

Written Questions from Swedish Parliament.

### **Europol's contribution to the fight against and the prevention of the recruitment of minors for criminal acts**

In Sweden, more and more shootings and explosions are carried out by minors and young individuals. These individuals are used as perpetrators of serious and organised crime since they face lower penalties due to their young age. The recruitment of these individuals often takes place online, for example on social media platforms, where they are tasked with distribution of drugs and with violent crimes such as killings. Criminal networks recruiting minors and young individuals online for on-the-ground execution of crime is not a problem occurring only in Sweden but also in other member states, which is highlighted in the [intelligence notification](#) issued by Europol on 12 November 2024. The Nordic countries have agreed on a number of measures in order to combat the online recruitment of children and young individuals by criminal networks and to raise awareness of the phenomenon.

How can Europol support the work carried out in and between the member states to prevent and combat this growing phenomenon? To what extent does Europol support and cooperate with relevant partners at EU and international level (EU institutions and agencies, international organisations, private parties, networks etc) in this area?

In terms of existing and anticipated tools and legislation – what should be prioritised in order to address the problem?

What are the main challenges in dealing with this problem? Are there any gaps in terms of information, tools, cooperation and legislation? What new measures, if any, are needed at political level – EU and/or national – to find a long-term response to the problem?

Has Europol noticed any particular differences between the members states in terms of which recruitment methods are being used?