

DECS-ENF

PACE Recommendation 2056 (2014) – „The alternatives to immigration detention of children“

At its 1210th meeting (22 October 2014) the Committee of Ministers agreed to communicate Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2056 (2014) – “The alternatives to immigration detention of children” to the Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe strategy for the rights of the child (2016-2019) (DECS-ENF) for information and possible comments by 31 December 2014.

The Parliamentary Assembly:

- “calls on the Committee of Ministers to launch a study to collect qualitative and quantitative data on child immigration detention and the use of non-custodial, community-based alternatives to detention for children and families, and promote the sharing of these practices across Europe“;
- “calls on the Committee of Ministers to set up guidelines for conducting child-friendly age-assessment procedures for migrant children“.



Recommendation 2056 (2014)¹

Provisional version

The alternatives to immigration detention of children

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly refers to its Resolution 2020 (2014) on the alternatives to the immigration detention of children.
2. The Assembly stresses that States which engage in the immigration detention of children contravene the principle of the best interests of the child and commit a child rights violation. They deprive children of their fundamental right to liberty and put them at risk of severe and lifelong physical, mental and developmental harm. They may also violate other fundamental child rights, such as the rights to family, health, play and education. The Assembly considers that in order to stop this inhuman practice, the Council of Europe has an important role to play in promoting alternatives to the immigration detention of children.
3. The Assembly therefore calls on the Committee of Ministers to:
 - 3.1. launch a study to collect qualitative and quantitative data on child immigration detention and the use of non-custodial, community-based alternatives to detention for children and families, and promote the sharing of these practices across Europe;
 - 3.2. set up guidelines for conducting child-friendly age-assessment procedures for migrant children.

1. *Assembly debate* on 3 October 2014 (36th Sitting) (see Doc. 13597, report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, rapporteur: Ms Tinatin Bokuchava). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 3 October 2014 (36th Sitting).