

# UNHCR NEWSLETTER

## Separated Children in Europe Programme

### October - November 2002

### Issue N°13

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\*\*\*This summary has been prepared from publicly available sources. It does not necessarily reflect UNHCR's views, nor can UNHCR vouch for its accuracy.

#### News on Separated Children

##### - Belgium: **PROPOSAL FOR A LAW ON GUARDIANSHIP FOR SEPARATED CHILDREN REJECTED**

On 8 November the proposal from the Ministries of Justice and Interior, which would have allowed all separated children to be appointed guardians, was rejected. Instead, the Government favoured a new proposal of the Ministry of Interior, in which guardians will be appointed only for children who are already accommodated in reception centres. Consequently, children who are not asylum-seekers or who have been denied access to the territory being held at detention centres at the borders, will not be appointed guardians.

This decision does not comply with the recommendations made on 7 June by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which expressly mentions the urgent need for the creation of an independent guardianship system.

##### -Belgium: **FORCED RETURN OF SEPARATED CHILDREN**

In the past two months the Belgian Government has been highly criticised by its decisions of expelling separated children. The case of Tabhita, a Congolese girl only 5 years old, particularly caught the attention of media and public.

Tabitha was brought to Belgium by a so-called 'uncle' August in an attempt to eventually be reunited with her mother, a recognised refugee in Canada. She was detained at the Brussels airport centre for two months without a caregiver, despite the decision of the Brussels court to release immediately the girl; NGO's efforts, which had found a family to take care of the child; and UNHCR intervention recommending the family reunion in Canada, as no one was able to take care of the child in Kinshasa.

Tabitha was returned alone to Congo on 18 October but thanks to the efforts of NGOs, UNHCR and the Canadian Embassy in Paris, she was able to finally be reunited with her mother.

**-Belgium: NEW LEGISLATION ON THE REGULATION OF CLOSED CENTRES**

A new royal decree regulating the closed centres has entered into force. It replaces the previous decree of June 1999, which was cancelled by the State Council following a complaint by the Human Rights League (HRL) and the MRAX (Mouvement contre le Racisme, l'Antisémitisme et la Xénophobie).

The royal decree does not exclude detention of separated children in closed centres, which according to the State Council contravenes the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, the reason given by the Minister of Interior was that children should not be separated from their parents by detention in closed centres.

*Le Soir, 1 October*

**- France: GROWING NUMBER OF SEPARATED CHINESE CHILDREN GIVING RISE TO CONCERN**

In the last few months, social and legal services in the Paris region have expressed concern about the increasing number of Chinese separated children requesting assistance. There appears to be abundant evidence that these children are guided by adults who tell them where to go and what to say.

Some have been taken to special courts for children and told to sit in the waiting room until the end of the day before making their presence known. Sometimes, they are found holding small bits of paper saying "judge on child affairs" or "I want to go to a reception centre".

The social services in Paris claim that they are already overwhelmed by the presence of so many Chinese separated children. The Office of Social Assistance to Children (ASE) received requests for help from 145 separated Chinese children last year, compared to only 14 in 1999. The number for this year is expected to be higher.

According to a preliminary to the Department on Population and Migration of the Ministry of Social Affairs (DPM), this recent phenomenon is explained by a form of "moral debt". Some Chinese nationals who managed to obtain residence permits to remain in France are requested by family members back in China to assume responsibility for a "nephew" or a "niece"

back home, where no real perspectives of a good education and employment exist.

This sort of "family strategy" has enabled the realisation of a kind of unauthorised "family reunion" migration in which the so-called family members often have quite distant links to the "sponsor" residing in France.

The French authorities suspect that a sort of racket is developing in which those involved are trying, at the same time, to exploit French laws favouring children. Under the terms of Article 21-12 of the Civil Code, a separated children placed under the guardianship of the ASE will, upon reaching the age of 18, have the possibility of requesting French citizenship. Up until several months ago, the use of this legal provision to have the stay of separated Chinese children legalised forever was working fairly well.

The competent social and legal authorities, including the ASE, are consequently more reluctant to provide and assume guardianship for such children. The risk is that they could refuse assistance to children really abandoned by a family friend, an "uncle" or an "aunt" living in France.

