

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003480/25
to the Commission
Jorge Buxadé Villalba (PFE)
(9 September 2025)**

Subject: The lack of girls in reception systems for unaccompanied minors

Some reception systems, such as that of the Autonomous Community of Madrid ⁽¹⁾, do not see a single girl among the UMs ⁽²⁾ who enter Spain illegally. This raises serious questions about the reality of migration flows, as well as about Member States' and the EU's management of them.

The evidence suggests that almost all these minors are young men of military age, which is a far cry from the image of vulnerable children of both sexes that is portrayed to the public. This fact directly affects women's safety.

In light of this:

1. Does the Commission consider the fact that there are practically no girls among UMs (the vast majority are young men) to be the result of cultural elements in countries of origin, a selective pull factor or even a deliberate strategy to send men of military age to Europe?
2. Is it aware that the massive influx of young men from cultures that do not recognise equality between men and women can pose a growing threat to the security of our societies and, in particular, to protecting European women from sexual assault and violence?

Submitted: 9.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(12 November 2025)**

The Commission lacks official information on the gender and age distribution of unaccompanied minors in Spain. However, some studies ⁽¹⁾ confirm that a majority of unaccompanied minors who enter the EU illegally are male and in the age break of 15 to 17. The Commission does not have conclusive data to attribute these trends to cultural factors, selective migration, or strategic intentions.

Regarding safety concerns, the Commission lacks official information to affirm that there is a correlation between the gender of unaccompanied minors and increased threats to the safety of women in Europe.

Unaccompanied minors are afforded specific safeguards, care and support under EU asylum and migration legislation ⁽²⁾ due to their situation of vulnerability.

The legislative instruments which are part of the Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽³⁾ reinforce the protection of unaccompanied minors and the modalities to perform age assessment.

¹ <https://gaceta.es/espana/el-gobierno-de-ayuso-pp-admite-ante-una-pregunta-de-vox-que-no-hay-ninas-menas-en-los-centros-de-la-comunidad-de-madrid-se-informa-que-ninguna-20250903-1939/>

² Unaccompanied (foreign) minors

⁽¹⁾ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund and International Organisation for Migration, *Migrant and Refugee Children in Europe* (Accompanied, Unaccompanied & Separated), 2024, <https://www.unicef.org/eca/media/41726/file/2024%20Migrant%20and%20refugee%20children%20in%20Europe.pdf>;

European Migration Network Belgium, *Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2023*, European Migration Network — Belgian National Contact Point, Brussels, 2024. https://emnbelgium.be/sites/default/files/publications/EMN_ARM2023_FINAL_100724_0.pdf.

⁽²⁾ See for example Article 21 of the Reception Conditions Directive (Directive 2013/33/EU), Articles 24 and 25 of the Asylum Procedures Directive (Directive 2013/32/EU).

⁽³⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en.