

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0023/09
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure
by Jan Andersson, on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
to the Commission

Subject: Children of migrants

The situation of children of EU migrants that are left on their own in the Member State of origin while their parents migrate for work to another Member State has raised considerable concern in some Member States in the last two years. While policies do exist with the aim of improving the living conditions and education of migrant children who moved with their parents working abroad, the phenomenon of children left at home on their own has received little attention. According to the study made by Unicef and Social Alternatives in Romania, almost 350 000 children in 2008 had at least one parent who was working abroad, and nearly 126 000 had both parents working abroad.

The children left behind are at risk of losing care and parental attention.

They are at risk of general lack of care as regards physical and mental health, mental-health related effects such as depression, losing free time to play and develop, lack of school participation and general participation in education and training, malnutrition and child abuse.

Does the Commission plan a study to assess the extent of the situation?

Does the Commission believe that the subject of the children of migrant workers is not only a matter for the government in the sending country but also for the governments of the countries that benefit from the presence of the migrant workers on their labour market?

Does the Commission intend to carry out research into possible specialised information systems for migrant workers, as regards information for family members in the host country, on schooling and education, language learning and child care provisions? Would this be feasible under the EURES scheme?

Tabled: 13.02.2009

Forwarded: 17.02.2009

Deadline for reply: 24.02.2009