



Provisional edition

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Official report of debates

Debate: Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children's rights

Mr Viorel-Riceard BADEA (Romania, EPP/CD): Thank you, Speaker.

First of all, I would like to thank Baroness Doreen Massey, who has practically become the voice of the children in the Chamber for her initiative in creating this report, which draws our attention to the problems faced by children in the epidemiological context generated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

I am pleased to find in the draft resolution references to the situation of children whose parents are working abroad, a subject which, as you know, I discussed during the work of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination.

The teaching sector in Romania, for example, has been faced, like any state, with a number of difficulties in these times. I would like to present as an example of good practice the programme called Telescuola, which, after the suspension of hours with physical presence in the classroom, has been a useful alternative for students in final courses who had to prepare for national examinations.

On the other hand, through the facilitation of the national program "school from home", 250,000 electronic devices connected to the internet were purchased to facilitate distance learning activities for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition, the national basic program "school after school" was approved, which pursues the prevention of school failure and early school leaving through educational activities that support the development of pupils' teaching and talents, targeting those pupils who have limited or no access to online or distance learning in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. As up to 20 hours of rescreening activities per month are proposed.

However, there is also a large-scale project called "Relevant Curriculum: teaching open to all", partly funded by the European Social Fund, which aims to prevent early school leaving by implementing systemic measures based on developing the skills of 55,000 primary and secondary teachers.

These are just a few features of the way Romania managed children's access to education during the pandemic, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, which I wanted to share with you.

Thank you for your attention. I want to strongly emphasize, once again, my support for this report and, obviously, for the resolution of the recommendation included in the report.

Thank you.

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