

EN
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Answer given by Ms Dalli
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.9.2022)

Protection and promotion of the rights of the child is a core objective of the European Union's work and it is enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (Article 21). However, according to its Article 51(1), the Charter applies to Member States only when implementing EU law. The case referred to by the Honourable Member falls exclusively within the competence of the Member States in the area of education. In this case, it is for them to ensure that fundamental rights are effectively respected and protected in accordance with their national law and international human rights obligations.

Combating violence against children is a key priority for the Commission, as stated in the EU Strategy on the rights of the child¹. The strategy is complemented by the EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse². The latter places a strong focus on prevention, stressing that: *'Children themselves need to have the knowledge and tools that could help them not to be confronted with the abuse when possible and they need to be informed that certain behaviours are not acceptable'*. Such knowledge and tools could be provided as part of education, which is the responsibility of Member States to organise and decide on content and teaching methods.

The Commission does not provide funding for the activities referred to by the Honourable Member. Data on these activities and funding might be obtained directly from the funders, in this case the German government.

¹ Communication of 24 March 2021 from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: EU strategy on the rights of the child. COM(2021) 142 final.

² Communication of 24.7.2020 from the Commission to the European parliament, the council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse. COM(2020) 607 final.