member States, in accordance with the procedures set out in Council Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA ⁽²⁾.

The proposal for a recast of the directive ⁽³⁾, currently in trilogue, aims to enhance the level of protection by introducing a mandatory request for criminal records when recruiting for posts involving direct and regular contact with children, including sports clubs, and requiring the transmission of the relevant information via the European Criminal Records Information System.

Furthermore, the proposal includes specific provisions on mandatory reporting and on measures to ensure prevention of child sexual abuse in community settings, including schools, hospitals, social care services, sports clubs or religious communities.

As announced in Protect EU: a European Internal Security Strategy ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission will support the co-legislators in ensuring that the final compromise more effectively protects children against child sexual abuse and exploitation, including in sports clubs.

¹ ⁽¹⁾This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Valérie Deloge (Pfe)

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, OJ L 335/1, 17.12.2011, p. 1-14, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/93/oj>.

⁽²⁾ Council Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA of 26 February 2009 on the organisation and content of the exchange of information extracted from the criminal record between Member States, OJ L 93, 7.4.2009, p. 23-32, http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2009/315/oj.

⁽³⁾ Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse material and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA (recast), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52024PC0060>.

⁽⁴⁾ 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, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0148>.

In addition, in line with the recommendation on integrated child protection systems ⁽⁵⁾, Member States are encouraged to ensure the regulated and monitored involvement of private and civil society actors, supporting a coordinated approach to prevention, early detection, and response.

⁽⁵⁾ Recommendation (EU) 2024/1238 on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32024H1238>.