

Recommendation 2141 (2018)¹

Family reunification of refugees and migrants in the Council of Europe member States

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Referring to its [Resolution 2243 \(2018\)](#), the Parliamentary Assembly emphasises the importance of protecting family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5) and recommends that the Committee of Ministers:

- 1.1. draw up guidelines for the application of the right to family reunification of refugees and migrants as well as for mutual legal assistance and administrative co-operation between member States and with third countries in this field;
- 1.2. invite member States to establish bilateral arrangements so they can represent each other when receiving visa applications and issuing visas;
- 1.3. invite the member States that have not yet done so to join, or co-operate with, the European Union Schengen Visa Information System with a view to exchanging the data necessary for enabling family reunification;
- 1.4. co-operate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting mechanisms and action for finding missing family members of refugees, in co-operation with national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and national parliaments;
- 1.5. reinforce Council of Europe action on combating trafficking of child refugees, ensuring that unaccompanied child refugees are reunited with their parents, unless this is against the best interests of a child, for example if parents have participated in the trafficking of this child.

1. *Assembly debate* on 11 October 2018 (35th Sitting) (see [Doc. 14626](#), report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, rapporteur: Ms Ulla Sandbæk). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 11 October 2018 (35th Sitting).

