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The protection of children in migration
emerging issues and ways forward

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Stockholm, 23 October 2017
1. Emerging issues: facts and policy response
   ➢ Overview
   ➢ Communication on protection of children in migration

2. Way forward: available tools and working together
   ➢ Legal framework
   ➢ Funding
   ➢ Technical and operational support
Overview

"all third country nationals below 18 years old, who migrate to and within the EU territory, be it with their (extended) family, with a non-family member (separated minors) or alone (unaccompanied minors), whether or not seeking asylum"

- **100,264** children arrived to Europe (via Greece, Italy, Spain and Bulgaria) in 2016, of whom 34% were unaccompanied or separated. In the first quarter of 2017, this number amounted to **5,384**, including 69% unaccompanied or separated children [source: UNHCR]

- The total number of child asylum applicants in 2016 amounted to **413,025**, out of those **62,453** were lodged by UAMs. During first quarter of 2017, an additional **50,201** children claimed asylum in Europe. [source: Eurostat and UNHCR]

- **369,625** children received international protection in the EU in the period from 2011 to 2016 [source: Eurostat]

- The main Countries of Origin: Afghanistan followed by Syria, Iraq, Eritrea and Somalia. Almost 90% of UAMs applying for asylum are boys aged between 16 and 17 years (69%) [source: EMN 2016 Annual Report]
Policy response

✓ Commission Communication on the protection of children in migration of 12 April 2017

➢ Council Conclusions of 8-9 June

➢ Commission Communication on the Delivery of the European Agenda on Migration of 27 September

Comprehensive approach
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- **all** children in migration at **all** stages of migratory journey
- all elements are **interlinked**:
  - EU external action: root causes and protection along the journey
  - identification and registration
  - reception in the EU
  - access to status determination and procedural safeguards
  - durable integration solutions
- **cross-cutting** actions
- **immediate** response and **long term** resilience
Available tools: Legal framework

Existing acquis

- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Council decisions on relocation from Greece and Italy
- Security (Anti-trafficking Directive, SIS II)
Available tools: Legal framework

Legislative Reform

➢ Frontex → European Border and Coast Guard

➢ Reform of Common Asylum System (Asylum Procedure Regulation, Reception Conditions Directive, Qualifications Regulation, Dublin Regulation, Eurodac Regulation, European Union Agency for Asylum Regulation, Union Resettlement Framework Regulation)

➢ SIS II proposal
Available tools: funding

- Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- Internal Security Fund (ISF)
- Emergency Support Instrument
- Mobility Partnership Facility (MPF)
- Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme
- European Structural and Investment Funds
- Fund for Aid to the Most Deprived
- EU programme Erasmus+
- European Social Fund (ESF)
Available tools:
Technical & operational support

- Hotspots approach
- EU Agencies (EASO, Frontex, Europol, FRA)
- Relocation and resettlement
- Missing children hotlines
Ways forward: working together

- **coordinated follow-up** (EU, national, regional local levels, with civil society, UN agencies international organisations)

- **numerous platforms for work** (experts groups and committees, EMN, Urban Agenda for the EU, ... and ...conferences and seminars like this one!)