

**Question for written answer E-001463/2017
to the Council**
Rule 130
Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)

Subject: 10 000 refugee children still missing

According to Europol, at least 10 000 refugee children have gone missing in the EU over the past year. Most of these children are unaccompanied minors who either attempted to travel alone to their destination countries or became separated from the people accompanying them during the journey. It is suspected that many of them have fallen victim to human traffickers and been forced into physical labour. Girls in particular are at risk of being forced into prostitution or subjected to forced marriage.

Although this issue was flagged up several months ago, no progress has been made in resolving it over the past year. Both the EU itself and the individual Member States have a responsibility to make active efforts to find these children.

Why has nothing been done to tackle this problem before now? What action will the Member States take to find the missing refugee children?