

**Question for written answer E-004624/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: European Return Platform for Unaccompanied Minor (ERPUM) and respect of the rights of the child

In February 2015, UNICEF published a report drawing attention to the fact that ERPUM might be in breach of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Negotiations have in fact taken place concerning the possibility of implementing the forced return of unaccompanied minors at reception centres in countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq. This seems to run counter to the requirement that public authority decisions must take account of the best interests of the child, in accordance with Article 3 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1. What is the state of progress of negotiations with third countries within the framework of ERPUM?
2. What is being done to ensure that ERPUM is not in breach of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child?
3. What are the reasons for seeking the forced return of unaccompanied minors at reception centres, when this seems difficult to reconcile with the requirement that their best interests be taken into account?