

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001705/26
to the Commission**

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(27 April 2026)

Subject: Ukrainian children forcibly transferred and deported by Russia

In the context of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, tens of thousands of Ukrainian children have been forcibly transferred and deported to Russia and Belarus or are being held in temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories, according to several international bodies, including the International Criminal Court. However, the exact numbers remain difficult to establish.

On the basis of these findings:

1. What measures is the Commission taking to facilitate the return of the children, beyond its participation in the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children and the hosting of a summit aimed at mobilising international action?
2. In what way does the Commission support the Ukrainian authorities, as well as international and non-governmental organisations, in their efforts to document the children?
3. In the light of statements made by the President of the Commission that the return of these children should form an integral part of any peace agreement, as well as the request made in this regard by the European Parliament, how does the Commission intend to concretely ensure the inclusion of this issue in future peace processes?

Submitted: 27.4.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(14 July 2026)**

The EU remains committed to the returning of Ukrainian children unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred by Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine.

During the High-Level Meeting of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children on 11 May 2026, the EU announced nearly EUR 50 million to reinforce Ukraine's child protection system to ensure that every returned child has access to timely, child-centred family and community-based services and care.

This will contribute to strengthening early childhood education initiatives, giving access to child-centred justice and enable citizens to submit compensation claims. The EU supports Ukraine in processing and verifying information, including as part of its broader accountability efforts.

The EU also continues to support the *Bring Kids Back* initiative and works with international partners to condemn Russia's actions, including through the adoption of the EU-sponsored UN General Assembly resolution on the return of Ukrainian children on 3 December 2025.

The EU supports efforts to document, investigate and prosecute crimes related to child deportations and forcible transfers and has sanctioned more than 130 individuals and entities involved in deportation, forcible transfer, militarisation and indoctrination of Ukrainian children. The EU assists relevant government bodies and civil society organisations in Ukraine directly involved.

The EU supports a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law and it remains strongly committed to ensuring full accountability for all international crimes committed in connection with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.
