



Brussels, 12 February 2016
(OR. en)

6056/16
ADD 6

JAI 94
ASIM 14
RELEX 101
FRONT 66
CADREFIN 8
ENFOPOL 33
PROCIV 5
VISA 35
JUR 73

COVER NOTE

From: Secretary-General of the European Commission,
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 10 February 2016

To: Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of
the European Union

No. Cion doc.: COM(2016) 85 final ANNEX 6

Subject: ANNEX to the Communication from the Commission to the European
Parliament and the Council on the State of Play of Implementation of the
Priority Actions under the European Agenda on Migration
Ongoing actions contributing to the protection of children in migration

Delegations will find attached the Commission document COM(2016) 85 final ANNEX 6.

Encl.: COM(2016) 85 final ANNEX 6



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 10.2.2016
COM(2016) 85 final

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to the

**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on
the State of Play of Implementation of the Priority Actions under the European Agenda
on Migration**

Ongoing actions contributing to the protection of children in migration

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Ongoing actions contributing to the protection of children in migration

The European Agenda on Migration put a particular emphasis on the need to protect children in migration. This annex summarises the state of play of on-going actions, including work to complete the implementation of the Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2010-2014)¹ which the Commission will evaluate and report on later this year.

Child protection along the migration route

More than €200 million have been earmarked under EU funding programmes to target protection of children in migration. A direct grant of €3.5 million is planned for spring 2016 to support the UNHCR, UNICEF, the IOM and Save the Children to implement a shared child protection focus for children in migration in their activities within the EU, with a further €3 million dedicated to building capacity in child protection systems for children in migration.

Europol together with Eurojust are active in helping dismantle networks involved in the smuggling and trafficking of children. Child trafficking has been identified as one of the priorities under the European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats on Trafficking in Human Beings, within the framework of the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime². The Commission is supporting Europol and law enforcement authorities, as well as other EU agencies in their operational efforts to address child trafficking. Under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund a dedicated call for grants on trafficking in human beings of €3 million has recently been published, with one of the priorities being early identification and protection of child victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children at risk of trafficking.

There is an active sub-group on child trafficking within the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings, ensuring close engagement with civil society and child rights organisations on these issues.

The European Asylum Support Office plans to further develop existing best practice guidance on the assessment of the best interests of the child, including means for age assessment, family tracing, the identification of persons with special needs, and the trafficking of children. Frontex will work further, in cooperation with Member States, to ensure that border guards are properly trained in the procedures to be applied with regard to children at borders.

Furthermore, child protection and child safeguard measures (including vetting of staff, training, and reporting rules) are integrated in the hotspot approach. For instance, a health assessment mechanism including vaccination status for children will be implemented (€2 million allocated from the Health Programme).

Guardianship for unaccompanied children

The European Commission and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights have published a Handbook on Guardianship for children deprived of parental care, which seeks to support Member States' authorities in strengthening their guardianship systems and practices to ensure they are better equipped to deal with the specific needs of child victims of trafficking. Training for judges and central authorities on cross-border recognition of judgments containing protective measures, including

¹ Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors 2010-2014, COM(2010) 213 final of 6 May 2010.

² Council Conclusions on the creation and implementation of an EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime, doc.15358/10 COSI 69 ENFOPOL 298 CRIMORG 185 ENFOCUS 94.

guardianship, for unaccompanied and separated children will be facilitated³, including via the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters.

Educating migrant children inside and outside the EU

The right to education for migrant children is a priority for European cooperation in education and training⁴, with a particular focus on newly arrived migrants and the promotion of social civic and inter-cultural competences amongst children and young people to prevent marginalisation. The on-line European Toolkit for Schools offers to school practitioners and policy-makers practical information for inclusive education, including for the integration of migrants.

Outside the EU, €120m of EU funding have been allocated for 2015-2016 to regional education and protection programmes for vulnerable Syrian refugee and host community children and adolescents working through partners such as UNICEF in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. The Facility for Refugees in Turkey will support schooling of young Syrian refugees in Turkey. Moreover, in 2016, the Commission will quadruple its support to the education of children in emergencies including conflict situations, from 1% to 4% of its humanitarian aid budget, in line with the global UN target.

³ Funding through the European Judicial Network.

⁴ Refugee projects are a designated priority for Erasmus+ in 2016 (around €1.5 billion reserved for activities covering education, training, youth and sports).