Parliamentary Assembly
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Child-friendly age assessment for unaccompanied migrant children

Reply to Recommendation[1]: Recommendation 2117 (2017)
Committee of Ministers

1. The Committee of Ministers has carefully considered Recommendation 2117 (2017) on "Child-friendly age assessment for unaccompanied migrant children". It shares the view of the Parliamentary Assembly that age assessment of unaccompanied children is a crucial issue for the safeguarding and protection of children in the context of migration. It is indeed also a complex process, which seeks to establish the legal regime applicable to an individual, with possible far-reaching consequences for the individual concerned. Age assessment methods and processes differ across member States and reliable multidisciplinary and rights-compliant age assessment procedures are not always in place. That, coupled with the gravity of the outcome of an age assessment for an individual and the potentially detrimental impact of age assessment on their physical and mental health, underline the necessity of developing guidelines on the human rights framework applicable to age assessment.

2. In this regard, the Committee of Ministers would inform the Assembly that progress has been made by the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF), and in particular its drafting group of experts, with regard to the preparation of draft guidelines on age assessment. During this work, the relevant recommendations of the Assembly are being given full consideration. It is expected that the draft guidelines will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers in the first half of 2019 for adoption.

1. Adopted at the 1321st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (4 July 2018).