

**Question for written answer E-014928/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Unaccompanied migrant children and methods for increasing their protection

According to a study conducted by the Migration Policy Institute, the phenomenon of unaccompanied child migration, which involves minors travelling without their parents or an adult, has grown during the past decade. In the EU, this designation explicitly refers to children who are not EU citizens (i.e. third-country nationals) or who are stateless.

Although the motivations and methods of these young migrants vary in much the same way as those of adults, young migrants are more vulnerable than adult migrants and are less likely to be seen as potentially productive members of society by host countries. Furthermore, even though this is a growing phenomenon, not every EU Member State keeps accurate records of the relevant information and methods of data collection, and these are not harmonised across Member States.

In spite of EU laws and directives and the May 2010 action plan for a common and comprehensive European approach to increasing the protection of unaccompanied minors within its borders, the lack of coordination regarding data collection techniques, asylum procedures and policies on interception is evident and largely results from countries' individual experiences with unaccompanied minors.

What is the Commission doing to ensure that the common standards and guidelines in the 2010-2014 action plan are applied by all Member States?