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## **2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors**

**European Migration Network  
Ad-hoc query**

**June, 2026**

# **AD-HOC QUERY ON 2026.22 SCREENING PROCEDURE REGARDING UNACCOMPANIED MINORS**

**REQUESTED BY EMN NCP LUXEMBOURG ON 15 APRIL 2026**

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**Exported for:** Unrestricted Dissemination

**Responses from:** EMN NCP Austria, EMN NCP Belgium, EMN NCP Bulgaria, EMN NCP Croatia, EMN NCP Cyprus, EMN NCP Czech Republic, EMN NCP Estonia, EMN NCP Finland, EMN NCP France, EMN NCP Germany, EMN NCP Hungary, EMN NCP Ireland, EMN NCP Latvia, EMN NCP Lithuania, EMN NCP Luxembourg, EMN NCP Malta, EMN NCP Netherlands, EMN NCP Poland, EMN NCP Portugal, EMN NCP Slovakia, EMN NCP Slovenia, EMN NCP Spain **(22 in total)**

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In the context of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, article 43(4) of the Asylum Procedure Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2024/1348) requires each Member State to establish an independent mechanism for monitoring fundamental rights in relation to the border procedure, meeting the criteria set out in Article 10 of the Screening Regulation (EU) 2024/1356). Also, article 10 of the Screening Regulation and Article 43(4) of the Asylum Procedure Regulation together require Member States to put in place an independent mechanism to monitor compliance with fundamental rights during the screening of asylum applicants at external borders.

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As part of the establishment of the independent monitoring mechanism required under Article 10 of the Screening Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2024/1356) and Article 43(4) of the Asylum Procedure Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2024/1348) — whose remit includes monitoring compliance with EU law and international law, including in particular with regard to the best interests of the child — Luxembourg has designated the national ombudsman (médiateur national, so not the Ombudsman for Children and Adolescents) to assume this role.

The Screening Regulation does not require that staff “trained and qualified to deal with minors” or “child protection authorities” be permanently present at the locations where screening takes place at the external border. However, their involvement in the design of the procedures and their presence at various points is required; they must therefore at least be called upon when certain procedural steps are to be carried out. Without the presence of trained staff on site, there would be a risk that child-specific needs would not be identified.

The Luxembourg Ombudsman for Children and Youngsters (OKAJU) is especially interested how this monitoring mechanism during the screening procedure will be implemented specifically regarding unaccompanied minors and which role the OKAJU play in this monitoring mechanism (e.g. advisory, observational, complaint-based, reporting, or decision-making). This is the reason that OKAJU would like to gather information from EMN Member countries regarding this issue.

### WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

We would very much appreciate your responses by **6 May 2026**.

1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.
2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied

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minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.


3. Is the Children’s Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.

4. Can the Children’s Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain

5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.

6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.

### RESPONSES

		<b>Unrestricted Dissemination ?</b>	
	<b>EMN NCP Austria</b>	<b>Yes</b>	1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please


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			<p>explain your answer.</p> <p>As the fundamental issue regarding guardianship of unaccompanied minor refugees has not yet been resolved, and the confidential representatives of the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services would only be consulted on a secondary basis, a final arrangement has yet to be reached.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>see Q1</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>see Q1</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p>
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			<p>4. Can the Children’s Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>see Q1 --- Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>see Q1 --- Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>see Q1 --- Source: Ministry of the Interior</p>
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 <b>EMN NCP Belgium</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>Yes. In Belgium, the Federal Ombudsman is entrusted with the independent monitoring of the screening and border procedures and will cooperate with the Standing Police Monitoring Committee ("Committee P"), which is responsible for monitoring police operations. The federal Ombudsman may also cooperate with national human rights institutions or organisations, as foreseen in Article 10(2) of the Screening Regulation.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>The federal Ombudsman can, within its mandate, contact regional Ombudsmen for children: the Flemish Office of the Children's Rights Commissioner (Kinderrechtencommissariaat) and the General Delegate for Children's Rights of the French Community of Belgium (Délégué général aux droits de l'enfant de la communauté française de Belgique).</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p>
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			<p>See question 2.</p> <p>4. Can the Children’s Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>No. The two regional organisations responsible for children’s rights do have complaint-investigation powers; however, they lack the authority to conduct unannounced visits to screening facilities.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>See questions 2 and 4.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>See questions 2 and 4.</p>
	<p><b>EMN NCP Bulgaria</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p>

