

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 February 2021 10:00
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Summary of the European Parliament's Article 17 dialogue meeting, 26 January 2021

Dear colleagues,

On 26 January 2021, the Director participated in an [Article 17 TFEU Dialogue event of the European Parliament](#) with churches, religious associations or communities, philosophical and non-confessional organisations. His participation followed the personal invitation by the newly elected Vice-President of the EP, [REDACTED] (MT, EPP) who hosted the event together with EP President [REDACTED].

The topic chosen was "Migration and Children -The situation of unaccompanied minors". While the representation by the EU institutions was at highest level, including also Commission Vice-President Schinas and LIBE chair [REDACTED], the religious communities were represented at operational/NGO level. This led to some imbalance in the discussion. While the Commission and the MEPs focused on their work and political positions in the area of asylum and migration, the representatives of faith groups mainly focused on their work on the ground.

The FRA Director referred to the situation of unaccompanied children in migration since 2015, mentioning the challenges and shortcomings and the work done so far. Speaking on the dialogue topic, he called the EU actors to consult faith communities more regularly, to acknowledge the traditions and religious backgrounds of the children arriving in Europe, and expressed the strong interest of the Agency to cooperate with religious communities, including in the upcoming Fundamental Rights Forum. For the reasons mentioned above, his comments on the dialogue aspect elicited no response from the faith/philosophical organisation representatives.

All the best,

[REDACTED]