

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004744/25
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE)
(1 December 2025)**

Subject: Fraudulent underage declarations: experiences in Greece point to a major Europe-wide problem

According to Greek Migration Minister Thanos Plevris, recently introduced enhanced checks in Greece have revealed that more than half of migrants claiming to be minors are in fact adults ⁽¹⁾.

This finding, made possible by a more rigorous assessment procedure, highlights persistent shortcomings in other Member States and the risks of abuse of protection mechanisms intended for unaccompanied minors (UMs).

In France, estimates suggest that the cost of caring for an unaccompanied minor can reach around EUR 50 000 per year (accommodation, food, training), placing a heavy burden on the budgets of departments and raising questions about the effectiveness and fairness of the reception system ⁽²⁾.

1. Can the Commission, within the scope of its powers, consider encouraging the widespread adoption at EU level of the rigorous procedures implemented in Greece to limit abuse of UM status and the protection it affords?
2. What measures does the Commission intend to recommend in order to keep costs associated with this care in Member States to a minimum?

Supporter ⁽³⁾

Submitted: 1.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(6 February 2026)**

A new harmonised framework for age assessment has been introduced in the Asylum Procedure Regulation ⁽¹⁾ as part of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Where there are doubts as to whether an applicant for international protection is a minor, Member States' determining authorities may carry out a multidisciplinary age assessment of the person concerned, giving primary consideration to the best interests of the child.

These common age-assessment rules aim to reduce divergent national practices, strengthen the proper functioning of the asylum system and ensure that the most vulnerable benefit from the safeguards intended for them.

It is up to Member States to ensure that the costs associated with the care of unaccompanied minors are managed efficiently insofar as the necessary standards that comply with EU law.

In order to facilitate the age assessment process of the national determining authorities, the European Union Agency for Asylum is preparing an update of its Practical Guide on Age Assessment which will be published in February 2026.

¹ <https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1286431/greece-conducts-first-age-tests-on-migrants-claiming-to-be-minors/>

² <https://www.senat.fr/leg/exposes-des-motifs/ppl23-378-expose.html>

³ This question is supported by a Member other than the author: Fabrice Leggeri (PfE).

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1348/oj/eng>.