



**Declassified<sup>1</sup>**

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22 April 2026

## Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

### Minutes

#### of the exchange of views on sexual violence against children on Friday, 13 March 2026, in Paris

The Committee **held** an exchange of views with Michel Amas, lawyer at the Marseille Bar. Mr Amas was accompanied by his colleague Célia Borelli, who chaired the Children's Committee of that Bar, and by Ms Celina Vuarin, a parliamentary collaborator and member of the working group in Mr Amas's office.

**The Chairperson, Ms Saskia Kluit**, welcomed Mr Amas, who had drawn attention to the situation in France of children placed in institutions who were victims of sexual exploitation. This issue was linked to the topic addressed by Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez in his report on "Child abuse in institutions in Europe" and to sexual violence against children, an issue that the Committee was following closely.

#### Mr Michel Amas, lawyer at the Marseille Bar

**Mr Amas** thanked the Chairperson for the invitation. He emphasised the seriousness of what he described as a real pandemic of child sexual abuse networks that was affecting residential care homes under the Child Welfare Services (CWS) for years. He wished to share his experience as a lawyer committed to defending children and their families. For the past 8 years, his work focused on this issue. Within CWS residential homes, there was not only physical violence but also sexual assaults. However, these sexual assaults did not lead to prosecutions. In 2025, out of 312 cases of sexual assault, there were only 16 prosecutions. As there were no prosecutions, there were also no support for victims. In addition to abuse within the homes, a child sexual abuse network developed, targeting children placed in residential care homes and pushing them into prostitution. The French Ministry of Justice estimated that 20 000 children were affected. His youngest client involved in prostitution was 11 years old. **Mr Amas** explained that in 98% of cases, the children concerned had never engaged in prostitution prior to their placement. This phenomenon did not affect foster families, suggesting a problem specific to the foster care system. No appropriate medical follow-up was in place to treat the consequences of the criminal acts suffered. Sexually transmitted infections had become very common. A large number of his young clients had HIV/AIDS. Psychologically, the deficiency was also glaring: no appropriate care existed to deal with the consequences of repeated assaults and rape.

It was also observed that children who were removed within the first two months after acts of violence and placed back with extended family had a chance to recover. Speed of action therefore appeared to be decisive. However, reports to magistrates were too often made too late, compromising the possibility of rapid and appropriate decisions and reducing the chances of successful care for the children. Moreover, a link between child sexual abuse acts and cocaine addiction was identified in more than 80% of cases, requiring a comprehensive response including addiction treatment.

Paedophile networks mainly used the website "Sexemodel" to make contact with minors. Then, they moved the communication to WhatsApp to arrange meetings. "Clients" were able to purchase the services of a child within 15 to 20 minutes.

Faced with these horrors, he recommended the development of a national directive harmonising the care of children across the country, as each department currently applied different policies. This directive should be based on the following principles: abandoning the open foster care model, and immediately scheduling a hearing in cases of runaways (to implement, where necessary, appropriate medical follow-up and rapid placement with extended family).

<sup>1</sup> The minutes were approved and declassified by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development at its meeting on 22 April 2026.

The problem also existed in Spain and Belgium.

Despite numerous warnings, particularly from newspapers and the media, and discussions with national authorities on this issue in May 2025, no action had been taken and silence prevailed. He had drafted simple bills, which included measures to close the shelters. He denounced this harmful political silence. He was currently working to shut down the "Sexemodel" website.

### **Discussion**

**Ms Arslan** felt that this problem really needed more media coverage and asked if there were any model laws in place.

**Mr Amas** believed that the French authorities were so culpable that they were concealing the problem. Yet, juvenile court judges were aware of the risk when they ordered placements. The report of the parliamentary commission of inquiry into the shortcomings of public policies for child protection, dated 1st April 2025, barely mentioned the issue.

**Ms Bilozir** reiterated that violence against children, who were unable to protect themselves, was the most serious form of violence. She wanted to get more information about the families and environments of the children involved, as well as the root causes of the problem, for the work of the Sub-Committee on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings, which she chaired. In Ukraine, child protection policy aimed at deinstitutionalisation, but serious problems persisted within some families.

