Executive Summary

Opinion of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council The protection of children in migration COM(2017) 211

The Chamber of Deputies welcomes the establishment of monitoring systems at the national level, which can contribute to the proper functioning of the reception centers, by ensuring that business interests (for centers that have profit-making purpose) does not take precedence over the protection of the child; considers that, taking into consideration the difficulty of grasping such onerous practices as a result of the diversity, complexity and possibilities of dissimulation, it would be useful to elaborate a guide for instructors or forms of training in order to strengthen their ability to stop practices of this kind.

The Chamber of Deputies notes that some intentions expressed in the communication, though necessary, are idealistic because the Union does not have the financial, political, legal, logistical, human resources to change the sensitive situation in the countries of origin and transit.

The Chamber of Deputies observed that, although the measures proposed are fair, they are not applicable to all migrant children, in particular children from environments where extreme poverty has caused unimaginable scenarios in target States for migrants: parents for whom its own children's fate is indifferent or seeking material benefits with the risk their own children's lives; it is obvious that in such situations, any cross-border procedures for retrieval or reunifications of families in countries of origin have no meaning and no recommendation to ensure fast and efficient retrieval of families, within or outside the EU; that's why the inspectors responsible for the enforcement of the legislation and procedures should have a rate of flexibility to not hire the Union's resources in actions without any purpose.

The Chamber of Deputies signals that the determination of the children's situation and the evaluation of the extent to which one can apply the protection programs is problematic; likewise, if the requirement to confirm family ties of separated children travelling with adults, before guiding the child further or to entrust the supervision of an adult who accompanies him, it is difficult to determine the competences of the adult who arrives on European shores without identity documents or who never had identity documents.