*MNS, October www.migpolgroup.com*

**-The Netherlands: RECEPTION FOR SEPARATED CHILDREN AIMING AT REPATRIATION**

A pilot project was established in November aiming at preparing separated children who were rejected for return. The centre is located in former army barracks and offers places to up to 360 children, 270 boys and 90 girls. During the first trial year, only children from 15 to 18 will stay in the centre but if the project is successful, there will be no age limit.

It offers a comprehensive program of courses and activities all geared towards return and reintegration. The daily routine starts at 6.30 AM and ends at 10:30 PM. The first three months the children are divided into groups of 15 for studying and sharing rooms. After 3 months, they get more privacy by sharing a room only with one other person.

There are detailed rules regulating their behaviour at the centre. Children are not allowed to leave the centre without permission, girls and boys are separated, smoking and drinking are not allowed.

They get 11 Euro per week of which ¾ is being saved for the day they return.

*Het Parool, NRC, 9 November*

**- The Netherlands: SUICIDE OF 18 YEARS OLD SEPARATED CHILD**

An 18-year-old Congolese boy committed suicide by throwing himself in front of a train. This was the second suicide among young asylum seekers in one month.

SAMAH, an NGO dealing with separated children says the new asylum policy has led to an increase in the number of suicides of rejected cases. They are now being expelled once they turn 18, while previously they were left on their own and often went underground. Once they are 18, they no longer receive pocket money and risk getting into exploitation, crime or prostitution. The refugee organisation Vluchtelingen Werk shares the same concerns.

SAMAH says return can be the best solution for such youngsters, but they must get appropriate information, guidance, counselling, appropriate education and reception in their home country.

*Trouw, 5 October*

**-Norway: VOLUNTARY WORK TO HELP ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN**

In order to help the 86 children in the transit reception centre, Save the Children Norway (SCN) is offering its employees leave of absence with pay if they will act as their guardians. 50 children have been in the transit reception centre for more than two months due to the lack of guardians, who must attend the asylum interview conducted by the Directorate of Immigration.

Children in the transit centre cannot proceed with the refugee status determination procedure before a guardian has been appointed. The authorities have been discussing this problem for years but no solution has been found.

The voluntary work initiated now by SCN is not meant to relieve the authorities of their responsibility. On the contrary, it promotes the Child Welfare authorities to take the care responsibility for these children.

*Save the Children Norway Newsletter, October*

**- Russian Federation: SEPARATED CHILDREN DENIED ACCESS TO ASYLUM PROCEDURES**

During the last few months UNHCR in Moscow has been registering a substantial increase of separated children applying for asylum (see statistics). Although UNHCR is working with the Migration Service on identifying long-term care arrangements through the national child-care institutions, the absence of a guardian does not allow the children to access the RSD procedure.

**-Sweden: PAEDOPHILES PREY ON ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN**

The daily "Dagens Nyheter" reported on 5 September that a 39-year old man who used to work in a reception centre for asylum-seekers in Gothenburg had been arrested and charged with sexually abusing asylum-seeking children. He was also accused of having facilitated contacts between these children and six other paedophiles, who have also been placed under arrest.

According to testimonies collected, the paedophiles enticed their victims with money and drugs. The police identified four victims, all children, during the period when the sexual assaults allegedly took place. The youngest is now only 10 years old.

The police have been investigating possible paedophile involvement in the disappearance of several children who were registered in a reception centre.

*MNS October, www.migpolgroup.com*

**-Sweden:**

The Swedish Minister of Migration Jan O Karlsson has approached the Swedish Red Cross to explore the possibilities of Red Cross involvement in the reception of separated children in Sweden, in view the humanitarian mandate of the Red Cross, and the problems faced up to now with regard to the protection and care of this group of children.

*Metro, 28 Nov 2002*

**-United Kingdom: SEPARATE EDUCATION FOR ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN**

The NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children),

Barnardo's, Save the Children, UNICEF, the National Children's Homes, the Children's Society and the National Children's Bureau, have joined forces to support an attempt to overturn the Government's plans to educate asylum-seekers' children in separate facilities outside the national school-system. They said proposals put forward by Home Secretary David Blunkett were a "dangerous and unprecedented" attack on a child's right to a school education and would increase intolerance and prejudice. They backed a parliamentary bid to stop the policy, proposing that children of asylum-seekers should be taught in special centres. Peers have tabled an amendment to the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Bill that would guarantee asylum-seekers' children the same right to education as national children. The seven charities are endorsing the amendment and warning that the Government's plan would contravene the CRC.