**Mr Taçoy** wondered how to find a way to prevent children from being approached via social networks.

**Mr Amas** responded that children taken into care did not come solely from dysfunctional families: most of the parents were respectable. He felt that only 20% of placements were justified. In 60% of cases, the placements resulted from a dispute between parents (often in cases of divorce). In 20% of cases, children were placed due to domestic violence. The mother then found herself a triple victim: having been beaten by her husband, she had to leave the marital home, becoming homeless and subsequently losing custody of her child. He questioned the French approach of placing children in care during marital conflicts. Many cases of children in care involved autistic children whose parents were overwhelmed and consequently lost custody.

**The Chairperson** thanked Mr Amas for his commitment to children's rights and closed the exchange of views.

## List of presence / *Liste de présence*

(The names of members who took part in the meeting are in bold /  
Les noms des membres ayant pris part à la réunion sont en caractères gras)

Chairperson / *Président·e*:

|                                                         |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Ms Saskia Kluit</b> (Netherlands / <i>Pays-Bas</i> ) |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--|

Vice-Chairpersons / *Vice-Président·es* :

|                                                  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Ms Carmen Leyte</b> (Spain / <i>Espagne</i> ) |  |
| <b>Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova</b> (Ukraine)          |  |
| Mme Sophia Chikirou (France)                     |  |

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| Ms Ogerta Manastirliu             | Albania / <i>Albanie</i>                           | Mr Ardit Bido                      |
| Mr Cerni Escalé                   | Andorra / <i>Andorre</i>                           | Mme Bernadeta Coma                 |
| <b>Mr Armen Gevorgyan</b>         | Armenia / <i>Arménie</i>                           | Ms Hripsime Grigoryan              |
| <b>Ms Claudia Arpa</b>            | Austria / <i>Autriche</i>                          | Ms Doris Bures                     |
| <b>Mr Andreas Minnich</b>         | Austria / <i>Autriche</i>                          | Ms Agnes Sirkka Prammer            |
| Mme Anne Lambelin                 | Belgium / <i>Belgique</i>                          | <b>Mr Andries Gryffroy</b>         |
| M. Benoît Lutgen                  | Belgium / <i>Belgique</i>                          | Mme Véronique Durenne              |
| Ms Darijana Filipović             | Bosnia and Herzegovina / <i>Bosnie-Herzégovine</i> | Mr Šemsudin Dedić                  |
| Ms Atidzhe Alieva-Veli            | Bulgaria / <i>Bulgarie</i>                         | Mr Kostadin Angelov                |
| Ms Maya Dimitrova                 | Bulgaria / <i>Bulgarie</i>                         | Mr Ilian Iontchev                  |
| <b>Mr Marko Pavić</b>             | Croatia / <i>Croatie</i>                           | Ms Rada Borić                      |
| Ms Christiana Erotokritou         | Cyprus / <i>Chypre</i>                             | Mr Constantinos Efstathiou         |
| Ms Ivana Mádllová                 | Czechia / <i>Tchéquie</i>                          | Mr Ondřej Šimetka                  |
| ZZ...                             | Czechia / <i>Tchéquie</i>                          | ZZ...                              |
| Ms Camilla Fabricius              | Denmark / <i>Danemark</i>                          | Ms Charlotte Bagge Hansen          |
| Ms Hanah Lahe                     | Estonia / <i>Estonie</i>                           | Ms Kadri Tali                      |
| <b>Ms Minna Reijonen</b>          | Finland / <i>Finlande</i>                          | Mr Pekka Aittakumpu                |
| Mme Sophia Chikirou               | France                                             | Mme Sabrina Sebaihi                |
| M. Alexandre Dufosset             | France                                             | <b>Mme Liliana Tanguy</b>          |
| M. Alain Milon                    | France                                             | M. Alain Cadec                     |
| Mme Maud Petit                    | France                                             | M. Jean Laussucq                   |
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| Mr Vinzenz Glaser                 | Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>                         | Ms Christin Willnat                |
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| Mr Serdar Yüksel                  | Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>                         | Ms Franziska Kersten               |
| Mr Georgios Stamatis              | Greece / <i>Grèce</i>                              | Mr Dionysios-Charalampos           |
| Ms Maria Syrengela                | Greece / <i>Grèce</i>                              | Ms Maria-Nefeli Chatziioannidou    |
| Ms Mónika Bartos                  | Hungary / <i>Hongrie</i>                           | Mr Zoltán Bóna                     |
| Ms Mónika Dunai                   | Hungary / <i>Hongrie</i>                           | Mr István Hollik                   |
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| Mr Stefano Maullu                 | Italy / <i>Italie</i>                              | Ms Domenica Spinelli               |
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| Mr Marc Risch                     | Liechtenstein / <i>Liechtenstein</i>               | Mr Joachim Vogt                    |
| Ms Orinta Leputė                  | Lithuania / <i>Lituanie</i>                        | Mr Zigmantas Balčytis              |
| Mme Stéphanie Weydert             | Luxembourg                                         | M. Paul Galles                     |

