

**Question for written answer E-008994/2012
to the Commission
Rule 117
Louis Grech (S&D)**

Subject: Unaccompanied minors

The Commission's recent mid-term report on the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2010-2014) unequivocally concludes that the arrival of unaccompanied minors from third countries into Europe is neither a brief nor a fleeting problem, but indeed an aspect which has significantly added to and become an integral part of the already existent complexities relating to the migratory flows affecting the EU's borders.

The Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, has stated that: 'We need to improve our procedures to ensure that these children receive a dignified welcome at Europe's borders. This includes better cooperation and information sharing between EU countries.'

1. To what extent are the EU-27 cooperating amongst themselves to see the realisation of this Action Plan? What are the most urgent and pressing issues that the recipient Member State in question must start to tackle immediately on the arrival of these minors?
2. Is the Commission satisfied that full account is being taken of the best interests and welfare of the children concerned if they are eventually relocated, whether to a third country or within Europe itself? In the case of relocation, is there more that Member States can do to ensure that the transition is smooth and that the upheaval for the child is as minimal as possible?