

**Question for written answer E-001015/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: More than 10 000 unaccompanied children have gone missing in Europe over the last two years due to the lack of an integrated EU policy

According to Europol, more than 10 000 refugee children who travelled unaccompanied to Europe in the last 24 months have gone missing. The figure applies to children whose whereabouts are unknown after being registered by the competent European authorities. There is real concern that many of them may have fallen victim to exploitation, especially sexual exploitation, by organised criminal networks.

A senior Europol official has said that 'an entire [criminal] infrastructure has developed over the past 18 months around exploiting the migrant flow'.

Bearing in mind that.

- 27% of refugees and migrants arriving in Europe are children, according to UNHCR;
- the European Agenda for Migration mentions the 'specific vulnerabilities of children' and stresses that 'the Commission will develop a comprehensive strategy to follow up on the Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2011-2014) to cover missing and unaccompanied children'.
- the adoption and implementation of the integrated strategy is becoming extremely urgent because of the growing number of migrants and refugees, especially unaccompanied children, who are exposed to great suffering and enormous risk of exploitation;

Will the Commission say:

- What immediate and specific steps will it take to protect unaccompanied children who continue to arrive daily until such time as it develops and implements this comprehensive strategy?
- What specific initiatives will it take to investigate the fate of the 10 000 missing children?