|                                   |                                                    |                              |
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| Mr Ion Groza                      | Republic of Moldova / <i>République de Moldova</i> | Ms Ana Calinici              |
| <b>M. Régis Bergonzi</b>          | Monaco                                             | Mme Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo    |
| Mr Miloš Konatar                  | Montenegro / <i>Monténégro</i>                     | Ms Edina Dešić               |
| <b>Ms Saskia Kluit</b>            | Netherlands / <i>Pays-Bas</i>                      | Mr Theo Bovens               |
| Ms Carla Moonen                   | Netherlands / <i>Pays-Bas</i>                      | Mr Felix Klos                |
| Mr Bekim Kjeku                    | North Macedonia / <i>Macédoine du Nord</i>         | Mr Sadula Duraki             |
| Mr Per Vidar Kjølmoen             | Norway / <i>Norvège</i>                            | Ms Seher Aydar               |
| Mr Szymon Hołownia                | Poland / <i>Pologne</i>                            | Ms Magdalena Biejat          |
| Ms Danuta Jazłowiecka             | Poland / <i>Pologne</i>                            | Mr Mirosław Adam Orliński    |
| <b>Mr Jan Filip Libicki</b>       | Poland / <i>Pologne</i>                            | ZZ...                        |
| <b>Mr Nuno Fazenda</b>            | Portugal                                           | Zz...                        |
| <b>Mr Carlos Silva Santiago</b>   | Portugal                                           | Zz...                        |
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| Ms Dumitrina Mitrea               | Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>                          | Mr Iulian Bulai              |
| Mr Robert-Ionatan Sighiartău      | Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>                          | Ms Maria-Gabriela Horga      |
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| Ms Veronika Remišová              | Slovak Republic / <i>République Slovaque</i>       | M. Pavol Goga                |
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| <b>Mr José Latorre</b>            | Spain / <i>Espagne</i>                             | Ms Nerea Ahedo               |
| <b>Ms Carmen Leyte</b>            | Spain / <i>Espagne</i>                             | Mr José Antonio Bermúdez De  |
| Ms Sofia Amloh                    | Sweden / <i>Suède</i>                              | Ms Annika Strandhäll         |
| Ms Victoria Tiblom                | Sweden / <i>Suède</i>                              | Ms Boriana Åberg             |
| <b>Ms Sibel Arslan</b>            | Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>                        | Mme Céline Amaudruz          |
| <b>Mme Valérie Piller Carrard</b> | Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>                        | Mr Niklaus-Samuel Gugger     |
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| Mr Berdan Öztürk                  | Türkiye                                            | Ms Sevilay Çelenk            |
| <b>Mr Sevan Sivacioğlu</b>        | Türkiye                                            | Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat      |
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Ms / Mme Marina Giovannini, Italy / Italie  
Mr / M. Sabih Gazi Öztürk, Türkiye

**Experts / Expert-es**

Mr / M. Abou Amani, Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), UNESCO / *Directeur de la Division des Sciences de l'eau et Secrétaire du Programme hydrologique international (PHI), UNESCO*  
Mr Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation / M. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, Rapporteur spécial des Nations Unies sur les droits humains à l'eau potable et à l'assainissement  
Mr / M. Michel Amas, lawyer at the Marseille Bar / *avocat au barreau de Marseille*  
Ms / Mme Celine Galli, Medical Doctor / *Docteure en médecine*  
Ms / Mme Anna Sekula, Equality, Inclusion and Sustainability Unit of FRA / *Unité Égalité, inclusion et durabilité de la FRA*

**Representative of the Turkish Cypriot Community (\*) /**  
**Représentant de la communauté chypriote turque (\*)**

Mr / M. Hasan Taçoy

(\*) In accordance with Resolution 1376 (2004) / *Conformément à la Résolution 1376 (2004)*

**Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétariat de l'Assemblée parlementaire**

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*Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable*

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