

ORAL QUESTION H-0468/02
for Question Time at the part-session in July 2002
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Carmen Cerdeira Morterero
to the Council

Subject: Unaccompanied foreign minors in the European Union

The number of minors from third countries who are unaccompanied and without documentation is increasing daily in a very disturbing way. The situation developing in the Spanish cities of Ceuta and Melilla, among others, serves as an example. The fact is that minors are exposed to considerable risk, and are highly vulnerable. At the same time the local authorities are unable to cope with the gravity of the situation, for lack of the technical and budgetary resources.

Will the Council be dealing with this issue at its forthcoming meeting in Seville, together with the other proposals the Commission has put forward and that have been pending for the past two years? Will it be adopting measures to ensure these young people are properly treated and/or returned to their families? Does the Council consider that its Resolution of 26 June 1997 on unaccompanied minors who are nationals of third countries continues to apply? Does it have any plans to support and cooperate with the authorities of the cities in which this situation is developing, so as to deal with it properly? Does it have plans for any extraordinary budgetary measures that will make it possible to deal with this serious situation?

Tabled: 30.05.2002
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