

News

European Parliament

Asylum: MEPs tighten internal security and improve safety for refugee children

Press Releases LIBE 30-05-2017 - 13:31

Europol should have direct access to the EURODAC database holding fingerprints of asylum seekers

In addition to fingerprints, also facial images, names and ID-numbers should be stored in EURODAC, if available

Children from the age of six should be fingerprinted to facilitate tracking and family reunifications

Europol should have access to fingerprints and names of asylum seekers; refugee children should be fingerprinted to keep them safe from traffickers, MEPs say.

The EU police agency Europol should be able to search the EURODAC database of asylum seekers' fingerprints to detect and prevent terrorist offences and other serious crimes, Civil Liberties MEPs said in a vote on Tuesday.

In addition to the fingerprints currently stored in EURODAC, the system should also make it possible to search and compare facial images and alphanumerical data, such as the name, ID or passport number of an asylum seeker, where this information is available, MEPs say.

Protecting children

To improve the safety of refugee children and especially that of unaccompanied minors, MEPs want kids from the age of six to be fingerprinted, to make it possible to [identify and trace missing children and establish family links](#). Children who have gone missing from reception facilities should also have their data recorded in the Schengen Information System (SIS) and be registered as missing persons.

MEPs stress that fingerprinting must be done in a child-friendly manner, by staff who have received child-sensitive training and the minor should be accompanied by a responsible adult. Detention of minors should be prohibited, they add.

The amendments to the draft regulation were approved by 35 votes, to 10 with 8 abstentions. MEPs also agreed to open up negotiations with member states in view of a final agreement.

The new EURODAC Regulation will improve the EIT's returns policy and

Further information

[Civil Liberties committee web page](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Service briefing: Eurodact system \(March 2017\)](#)