*The Independent, 7 October*

**-United Kingdom: REACTIONS AGAINST PLANS FOR SEPARATE EDUCATION FOR ASYLUM -SEEKING CHILDREN**

Government plans for the segregated education of asylum seekers have been challenged afresh by experts after a survey found mainstream schooling was the highlight of young refugees' lives. The study by Save the Children and the Glasgow City Council, found that local schools offered a sanctuary for children who often lived in a culture of fear and prejudice. Researchers spoke to more than 700 children in Glasgow. More than 75% said attending the local school was a positive thing in their lives, and nearly half said it was the best thing about living in the UK, allowing them to make friends, socialise, play and learn English. Many of the children reported feeling unsafe in the communities in which they had been housed. Racism, bullying and witnessing violence and drug abuse were the hardest things about living in Glasgow, 87% of the older children said. The city was one of the first in the UK to take asylum seekers under the Government's dispersal programme and now 34 bilingual facilities in schools across the city. Young asylum seekers account for 1.7% of the school roll.

One third of those questioned had never previously attended school.

The head of the Scottish Teaching Union, Alana Ross, stated in a conference of the Trade Union Congress that children of asylum-seekers "are excellent role models for all young people to their commitment to education". She added that "teachers who work with these children speak in glowing terms of their enthusiasm and desire to learn".

Her views were shared by other teachers who said that Scottish pupils received an opportunity to learn more about other cultures and consequently became more tolerant.

*The Guardian, 3 October*

*MNS October www.migpolgroup.com*

**- USA: SEPARATED CHILDREN TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Tucked into the Homeland Security Department Bill that President Bush signed into law on 25 November is a measure transferring authority for immigrant children who enter the country without any adult relative or guardian to the Department of Health and Human Services. They had previously been the responsibility of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Legal groups and immigration advocates have welcomed the shift, saying it will improve services for the children, including their access to the nation's foster care system. Thousands of separated children are detained each year by the immigration agency. Some have fled human rights abuses, including forced recruitment as soldiers, child labour and prostitution. Others are brought to the United States by child traffickers. Under the new legislation, care and detention of these children will be handled by the Office of Refugee Resettlement in the Department of Health and Human Services. The children's asylum applications will remain in immigration courts.

"Children who arrive at our borders alone and unprotected will no longer have their prosecutor serve as their caretaker," said Alfred P. Carlton Jr., the president of the Bar Association. As the number of detained children has steadily increased, to about

5,000 a year from about 2,500 in 1997, pilot programs have begun in some states to ensure that all children in the immigration agency's custody get lawyers.

*New York Times, 27 November*

**-Australia: EDUCATION OF DETAINED ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN AT STATE SCHOOLS**

The Victorian Government and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs signed an agreement to allow asylum-seeking children to leave detention centres to attend local schools. Human Rights Commissioner Dr. Ozdowski, who had launched the National Inquiry into Children in Detention, said a structured program in a mainstream school is a much better learning environment than a detention centre, especially when a child has been in detention for a long period of time. He urged the Commonwealth and relevant State governments to take immediate steps to provide the same opportunities for other children. Conclusions from the Inquiry showed that the teaching environments inside detention centres appear to fall way below the standards of the Australian community generally.

Dr. Ozdowski added that "attending local schools allows detained children to socialise with Australian children. It is in Australia's interests to ensure the children get an education that helps them integrate into Australian society as soon as possible."

*UNITY, The national publication of the United Nations Association of Australia, 4 October*

**-South Africa: CHILDREN FACING SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

UN special rapporteur Juan Miguel Petit, who deals with the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, warned of an apparent increase in sexual violence against children in South Africa.

He said there are reports of young children being targeted as sexual partners by people who believe that doing so could reduce the risk of contracting AIDS, as well as reports that instances of child rape have occurred because of the mistaken belief that sleeping with a virgin could cure AIDS.

