



The European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights calls on Member States to protect migrant children

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Ahead of Tomorrow's Justice and Home Affairs meeting at the European Council, the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights calls on Member States to uphold and implement the recommendations and guidelines included in the European Commission *Communication on protecting children in Migration*.

The EC Communication responds to the pledge of the EP Intergroup on Children's Rights at the *10th European Forum on the rights of the child* in November 2016 and at the *"Lost in Migration"* conference of January 2017.

The EC Communication on protecting children in migration is an invaluable tool that recognises the vulnerability of migrant children and the urgent need for action. Now it is time for Member States to take their responsibility and show their commitment to protect children on the move.

We particularly insist calling on Member States to:

- Appoint a child protection officer in each hotspot to make sure children enter the protection systems
- Actively identify durable solutions for children, whether they are in families or unaccompanied, taking their best interests as a primary consideration
- Ensure a swift appointment of a guardian within 5 days upon arrival of the child
- Support a European guardianship network
- Put in place child safeguarding policies in all reception facilities hosting children
- Improve cross border cooperation to speed up and support family tracing, effective decision making under Dublin and tackle trafficking
- Implement procedures and protocols to improve reporting of missing unaccompanied children
- Stop detention of migrant children and establish appropriate care arrangements and community-based programmes as alternatives
- Speed up relocation of unaccompanied children from Greece and Italy

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