



Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten) im Europäischen Parlament
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) in the European Parliament
Groupe du Parti Populaire Européen (Démocrates-Chrétiens) au Parlement européen

Parliamentary Works - Parlamentarische Arbeiten - Travaux Parlementaires

EPP Group Hearing

on

Girls in Migration: Collateral victims or actors of a world in motion?

Wednesday 21 September 2011

14.30-18.00 hrs

Room ASP 3E2

European Parliament
Brussels

Under the patronage of
Véronique **Mathieu** MEP (EPP Group, France), Member of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
Committee (LIBE) of the European Parliament (EP)

with the participation of
Edit **Bauer** MEP, (Slovakia), EPP Group Coordinator in the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee
(FEMM) of the EP

Tokia **Saïfi** MEP (EPP Group, France), Vice-Chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET) of the EP
Eleni **Theocharous** MEP (EPP Group, Cyprus), Member of the Development Committee (DEVE) of the EP

Background

Girls are increasingly migrating and will continue to do so. Around the globe and according to most recent official data¹, more than 10 million girls aged 10 to 19 are international migrants. More than a quarter of them live in Europe (including a million and a half in the European Union) and they account for at least 5 million individuals in developing countries. The immigration of girls has been rising steadily in the European Union now covering a broad range of migration categories (economic migration, family-related migration, irregular and/or forced migration, political or climate refugees, asylum seekers). EU Member States and partner countries authorities have little information and reliable data to measure the extent of the phenomenon.

Migration policies which do not take either systematic or sufficient account of the size of the migrant population according to age and gender are opening themselves up to questions on the status of these hidden faces of international migration.

Migrant girls are finally, beyond any doubt, among the most vulnerable to human rights abuses, both as migrants and as girls. Their needs are urgent and require priority attention as their condition deserves recognition, their human rights better protected, and their voices must be heard.

Objective

To understand how migration to the EU particularly affects girls from neighbouring countries and around the world, and to emphasise the importance of policies which identify and address the specific vulnerabilities of girls in the migration process while investing in their potential and defending their autonomy.

Expected outcome

1. Increased understanding and awareness of the phenomenon in order to adjust policy, funding and EU interventions which could improve social conditions, life and living standards of girls worldwide.
2. Concrete recommendations for follow-up in the LIBE, AFET, DEVE and FEMM committees.

¹ United Nations Population Division, World Migrant Stock (2010) <http://esa.un.org/MigAqe>



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Programme

14.30-15.00 hrs

Introductory Session Chaired by Véronique Mathieu MEP

Testimony by a migrant girl living in a centre, Mamadian, 19 ans
In association with Le Monde selon les Femmes / GAMS (Belgium)

15.05-15.50 hrs

Session 1: Acting before migration: The push & pull factors of girls' migration Chaired by Tokia Saïfi MEP

Girls and Female Migration: Gender Discrimination without Borders
Francois **Farah** - United Nations Population Fund, Bucharest (Romania)

Girls' own assets to invest in and develop
Sarah **Engebretsen** - Population Council New York (United States)

A double look at migrant girls: law and practice in West Africa
Nelly **Robin** - Institute for Research in Development Poitiers (France)
Mandiogou **Ndiaye** - Magistrate and international expert, Dakar (Senegal)

16.15-17.00 hrs

Session 2: In the EU: The challenges of an often invisible reality of migration Chaired by Edit Bauer MEP

Thematic allocution by Kristina **Lindhal**, Member of Cecilia Malmström's Cabinet, the European Commissioner for Home Affairs

Legal migration and forced migration: dimensions, and challenges
Gloria Moreno **Fontes**, International Labour Office Geneva (Switzerland)

Child migration to and within Europe: girls' experiences and existing challenges"
Mirela **Shuteriqi**, Terre des Hommes Child Relief Lausanne (Switzerland)

How adequate is the EU in meeting the specific needs of migrant girls?
Catherine **Wihtol de Wenden**, CERI - Sciences Po Paris (France)

17.05-1800 hrs

Session 3: Conclusions & Recommendations Developing human potential, protecting individual autonomy Providing better reception conditions? Chaired by Véronique Mathieu MEP

Dr Oumoul Khairy **Coulibaly**, Saint Louis University Gaston Berger (Senegal)
Stefano **Manservigi**, Director-General for Internal Affairs, European Commission
Eleni **Theocharous** MEP (EPP Group, Cyprus), Member of the Development Committee (DEVE) of the EP
Neil **Datta**, Secretary, European Parliamentary Forum on Population & Development Brussels (Belgium)