

**Question for written answer E-002934/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Catherine Griset (ID)

Subject: Preserving the family ties of unaccompanied minors

In early May, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers published an 'action plan on protecting vulnerable persons in the context of migration and asylum in Europe (2021-2025)'. The Council of Europe wants to promote the integration of the persons concerned by providing psychological, medical and legal support, and by improving access to education and employment.

These pro-migration statements, however, contradict the stated intentions. With pull-factors like this, the number of unaccompanied minors – who are themselves vulnerable persons – will increase exponentially, fuelling a vicious circle in which, on the one hand, ever more unaccompanied minors will be let in, and, on the other, efforts will be made to prevent families from being separated by promoting family reunification in Europe. This in turn will mean a steep increase in immigration. The procedures for identifying vulnerable persons and assessing the age of minors are one of the central factors in the plan.

1. Does the Commission take the view that family reunification in the unaccompanied minor's country of origin, rather than in Europe, should be promoted in the best interests of the child and to restore family ties?
2. Is the Commission intending to review its strategy for assessing the age of unaccompanied minors? Is it intending to recommend measures that include bone testing?