

**Question for written answer E-002646/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (PPE)**

Subject: Expediting family reunification in the EU

Unaccompanied minors, the most sensitive category of displaced persons in Europe, are in need of special treatment and care. The growing number of refugee arrivals on the Greek islands over the last few months has once more centred attention on the particular problem of the over 4 000 unaccompanied children in Greece that are separated from their families. This has prompted UNICEF to sound the alarm across the EU since, although many of the children have relatives in other European countries, delayed reunification procedures are resulting in long periods of separation. Furthermore, violent incidents between unaccompanied minors in 'safe zones' within the reception and identification centres reflect the inability of Greece to deal with the growing refugee influx, while other EU Member States are failing to provide more places for the relocation of unaccompanied minors.

Given the need to ensure maximum protection for unaccompanied minors, the most vulnerable victims of the migration disaster, who are arriving at Europe's borders:

- Can the Commission indicate the reasons for long delays in family reunification in the EU?
- What action will it take to expedite proceedings and overcome petty obstacles that are delaying or hindering family reunification?