

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004740/25
to the Commission
Erik Kaliňák (NI)
(1 December 2025)**

Subject: Is changing children's gender a hoax or a real Commission plan?

On 8 October 2025, the Commission adopted the LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026-2030. In this document, the Commission pledges to 'facilitate exchanges of best practices among Member States to support the development of legal gender recognition procedures based on self-determination that are free from age restrictions'.

The vast majority of the media understood this promise to mean open support for children, regardless of age, to be able to legally change their gender, whether they undergo hormone therapy or surgery or not ⁽¹⁾. However, the Commission has dismissed this interpretation as a hoax ⁽²⁾.

Yet during the meeting of Parliament's LIBE Committee on 10 November 2025, the Commission representative suggested that the Commission was indeed seeking to enable children to change their gender legally regardless of age.

1. Is it the Commission's ambition to enable children to legally change their gender regardless of age?
2. If so, what future awaits all those who refuse to agree with this (parents, classmates, teachers, etc.), and will this be considered hate speech or even a criminal offence?
3. Has the Commission prepared an analysis of the impact of the gender change strategy, or does it plan to rely on activist media and courts to deal with the impact on its behalf?

Submitted: 1.12.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(18 February 2026)**

As outlined in the answers to written questions P-004175/2025 ⁽¹⁾, E-004108/2025 ⁽²⁾, E-004040/2025 ⁽³⁾ and E-004172/2025 ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission firmly believes that the protection of children and the safeguarding of the fundamental rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people are not mutually exclusive, remaining strongly and equally committed to both.

Equality and non-discrimination are founding values and fundamental rights enshrined in the EU Treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU ⁽⁵⁾ and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The new LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026-2030 ⁽⁶⁾ is about ensuring that all people, including LGBTIQ+ people, are treated equally and not discriminated against in Europe. It builds on the previous Strategy ⁽⁷⁾ which has been in place since 2020.

The protection and promotion of the rights of the child is a core EU objective, enshrined in Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, which guarantees the protection of the rights of the child by the EU institutions and by Member States when they implement EU law.

The child's best interests must be a primary consideration in all matters concerning them, taking into account children's views in accordance with their age and maturity ⁽⁸⁾. The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child ⁽⁹⁾ promotes a rights-based and inclusive approach, free of discrimination.

¹ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15176391/Children-able-choose-gender-age-EU-proposals.html>, <https://standard.sk/1053069/deti-maju-mat-podla-eurokomisie-pravo-na-sebaidentifikaciu-brusel-presadzuje-transprava>

² <https://www.startitup.sk/eurokomisia-reaguje-strategia-lgbt-nepresadzuje-zmenu-pohlavia-bez-vekoveho-obmedzenia/>

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-004175-ASW_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004108-ASW_EN.html.

⁽³⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004040-ASW_EN.html.

⁽⁴⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004172-ASW_EN.html.

⁽⁵⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/b4952371-4308-47ad-b995-02c539b75dda_en?filename=JUST_template_comingsoon_standard.pdf.

⁽⁷⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/5100c375-87e8-40e3-85b5-1adc5f556d6d_en?filename=lgbtiq_strategy_2020-2025_en.pdf.

⁽⁸⁾ In line with Article 12 of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>.

⁽⁹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/eu-strategy-rights-child-and-european-child-guarantee_en#the-eu-strategy-on-the-rights-of-the-child.

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

A 'gender change strategy' has not been adopted or announced by the Commission.
