

**Question for written answer E-001339/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Birgit Sippel (S&D) and Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)**

Subject: Over 10 000 migrant children missing in Europe

Europol has confirmed that at least 10 000 unaccompanied child refugees have vanished in the past 18 to 24 months since arriving in Europe. 5 000 of these have disappeared in Italy alone, while another 1 000 are unaccounted for in Sweden. The agency also confirmed that in Germany and Hungary a large number of people have been caught exploiting the migrant flow, with organised criminal gangs having switched to child slavery and sex work.

Is the Commission aware of this situation?

Given the evidence, what specific action and measures does the Commission intend to take in response?

Given that unaccompanied migrant children represent a particularly vulnerable group, how does the Commission aim to proceed in order to ensure the protection of minors and avoid any future repetition of such incidents?