Petit recommends treatment and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS and urges steps to deal with sexual violence against children in South Africa. The full report will be presented to the Geneva-based UN Commission on Human Rights at its next session in March.

*UN Highlights, October*

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## **European Asylum Harmonisation**

**- OUTCOME OF JHA COUNCIL OF 14-15 OCTOBER**

**Refugee Definition and subsidiary forms of protection:** an agreement was reached on the definition of refugees and of persons eligible for subsidiary protection but not on the grounds for subsidiary protection. The proposal is planned to be approved in the November JHA Council.

**Dublin II:** the discussion did not reach a conclusion but the Council expects that the proposal be adopted in November.

**Asylum procedures:** the discussions of the amended proposal are at early stage and it is not expected that negotiations will be held before 2003, under the Greek and Italian Presidencies.

**- EP REPORT ON REFUGEE DEFINITION AND SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION PROPOSAL APPROVED**

On 22 October the European Parliament approved the Commission's proposal for a directive on the qualification for refugee or subsidiary protection status, including provisions on minimum rights and benefits. The EP approved a number of non-binding amendments providing for better guarantees and integration opportunities for asylum seekers and putting applicants for subsidiary protection on a more equal footing with refugee status applicants.

*The Daily Notebook/EP Press Service, 22 October*

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## News on Legislation

- The European Commission issued on 2 October a proposal on the signing by the European Community of the **Council of Europe Convention on Contact Concerning Children**. This instrument aims at reinforcing the right of children and their parents and other persons having family ties with the child to maintain contact on a regular basis.

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## Meetings/Events

-Greece: On 20 November BO Athens organised a successful Tele-Conference on Refugee Children followed by a Fundraising Dinner in the evening and a fundraising concert organised by the composer and director Mr. Kazakis in Thessaloniki.

The tele-conference, organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, included speeches by UNHCR colleagues Christina Linner, Kate Halvorsen and Maria Jesús Vega as well as five Greek European Parliamentarians in Strasbourg, and was attended by members of the Greek government, NGOs, media, and the business community. It was fully sponsored by McDonalds Hellas, within a partnership agreement to raise funds for refugee children projects and create public awareness on the problems and special protection needs of refugee children.

The dinner was opened by the Minister of Culture, who expressed his enthusiasm about UNHCR's initiative to co-operate with the private sector in Greece and more actively support refugee programs. Approximately 300 people attended, most of them coming from the corporate sector, apart from UNHCR's guests (government officials, ambassadors, etc), members of NGOs, the directors of UNIC, UNICEF and IOM and the wider public. In particular, the dinner not only gave the opportunity to raise funds for refugee children programs, but it also opened the door for UNHCR/BO Athens to enter other partnerships with

corporations, like Coca- Cola Hellas, Wendy's and SHELL Hellas.

- The first **International Congress on Child Migration** took place on 27-31 October in New Orleans, USA. This event aimed to discuss and debate the many implications of child migration and its contemporary resonance in local and global communities.

More information available at:

[www.nottssc.gov.uk/child\\_migrants/congress/Index.htm](http://www.nottssc.gov.uk/child_migrants/congress/Index.htm)

- On 7-10 November the French Commission for UNESCO and the "Institut du Droit de la Paix et du Développement" from the Nice-Sophia Antipolis University in France organised an International Conference on "**L'enfant et la violence dans le monde contemporain**".

- The 21st November was the **Universal Children's Day**, the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. To mark the occasion, Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, said this year's celebrations would be dedicated to the idea that children everywhere have the right to play. "The idea that many children grow up with no memory of play in their lives at all, is a staggering reminder of how badly we have failed our children."

*UN Highlights, 21 November*

-UK: Following the decision to start interviewing children in the refugee determination procedure, the Home Office is preparing a 2 days **pilot training course on interviewing children**, which will be run twice in December. The course is designed for caseworkers who will specialise in the determination of applications made by separated children. It is run in addition to a basic 3-day course on interviewing techniques that all caseworkers undertake. BO London will facilitate a session on the refugee definition, with a focus on child-specific forms of human rights violations.