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			<p>As of now, legislative amendments have been initiated, according to which the independent monitoring mechanism in the screening procedure is to be carried out by the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria. The legislative proposals do not differentiate a mechanism for individual vulnerable groups.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>The legislative amendments concerning the Ombudsman are currently under discussion, and at this stage the Ombudsman's role in the screening procedure with regard to unaccompanied or separated children has not yet been specified.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>See the answer to question 2.</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p>
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			<p>The participation of the Ombudsman throughout the entire screening procedure is envisaged as a principle.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>See the answer to question 4.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>See the answer to question 4.</p>
	<p><b>EMN NCP Croatia</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>Yes. In the Republic of Croatia, the monitoring of human rights during the screening procedure will be ensured through the establishment of an independent mechanism for monitoring compliance with fundamental rights. Through the ongoing amendments to the Aliens Act, this mechanism will be tasked with overseeing whether fundamental rights in accordance with European Union law and international law are respected in the screening procedure and in the asylum border procedure.</p>

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			<p>It is proposed by the Law that the Mechanism will, in particular, monitor access to the international protection system, the prohibition of expulsion and non-refoulement, the best interests of minors, and the restriction of freedom of movement.</p> <p>The implementation of the Mechanism will be ensured by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. For the purpose of ensuring its implementation, the Office will conclude agreements with other state bodies, international organizations, and civil society organizations.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>No, no specific powers of the Ombudsman for Children are prescribed by the Law in the screening procedure. During the screening, the Ombudsman for Children may implement the powers and duties assigned under the Act on the Ombudsman for Children. This Act, among other things, grants the Ombudsman the authority to access premises and inspect how care is provided to children who are temporarily or permanently placed with natural or legal persons and other legal entities on the basis of special regulations.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>No. However, under the powers granted by the Act on the Ombudsman for Children, monitors</p>
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			<p>the implementation of all regulations concerning the protection of the rights and interests of children, as well as individual violations of children’s rights, and examines general patterns and forms of violations of the rights and interests of children.</p> <p>4. Can the Children’s Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>Yes, see the answer to question number 2.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes, within the scope of the general powers under the Act on the Ombudsman for Children.</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Cyprus</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p>

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			<p>Yes, currently CY is in the process of appointing the Commissioner of Administration and the Protection of Human Rights. The Commissioner will handle all cases regardless of vulnerability.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>No, the only Commissioner / Ombudsman will be the Commissioner of Administration and the Protection of Human Rights. The Children's Ombudsman has of course the right to intervene / monitor any cases related to children on an ad hoc basis.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>No</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>Of course, like the rest of the Ombudsmans.</p>
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			<p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes, they have the right to have access and interact privately with the child, but always in the presence of their guardians.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>n.a</p>
	<p><b>EMN NCP Czech Republic</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>No.</p>

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			<p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>No, however, the possible screening of the unaccompanied or separate child will be processed during the stay of the minor in the dedicated facility for unaccompanied or separate children placed on the territory of CZ. This facility is under responsibility of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The monitoring of this facility by Children's ombudsman may be possible.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children's ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children's Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes. It is important to note that the primary mandate of the Children's Ombudsman is to protect children's rights. This mandate applies across all proceedings involving unaccompanied</p>
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			<p>minors. Therefore, the Czech Republic foresees the involvement of the Children’s Ombudsman in the monitoring mechanism in accordance with the Screening Regulation. Especially when the monitoring will be ensured by national ombudsman office.</p>
 <b>EMN NCP Estonia</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>No, monitoring the fundamental rights compliance during the screening procedure is ensured by the Chancellor of Justice, who has a role of an ombudsman, a national human rights institution (NHRI), the Children’s Ombudsman, and the institution for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as the promotion, protection, and monitoring of the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>The representation of an unaccompanied minor is ensured by a guardian appointed by the court. A guardian will take care of the child's well-being and represent child in the necessary actions. Until a guardian is appointed, the guardian's duties are performed by the local municipality where the child is registered (in the absence of registration, the local municipality in which the child lives).</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or</p>

