

**Question for written answer E-014774/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Testimony of child witnesses in the Spanish state

Directive 2011/93/EU stipulates, in recital 36, that 'Professionals likely to come into contact with child victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation should be adequately trained to identify and deal with such victims'. Article 20 of that directive calls for 'interviews with ... child [victims] ... [to be] carried out by or through professionals trained for this purpose'.

Directive 2012/29/EU lends further weight to these ideas. Article 25, for example, requires Member States to 'ensure that officials likely to come into contact with victims, such as police officers and court staff, receive both general and specialist training to a level appropriate to their contact with victims ... to enable them to deal with victims in an impartial, respectful and professional manner'.

In the Spanish state, however, assessments of evidence given by child witnesses and psychosocial assessments are made by professionals who have not been specially trained to deal with children, teenagers, or victims not yet of adult age.

1. Does not the Commission think that because of the failure to provide specific training, child victims will be left unprotected and highly vulnerable to secondary victimisation caused by inappropriate professional practices, and it will be impossible, more often than not, to start proceedings for crimes against children, especially those occurring within the family?
2. Should not European legislation contain more clear-cut provisions spelling out the professional profile of persons able to receive and assess the testimonies of child witnesses?