



**Doc. 15447**

27 January 2022

## Online education and special education needs of children with disabilities and learning difficulties

### Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Pavlo SUSHKO and other members of the Assembly

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This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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During the Covid-19 pandemic, distanced learning has become a new form of education, obligatory to everyone. Adjustment to this new reality was accompanied by serious difficulties experienced by children and their parents. Even though online learning created a challenging environment for almost everyone, children with severe disabilities (due to physical or mental impairments) and children with learning difficulties (due to attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder ADHD; sensory integration disorder – Dyspraxia; and other similar disorders) and their families suffered most.

Due to the consolidation of efforts, experience and best practices of teachers in specialised schools for children with special education needs, the learning process has been duly organised and children were provided with the necessary knowledge. However, children with special education needs in mainstream education particularly felt the inconvenience caused by distanced learning, since specially trained teacher assistants were not able to provide them with the necessary help remotely. Moreover, many studies show that teachers themselves had to quickly adapt to the online environment, often without adequate resources, technical equipment and technical knowledge. As a result, they could not provide additional help to children with special education needs. To be inclusive, distanced learning needs to be carefully planned and adequate partnerships developed in order to find solutions to the complex learning processes for children with disabilities and learning difficulties.

Therefore, the Parliamentary Assembly should call on the Council of Europe to assist member States to elaborate common methods of inclusive distanced learning adapted to the special education needs of children with disabilities and learning difficulties and to review nationally the impacts distanced learning had on children with special education needs and how such negative impacts could be reduced or eliminated.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed<sup>1</sup>:*

SUSHKO Pavlo, Ukraine, EC/DA  
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD  
BAUMANE Krista, Latvia, ALDE  
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC  
CORBYN Jeremy, United Kingdom, SOC  
DUBNOV Artem, Ukraine, ALDE  
ENGBLOM Annicka, Sweden, EPP/CD  
GADIRLI Erkin, Azerbaijan, EC/DA  
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, EC/DA  
KALCHENKO Serhii, Ukraine, EC/DA  
KRAVCHUK Yevheniia, Ukraine, ALDE  
LOVOCHKINA Yuliya, Ukraine, SOC  
MEZENTSEVA Mariia, Ukraine, EPP/CD  
MOSHENETS Olena, Ukraine, ALDE  
OVCHYNNYKOVA Yuliia, Ukraine, ALDE  
SAYEK BÖKE Selin, Turkey, SOC  
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
SOBOLIEV Serhii, Ukraine, EPP/CD  
TALIASHVILI Tamar, Georgia, SOC  
TRISSE Nicole, France, ALDE  
UMEROV Rustem, Ukraine, ALDE  
VASYLENKO Lesia, Ukraine, ALDE  
VOLOSHYN Oleg, Ukraine, SOC

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group