

**Question for oral answer O-000126/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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Subject: EU policies and actions to protect children in the context of migration

There are currently 65 million people around the world on the move, including large numbers of children – fleeing conflict, poverty or extreme weather phenomena and looking for a better life and a place to call home. These children are among the most vulnerable people on earth: their numbers are not likely to fall, and this is one of the greatest challenges of our age. Many are travelling with their families, many others on their own. Every one of them needs protection and is entitled to the rights guaranteed under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Migrant children, especially those without documentation, are vulnerable to trafficking, abuse and exploitation. In addition, the Commission announced in its European Agenda on Migration several strategies and approaches on which it has not delivered so far. More has to be done, mainly on the following:

1. Developing effective procedures for children: procedures need to be effective and fast, especially for children (including children in families) as they cannot change location, country or school;
2. Calling for an end to the arbitrary detention of children: procedures need to be faster and appropriate reception processes must be speeded up;
3. Fostering family reunification procedures;
4. Guardianship: delays are reported in the appointment of guardians and their ability to act effectively;
5. Ensuring access to education: migrant children have the right to exactly the same access to education as others;
6. Rendering relocation effective: by the end of September only 46 unaccompanied children were relocated;
7. Ensuring psychosocial support for victims of trauma.

In order to follow up on its commitments, will the Commission adopt a clearly defined and measurable policy framework with a view to employing a comprehensive approach to prevent violence, exploitation and abuse, strengthen protection systems for the most vulnerable (including but not limited to unaccompanied minors), and monitor discrimination in access to education, healthcare and protection for children, throughout the migration chain?

Tabled: 17.10.2016  
Forwarded: 19.10.2016  
Deadline for reply: 26.10.2016