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			<p>separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>Yes, the Chancellor of Justice serves as an independent monitoring mechanism role for the observance of fundamental rights, overseeing compliance with EU and international law and the best interests of the child during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>No, the Chancellor of Justice is not consulted when assessing the best interests of the child. A legal guardian ensures the best interests of the child. The Police and Border Guard Board does not conduct procedural actions involving unaccompanied minors without the guardian being present.</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>Yes. According to the Chancellor of Justice Act, the Chancellor of Justice may make verification visits and these visits may be made unannounced.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children's ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p>
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			<p>Yes, during verification visits, the Chancellor of Justice has possibility to interview each person without the presence of other persons.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes, during verification visits, the Chancellor of Justice has unrestricted access to the information required to verify whether the principles of observance of the fundamental rights and freedoms and good administrative practice are taken into account.</p>
+	<b>EMN NCP Finland</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>YES. In Finland, the government proposal concerning EU regulation is still under consideration in Parliament. In the proposal, the task of monitoring fundamental rights in the screening and border procedures is proposed to be assigned to the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman.</p> <p>In accordance with point (a) of Article 10(2) of the Screening Regulation, the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman will monitor “compliance with Union and international law, including the Charter, in particular as regards access to the asylum procedure, the principle of non-refoulement, the best interest of the child and the relevant rules on detention, including relevant provisions on detention in national law, during the screening”. In the government proposal, the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman is proposed to be allocated resources</p>

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			<p>equivalent to one full-time employee-year (one FTE-year) for monitoring these rights in the screening and border procedures, which however, according to the Ombudsman, is insufficient in view of the task.</p> <p>In addition, according to the Finnish Border Guard (one of the implementing authorities) external monitoring is supplemented by internal oversight conducted by the screening authority itself since every authority is obligated to monitor the legality and appropriateness of its own activities. During the screening procedure, the child's best interests must always be given primary consideration, and an unaccompanied minor must always be appointed a representative or temporary representative to represent and assist them. The reception centre or municipal social services appoints the temporary representative for the minor. The border guard or police officer conducting the screening does not act as a temporary representative.</p> <p>Training/orientation regarding the role is provided for those acting as temporary representatives. The temporary representative shall accompany the child throughout all stages of the screening procedure (including Eurodac registration) and the processing of the asylum application, assisting the child in a manner appropriate to the child's age and in a language the child understands. The procedures may not be initiated until the temporary representative is present to ensure the best interests of the child.</p> <p>In Finland, the Ombudsman for Children assesses and promotes the realisation of the rights and best interest of children, as part of their duties, but they have not been assigned any specific role in the screening procedure.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or</p>
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			<p>separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>NO. At this moment, we are not aware that the Ombudsman for Children has any specific role in the screening procedure. Instead, according to the government proposal currently under consideration, this role is proposed to be assigned to the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO. At this moment, we are not aware that the Ombudsman for Children has any specific role in the screening procedure or is consulted during the screening procedure.</p> <p>According to the government proposal currently under consideration, the task of monitoring fundamental rights in the screening procedure is proposed to be assigned to the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman. According to the Finnish Border Guard (one of the implementing authorities) the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman is not consulted during the screening either, but a temporary representative is always appointed for an unaccompanied minor to ensure the best interests of the child and to assist the child at every stage of the screening procedure.</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>At this moment, we are not aware that the Ombudsman for Children has any specific role in the screening procedure.</p>
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			<p>However, according to the government proposal currently under consideration, in carrying out the task of monitoring fundamental rights, the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman may conduct inspections – also without prior notice – at the locations where the screening and border procedures are implemented.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>At this moment, we are not aware that the Ombudsman for Children has any specific role in the screening procedure.</p> <p>However, under the Screening Regulation, the fundamental rights monitor, in Finland the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, must be granted access to all relevant locations, including reception and detention facilities, individuals and documents, insofar as such access is necessary to allow the independent monitoring mechanism to fulfil the obligations set out in article 10. Thus, the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman’s understanding is that this also includes the possibility of holding discussions with the child without the presence of other authorities.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>At this moment, we are not aware that the Ombudsman for Children has any specific role in the screening procedure.</p> <p>However, according to the government proposal currently under consideration, certain documents are made available to the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman. In addition, the</p>
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			<p>Ombudsman may, upon request, obtain the necessary information required for the performance of the fundamental rights monitoring task.</p>
	<p><b>EMN NCP France</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>Yes. In France, the authorities responsible for monitoring fundamental rights during the screening procedure in charge of guaranteeing the fundamental right of unaccompanied minors are the "Défenseur des droits" and the "Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté".</p> <p>The "Défenseur des droits" is empowered to receive complaints, conduct investigations, recommend corrective measures, and refer cases to competent authorities. It plays a key role in preventing rights violations and promoting fundamental rights, particularly those of children, as well as combating discrimination and protecting vulnerable individuals. The "Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté" ensures that persons deprived of their liberty are treated humanely and with full respect for their dignity. It pays particular attention to conditions of detention, custody, and hospitalization. It can, like the "Défenseur des droits", receive complaints, conduct investigations and recommend corrective measures.</p> <p>Within their respective mandates, both independent administrative authorities are competent to examine situations involving the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure.</p>

