

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004040/25
to the Commission
Erik Kaliňák (NI)
(15 October 2025)**

Subject: LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026- — 2030: changing children's gender identity even without parental consent?

At a time when the EU is facing crises such as migration and economic instability caused by nonsensical green measures, the Commission has come up with another controversial document — LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026- — 2030. In this document, among other problematic points, the Commission proposes legal recognition of gender identity without age restrictions, which would allow children to change their gender at any time and at will. This approach not only ignores traditional family values and the protection of children, but also flagrantly interferes with the sovereignty of Member States, where family law is the exclusive competence of national parliaments, not the Commission.

In this connection:

1. What legal basis in the Treaties does the Commission rely on when recommending the removal of age limits for changing gender identity in children, and why does it ignore Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which emphasises the best interests of the child over ideological experiments?
2. How does the Commission intend to prevent this proposal from causing chaos in national family law systems, particularly in countries that reject the imposition of liberal trends at the expense of traditional values?
3. How does the Commission plan to address the risks that lasting damage will be caused to children who may later regret decisions taken under the influence of fashionable ideologies?

Submitted: 15.10.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(6 January 2026)**

Equality and non-discrimination are founding values and fundamental rights enshrined in the EU Treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ⁽¹⁾ and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The Commission firmly believes there is no contradiction between protecting the fundamental rights of children and those of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people and remains fully committed to equality and non-discrimination.

The new LGBTIQ+ equality strategy ⁽²⁾ is about ensuring that all people, including LGBTIQ+ people, are treated equally and not discriminated against in the EU. It builds on the current Strategy ⁽³⁾ which has been in place since 2020.

The Commission fully respects the competences of Member States, and it is for Member States to determine the conditions under which legal gender recognition is granted.

The protection and promotion of the rights of the child is a core EU objective. Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in line with Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), which sets out the EU's objective to protect the rights of the child, affirms that the children's best interests must be a primary consideration in all actions relating to them, and affirms their right to express their views freely, with those views to be taken into account on matters which concern them in accordance with their age and maturity.

While substantive family law issues remain under the competence of Member States, national authorities, under the supervision of the courts, must ensure that their obligations regarding fundamental rights and children's rights arising from national legislation, EU Treaties and international agreements, are fully respected.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/b4952371-4308-47ad-b995-02c539b75dda_en?filename=JUST_template_comingsoon_standard.pdf.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/5100c375-87e8-40e3-85b5-1adc5f556d6d_en?filename=lgbtiq_strategy_2020-2025_en.pdf.