

**Question for written answer P-000927/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)**

Subject: Urgent action to protect unaccompanied minors in the EU

According to estimates by Europol, some 10 000 unaccompanied minors have gone missing. The organisation says that many of these children have fallen into the hands of criminal organisations and are victims of slavery and sexual exploitation. This has been confirmed by officials in Italy and Sweden.

As I already warned in my question E-014932/2015, an increasing number of unaccompanied minors are arriving in the EU (around 26 000 arrived in 2015) without being guaranteed the protection required by their special vulnerability.

In view of the gravity of these issues, and as this is a case of cross-border organised crime with a European dimension, which calls for an urgent and coordinated response, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Given that this pan-European phenomenon falls under Article 3 of Council Decision 2009/371/JHA, what actions and measures does it think should be taken to improve the capabilities and effectiveness of Europol in the fight against the criminal organisations that commit outrages against unaccompanied minors?
2. Is it not an urgent priority for the Commission to amend the Dublin Regulation, to give greater legal certainty to unaccompanied minors, in line with the case-law of the CJEU (C-648/11)?
3. What information does the Commission have, from Europol, about the characteristics of these missing unaccompanied minors?