- **Stopping Traffic: capacity building programme in destination countries**

The Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU) at London Metropolitan University will organise a training for trainers course on counter-trafficking, to be held in London, 2 – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2002 inclusively.

The training is opened to participants from the UK, Denmark and Italy.

For more information please contact Julie Bindel at: [j.bindel@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:j.bindel@londonmet.ac.uk),

Tel: +44 020 7314 4229.

- A **Seminar on Exchange of information and best practices regarding protection of victims of trafficking in human beings in the EU Member States and selective candidate and third countries** is being organised by The International Organisation for Migrations (IOM) on 19-20 December in Madrid.

For more information please contact: [iommadrid@iom.int](mailto:iommadrid@iom.int)

## **Publications and Web-sites**

- **“Adult Wars, Child Soldiers: Voices of Children Involved in Armed Conflict in the East Asia and Pacific Region,”**

Launching the study on 31 October, UNICEF called for the demobilisation and reintegration of 70,000 child soldiers currently serving in the East Asia and Pacific Region.

The study is based on interviews with 69 current and former child combatants from six Asian countries. The average recruitment age of those interviewed was 13 years, while the youngest was forcibly recruited at the age of seven. Those interviewed reported numerous abuses, including brutal training regimens, hard labour and severe punishments while serving in armed groups. Some said they had been forced to witness or commit atrocities, including rape and murder, while others spoke of seeing friends and family killed.

- **“Child Soldiers 1379 Report”** was published on 7 November by the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers (CSC), describing worldwide abuse of children in situations of conflict. It aimed to contribute to Kofi Annan’s report to the Security Council meeting on 20 November to discuss

children and armed conflict. It was a response to Security Council resolution 1379 on children and armed conflict, which went beyond previous ones by creating a mechanism to quantify the use of children in armed conflict.

The report creates a list and publicly identifies offenders, which is an important lever for lobbying governments and armed groups that are using children.

The Coalition’s overall message was that there should be a new Security Council thematic resolution to maintain the listing mechanism and the public shaming that would result for all those countries and entities using child soldiers. The criteria, however, should be broadened to include all the different situations where children were being recruited.

The report lists 72 different parties currently using children as soldiers, and urges action to be taken to stop the abuse. It lists more than 25 others where it said there should be monitoring; indicating which ones should be on the Security Council agenda and which ones should be monitored. Almost 100 different non-State armed groups are also listed.

The world’s largest single use of child soldiers was in Myanmar, with an estimated 70,000 children; while there were an estimated 6,000–14,000 child soldiers in Colombia.

*UN News, 31 October*

- **“Waiting time”**, published by Save the Children Norway is based on interviews with asylum-seeking children carried out by the authors, Lina Schøyen and Ingeborg Dybvig. One of the conclusions is that the experiences and impressions children have in and of Norway are pretty much the same, regardless of nationality and background.

Available in Norwegian from:

[rettighetssenteret@reddbarna.no](mailto:rettighetssenteret@reddbarna.no)

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## **Research**

- The **Oxford Refugee Studies Centre** is conducting the following studies on refugee children:

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### Children's Experiences of Low Intensity Conflict and Displacement in South Asia.

Aims at research and document children's experiences of/ and responses to low-intensity conflict and displacement in selected communities in South Asia. Working with humanitarian agencies and academic institutions in the region, this project focus on displacement, military recruitment, separation from community and family and hazardous labour.

Children and Adolescents in Sahrawi and Afghani Refugee Households: Living with the Effects of Prolonged Armed Conflict and Forced Migration Building upon its innovative theoretical and practical study on the effects of forced migration and prolonged conflict on children and adolescents in Palestinian households, the RSC will conduct similar studies among Sahrawi refugee children and their caregivers and Afghani refugee children and their families in Iran.

Young people affected by armed conflict and displacement – The project includes further research on this theme and the organisation of seminars exploring the varied effects of forced migration and conflict on adolescents. The seminars will further integrate the RSC's work with children and adolescents drawing on and elaborating a number of common themes. It will culminate in the publication of an edited book.

Please find more information at:

<http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/indexrsp.html>

- The **Human Security Network**, composed of a dozen states, emerged in 1999 to promote international support for UN efforts to protect civilians. Under the current Austrian chair, it announced that children and armed conflict would be a priority area and has entrusted the L. Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights to elaborate a **"module-based training curriculum on child-related issues in conflict situations and post conflict reconstruction"**. The first draft of the curriculum was presented at an experts meeting in Vienna, with UNHCR participation.

Once developed, the module should be used to provide appropriate training to civilian,

military, and police personnel involved in peacekeeping operations.

For more information:

[www.humansecuritynetwork.org](http://www.humansecuritynetwork.org)

- The **2003 World Refugee Day** will be dedicated to "youth". In this framework, UNHCR consultant Betty Talbot is looking for young refugees to interview. The idea is to focus on children who have a "story" to tell, and touch in various themes such as HIV/AIDS; separation; child headed households; or military recruitment. If you know some refugee youth who would be interested in telling their stories please contact Betty Talbot at:

[cbstalbot@wanadoo.fr](mailto:cbstalbot@wanadoo.fr)

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## Statistics

- UK: Please find attached provisional statistics on separated children covering nationality, sex, age, number of applications and outcome of decisions. Attached is also a table detailing numbers being looked after by social service departments around the UK.

*source: Home Office, 24 October*

-France: Until August, 463 separated children asylum-seekers have been placed in the waiting zone (against 702 for the same period in 2001).

79,7% were given access to the territory.

Sierra Leonean children represent 26,3% of the total (57,8 in 2001) while 9,3% are Chinese.

*Source: Ministry of Interior*

-Russian Federation: The number of separated children applied for asylum has been increasing substantially. Only in September 9 cases were registered; 4 of the children coming from Afghanistan and 5 others from Somalia.

-The Netherlands: The daily newspaper Trouw reports that so far (up to October) only 2958 separated children have applied for asylum compared to 6700 in 2000; and explains this decline in applications with

the new 'policy of deterrence'.

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## Programme Update

- On 2-5 October the Senior Regional Policy Advisor and the Programme Assistant attended the Programme Seminar in Copenhagen and a Conference on children's rights in Europe, organised by Save the Children Denmark.

- On 18 October the Programme Assistant attended a meeting of the Belgian "Plateforme Mineurs en Exil" in Brussels. The discussion focused on the new planned reception centres for separated children; the draft law on guardianship; and the new Regulation on the organisation of closed centres.

- A Steering Committee Meeting was held in London on 21 October. Discussions and decisions focused on plans for 2003 to follow up the SCEP.

- On 19-20 November the Senior Regional Policy Advisor made a presentation and facilitated a session on tracing at a bi-annual meeting in Geneva of ICRC and national Red Cross societies in Europe, North America and Australia.

- On 25-26 November RO Stockholm organised a Nordic Seminar on the Assessment of Separated Children Claims, which the Senior Regional Policy Advisor co-facilitated.

- On 28 November the Senior Regional Policy Advisor facilitated a Seminar on the Protection of Separated Children in a European Perspective, held at the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration. The themes presented included the EU harmonisation process; age assessment; tracing and family reunion and RSD.

- On 28 November the Programme Assistant attended the International Forum for Stakeholders on Street Children and Street

Work, held in the European Parliament in Brussels.

- The German version of the Training Guide was finalised and is available from the SCEP Website

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## Calendar

- On 10-11 December a seminar based on the SCEP Training Guide is being held in Oslo, for participants from the NGOs and Government agencies in Norway.

- The Senior Regional Advisor will attend the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly – Hearing on Refugee Youth on 18 December in Budapest.

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## Erratum

Please be informed that the last issue's information on the Netherlands was not completely correct. On the article "End of cash payments for rejected asylum seeking children", it should be noted that the financial assistance will only end for rejected separated children who turn 18 and therefore have attained majority. On the article mentioning the "Decrease in numbers of separated children" please note that asylum seekers will not be refused access to the asylum procedure. Minister Nawijn wants their claims to be rejected in the accelerated procedure. Requests can be dealt with in the accelerated procedure if, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Department of the Ministry of Justice, they can be assessed carefully within 48 working hours. It is possible to lodge an appeal against a decision taken in the accelerated procedure.

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