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			<p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>No. During the screening procedure, the "Procureur de la République" is immediately notified in order to appoint an "administrateur ad hoc" (representative). This representative is responsible for assisting the minor or unaccompanied minor throughout their stay and supporting them in administrative and judicial proceedings related to the screening process. The "administrateur ad hoc" ensures the protection of the best interest of the child, including matters such as age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance. In addition, non-governmental organizations are present to provide support to individuals undergoing the screening procedure.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO - see Q2</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>Yes. Within the scope of their current mandates, the above-mentioned independent administrative authorities are authorized to conduct unannounced visits to facilities where</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

		<p>screening procedures take place.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes, although not explicitly foreseen by a text, the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child who is assisted by their “administrateur ad hoc” which is not an authority of the screening facility.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes. In the exercise of their investigative powers, in particular in the context of handling individual complaints, these independent administrative authorities may request access to all relevant documents, files, and administrative decisions necessary for the performance of their mandate.</p>
 <b>EMN NCP Germany</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>NO.</p>


## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>NO.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO. In Germany, youth welfare offices are responsible for taking unaccompanied minors into temporary guardianship during the screening process. The youth welfare office accompanies and supports the unaccompanied minor as their representative during the screening. The youth welfare office is obliged and entitled to take all legal actions necessary for the welfare of the minor during the screening.</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>NO.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children's ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>n.a.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>The general rules regarding the powers and rights of the guardian (§1773 ff. BGB) apply.</p>
	<p><b>EMN NCP Hungary</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>In Hungary, there is currently no decision yet on the implementation of the regulation.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>3. Is the Children’s Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal</p>

## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>4. Can the Children’s Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Ireland</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p>

## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>Yes.</p> <p>As Ireland is not a participant in the Schengen Acquis, Ireland could not opt into Schengen-related measures of the Pact, including the Screening Regulation (EU) 2024/1356. The International Protection Act 2026 (IP Act 2026) provides for the introduction of a national screening procedure which aligns appropriately with the measures in the Screening Regulation. The IP Act 2026 states that the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in Ireland is designated as the Determining Authority for the purposes of Article 4 of the Asylum Procedures Regulation. Under section 259 of the IP Act 2026, the Minister shall, by order, establish the Office of Chief Inspector of Asylum Border Procedures.</p> <p>The Office of Chief Inspector of Asylum Border Procedures is an independent monitoring mechanism, as provided for in the Screening and Asylum Procedures Regulations. In Ireland, this office will be headed by a Chief Inspector. The functions of the Chief Inspector, listed under section 263 of the IP Act 2026, relate to the monitoring of asylum border procedures to ensure compliance with European and International Law. Provision is made for the carrying out of regular inspections of designated asylum border facilities and formal investigation of complaints and allegations of breaches of fundamental rights in a designated asylum border facility (Section 263 of the IP Act 2026).</p> <p>The Chief Inspector shall be the authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of all applicants during the screening procedure in Ireland, including unaccompanied minors. The best interests of the child is the primary consideration in respect of an unaccompanied minor. The IP Act 2026 provides that the Minister shall, as soon as practicable, ensure that a provisional representative person, representative person or an employee of, or other person appointed by, the Child and Family Agency is appointed for the unaccompanied minor for the duration of the screening procedures (Section 31(3) of the IP Act 2026). A (provisional) representative person is responsible for assisting and acting on behalf of an unaccompanied minor through the international protection process.</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>A representative organisation must, as soon as possible, appoint specific individuals to act as the (provisional) representative and long-term representative for an unaccompanied minor. The unaccompanied minor is to be informed that a (provisional) representative person has been appointed for them. The Minister is responsible for informing the (provisional) representative person of any relevant facts pertaining to the unaccompanied minor, and for informing the Child and Family Agency of the appointment of the (provisional) representative person (Section 46, Section 49 of the IP Act 2026).</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>Yes. The Ombudsman for Children in Ireland shall play an advisory role. The IP Act 2026 provides that Office of Chief Inspector of Asylum Border Procedures is an independent monitoring mechanism, as provided for in the Screening Regulation and Asylum Procedures Regulation. Under section 265 of the IP Act 2026, the Minister shall establish an Advisory Board, which shall consult and guide the Chief Inspector in relation to his or her duties and the performance of his or her functions. The Advisory Board shall provide advice to the Chief Inspector on the effective functioning and independence of the Chief Inspector and where practicable, on the use by the Chief Inspector of his or her powers. The Ombudsman for Children in Ireland will be a member of the advisory board. Membership of Advisory Board shall consist of a chairperson and following members (Section 266)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) the Ombudsman;</li><li>(b) the Ombudsman for Children;</li><li>(c) the Chairperson of the Child and Family Agency;</li></ul>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>(d) the Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; (e) the representative for Ireland of the High Commissioner; (f) the Chairperson of, or the person holding a corresponding office in the monitoring body for accommodation centres</p> <p>3. Is the Children’s Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>N/A.</p> <p>The Ombudsman for Children is the member of the Advisory Board to the Chief Inspector. Under section 265(2)(a) of the IP Act 2026, the Advisory Board shall consult with and guide the Chief Inspector in relation to the performance of his or her functions, including the regular inspection of screening centres. As such, the Chief Inspector may consult with members of the Advisory Board for guidance or advice, as so requested, directly in relation to one of the issues listed. Additionally, it is required under section 265(6) of the IP Act 2026 that the Chief Inspector shall meet with the Advisory Board at least once every 6 months, where the issues raised in this question may be discussed further.</p> <p>4. Can the Children’s Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>No.</p> <p>The Chief Inspector shall carry out regular inspections of all designated asylum border facilities in Ireland. IP Act 2026 provides the Chief Inspector with powers of inspection of designated asylum</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>border facilities necessary for carrying out the functions of the Office. If a breach of fundamental rights is identified in the course of an inspection, the Chief Inspector may conduct a formal investigation. A complaint concerning a breach of fundamental rights within a designated asylum border facility may be made and referred to the Chief Inspector (Section 271)</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>Under the IP Act 2026, the Advisory Board’s function will be to assist in the mechanism’s effective functioning and their independence. They will do this by providing practical advice and guidance to the Chief Inspector, as well as providing technical support. The IP Act 2026 does not explicitly provide that the Advisory Board shall receive or consider documents, files or decisions on individual cases. It is likely that the Advisory Board would require access to information around the number and types of incidents being monitored or investigated with regards to unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure. However, should an individual make a complaint regarding the screening procedure to the Ombudsman for Children, this could potentially be investigated under section 8 of the Ombudsman for Children Act 2002. In that context, the Office of the Ombudsman for Children may receive necessary records to carry out an investigation. It must be noted, however, that</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>this would be separate from the Ombudsman’s role as an ex officio member of the Advisory Board. Section 265(8) of the IP Act 2026 reinforces this distinction by providing that members of the Advisory Board are unable to carry out the functions conferred on the Chief Inspector.</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Latvia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>In Latvia, the monitoring of fundamental rights compliance during the screening procedure will be ensured by the Ombudsman’s Office (a specialized children's ombudsman institution has not been established in Latvia), whose representatives possess significant experience in monitoring forced return within the context of the Return Directive. Conversely, the representation of each unaccompanied minor in personal and property relations—including during the screening procedure—is ensured by a guardian appointed by the Orphan’s and Custody Court or a designated representative.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>The Ombudsman will ensure the monitoring of the screening procedure. His activities are regulated by the Ombudsman Law.</p>

## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>The Ombudsman may intervene in these matters by exercising his general powers as set out in the Ombudsman Act.</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>In accordance to the Ombudsman Law, the Ombudsman has the right to visit institutions in order to obtain the information necessary for an inspection case, as well as to visit places of restriction of liberty at any time without special permission, to move freely within their territory, to visit all premises and to meet alone with persons held therein.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children's ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>According to Ombudsman Law, the Ombudsman has the right to hear the opinion of a child without the presence of his or her parents, guardians or an employee of an educational, care and upbringing institution, if the child so wishes.</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes. In accordance to the Ombudsman Law, the Ombudsman has the right: to request and receive from institutions, free of charge, documents (administrative acts, procedural decisions, letters), explanations and other information necessary for the consideration of a private individual's application or in an inspection case to assess a possible violation of human rights; to receive all information related to the treatment of persons residing in places of restriction of liberty, including personal data of special categories, as well as information on the conditions of residence, number and location of these persons.</p>
	<p><b>EMN NCP Lithuania</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>The authority responsible for monitoring fundamental rights during the screening and border procedures is not the same as the authorities responsible for guaranteeing the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors, though their remits are complementary. Guaranteeing the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors is a shared responsibility across several institutions: The Migration Department (MD) and the State Border Guard Service (VSAT) carry out procedural actions involving the unaccompanied minor, with a lawyer, a representative of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (VTAĮT), and an interpreter present. The Migration Department also organises the search for the minor's family members. The Reception</p>

## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>and Integration Agency (PIIA) provides accommodation for unaccompanied minors. The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service (VTAIT) ensures child guardianship: a representative is appointed without delay for every unaccompanied minor foreign national present in Lithuania, regardless of the lawfulness of their stay, and in accordance with the procedure established by Lithuanian law. VTAIT also carries out an assessment of the unaccompanied minor's situation, completing a Situation Assessment Questionnaire in the manner prescribed by the Minister of Social Security and Labour. The Office of the Ombudsperson for Child's Rights (Vaiko teisių apsaugos kontrolieriaus įstaiga) is an independent state institution for the supervision and control of compliance with children's rights; it examines complaints related to alleged violations of children's rights. Monitoring of fundamental rights during screening and border procedures will be carried out by a dedicated fundamental rights monitor, with the participation of the Office of the Seimas Ombudsmen of the Republic of Lithuania. The fundamental rights monitor will be independent of the authorities conducting screening under Regulation (EU) 2024/1356 and applying the border procedure under Regulation (EU) 2024/1348. The selection of the fundamental rights monitor through a competitive process will be organised by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, having agreed the selection criteria with the Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>YES, though indirectly. The Ombudsperson for Child's Rights does not participate directly in the screening procedure, but may become involved in the process when there are grounds to believe that a child's rights or legitimate interests are being violated. The role of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Child's Rights in this context is therefore primarily complaint-based: it</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>acts as an independent oversight body that can be engaged when concerns arise regarding the treatment of unaccompanied or separated minors during the screening procedure, rather than being a standing participant in the procedure itself.</p> <p>3. Is the Children’s Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO. When the Ombudsperson for Child’s Rights submits enquiries to the competent authorities, all requested information is provided to it. However, the Ombudsperson is not formally consulted as a standing advisory body within the screening procedure itself. The broader monitoring of compliance with fundamental rights, including the best interests of the child, during screening and border procedures falls within the mandate of the fundamental rights monitor, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monitor compliance with EU and international law, including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, during screening procedures under Regulation (EU) 2024/1356 and border procedures under Regulation (EU) 2024/1348, with particular regard to access to the asylum procedure, the principle of non-refoulement, the best interests of the child, detention of foreign nationals, and conditions of detention;</li><li>Issue recommendations and observations to state and municipal institutions and bodies on ensuring the protection of fundamental rights;</li><li>Provide the Office of the Seimas Ombudsmen with information on the fundamental rights monitoring carried out;</li><li>Forward to the Office of the Seimas Ombudsmen any complaints received in the course of fundamental rights monitoring that relate to fundamental rights.</li></ul> <p>4. Can the Children’s Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>YES. The Ombudsperson for Child's Rights has the right to carry out inspections at locations where children are held or accommodated, including unaccompanied minors.</p> <p>Under Article 31 of the Law on the Office of the Ombudsperson for Child's Rights: State and municipal institutions and bodies, non-state institutions, and other natural and legal persons, as well as enterprises without the rights of a legal person, are obliged to provide the Ombudsperson for Child's Rights with requested information in a timely manner, to allow access to required documents, and to implement decisions taken by the Ombudsperson and to report on their implementation in a timely manner. Information requested by the Ombudsperson for Child's Rights must be provided within 10 working days. In addition, the fundamental rights monitor has the following rights:</p> <p>To carry out on-site inspections, including random and unannounced inspections; To access all locations where screening procedures under Regulation (EU) 2024/1356 and border procedures under Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 are conducted, including reception and detention facilities; To obtain from state and municipal institutions and bodies all information, documents and data, with access to classified information granted only to persons authorised to work with or access such information; To conduct confidential interviews with third-country nationals or stateless persons. The Office of the Seimas Ombudsmen prepares an annual fundamental rights monitoring report and examines complaints related to fundamental rights monitoring.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children's ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>YES. When conducting investigations, the Ombudsperson for Child's Rights may communicate directly with a child without the presence of representatives of the institutions concerned, where this is necessary to safeguard the best interests of the child.</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>YES. Institutions are obliged to provide the Ombudsperson for Child’s Rights with all necessary information, documents and decisions relating to unaccompanied minors.</p> <p>Under Article 31 of the Law on the Office of the Ombudsperson for Child’s Rights: State and municipal institutions and bodies, non-state institutions, and other natural and legal persons, as well as enterprises without the rights of a legal person, are obliged to provide the Ombudsperson for Child’s Rights with requested information in a timely manner, to allow access to required documents, and to implement decisions taken by the Ombudsperson and to report on their implementation in a timely manner. Information requested by the Ombudsperson for Child’s Rights must be provided within 10 working days. As regards the fundamental rights monitor, its rights of access to information, documents and data held by state and municipal institutions and bodies, including access to all locations and the ability to conduct confidential interviews, are set out in the response to Question 4 above.</p>
	<p><b>EMN NCP Luxembourg</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>In Luxembourg, the authority responsible for monitoring fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the Ombudsman. In its capacity as the Mediator of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg who receives complaints concerning the functioning of State and municipal administrations, as well as public institutions under their authority. Within this general</p>

## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>mandate, the Ombudsman may also examine situations involving the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors.</p> <p>The OKAJU has not been designated as the authority responsible for monitoring the screening procedure. However, it is an important actor in the protection and promotion of the fundamental rights of children and adolescents.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>It is not explicitly indicated in the draft bill, but by his mission itself the OKAJU plays an important role in informing, advising unaccompanied minors or as a complaint mechanism. The OKAJU, by its organic law of 1st April 2020, can visit the facilities and get access to all the documents.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Yes. Although this is not expressly provided for in the draft law, the OKAJU may play a role on these issues through its general mandate to protect and promote the rights of children. Its involvement stems from its statutory functions rather than from a specific provision in the screening procedure legislation.</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>4. Can the Children’s Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>Yes. Under its organic law, the OKAJU may visit facilities and has access to the relevant premises and documents. This suggests that it may carry out visits, including unannounced ones, in the exercise of its mandate.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes. This should in principle be possible. However, the child cannot be compelled to speak with the OKAJU; such communication depends on the child’s willingness to do so.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Yes. Under its organic law, the OKAJU has access to documents relevant to the exercise of its mandate, including documents concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children.</p>
<p>•  <b>EMN NCP Malta</b></p>		<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p>

## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>Yes, it would be the same Monitoring Board. Additionally, it is important to underline that in Malta the protection and safeguarding of unaccompanied minors are primarily entrusted to the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS), the Child Protection Services, and court-appointed representatives/guardians. AWAS is responsible for age assessment, accommodation, care, and representation of unaccompanied minors during asylum procedures while the Child Protection Services and the Law Courts issue the care orders and appoint the representatives. There is also the Commissioner for Children which has a broader advisory and advocacy role concerning children's rights in Malta and may issue recommendations or raise concerns on policies affecting migrant children.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>No, Malta does not currently have a dedicated Ombudsman for Children.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NA</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes,</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

		<p>please explain</p> <p>NA</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>NA</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>NA</p>
 <b>EMN NCP Netherlands</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>NO. The authorities responsible to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure are the Inspectorate of Justice and Security (Inspectie Justitie en Veiligheid) and the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (College voor de Rechten van de Mens).[1] Together they make up the independent monitoring mechanism, as required under the Screening Regulation and the Asylum Procedure Regulation.</p>


## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>The authorities charged with guaranteeing the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure consist of the two screening authorities: the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst)[2] and the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (Koninklijke Marechaussee). In addition, in the Netherlands, all unaccompanied minors are placed under the guardianship of the Nidos Foundation, and each of them is assigned a caseworker. They also will be assigned a lawyer to representer their interests.[3]</p> <p>^</p> <p>Parliamentary Papers II, 2025/26, 36 871, no. 2, Bill Implementation Act - reprint, 9 January 2026. Parliamentary Papers II, 2025/26, 36 871, no. 4, Advise of the Advisory Division of the Council of State, 19 December 2025.</p> <p>^</p> <p>Ibid.</p> <p>^</p> <p>NIDOS: Guardianship for refugees, (gezins)voogdij voor minderjarige vluchtelingen [(family) guardianship for refugee minors], last accessed on 11 May 2026.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>NO.</p> <p>The Ombudsman for children does not play a role during the screening procedure and is not part of the monitoring mechanism – nor is the National Ombudsman. In line with the general authorities and qualifications, both institutions are available for people in the screening procedure in case of complaints or reports of infringements of fundamental rights in individual cases.</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO.</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>YES. The Children's Ombudsman can carry out unannounced on-site investigations, insofar as reasonably necessary for the performance of their duties.[1] In doing so, they have access to any place (including screening facilities), with the exception of a dwelling without the consent of the occupant. ^ Information provision by expert on the topic</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children's ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>YES. The Children's ombudsman is allowed to speak to minors without the presence of authorities of the screening facility.[1] ^ Ibid.</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>YES. The mandate of the Children’s Ombudsman covers research abilities including access to documents, files and decisions, insofar as this is reasonably necessary for the performance of its duties.[1] However, there is no connection between the monitoring mechanism and the authority of the Children’s Ombudsman to have access to these files. ^ Ibid.</p>
	<p><b>EMN NCP Poland</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>Poland is in the process of adapting its migration governance to align with the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, including Regulation (EU) 2024/1356, which requires an independent monitoring mechanism at its borders. There has not yet been established such mechanism. Independent, external monitoring is performed on as-needed basis by the Commissioner for Human Rights and the Ombudsperson for Children. These independent bodies have the mandate to inspect facilities, access documents, and intervene in individual cases.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer</p>


## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>Due to the fact that an independent monitoring mechanism has not yet been established, the Ombudsperson's for children involvement is limited to complaint-based or own-initiative interventions.</p> <p>The Ombudsperson is not automatically notified by public authorities when an unaccompanied minor enters the screening procedure. Consequently, the Ombudsperson does not participate in every case by default. Instead, the process usually begins when civil society organizations (NGOs) or other third parties inform the Ombudsperson about specific cases.</p> <p>Upon receiving such information, the Ombudsperson initiates actions ex officio, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- requesting information and/or documentation from respective authorities,</li><li>- intervening with relevant authorities to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is upheld,</li><li>- conducting inspections of the facilities where the children are held.</li></ul> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO – The Ombudsperson for Children is not consulted during the screening procedure.</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>YES - Pursuant to Article 10 section 1 point 1 of the Act of 6 January 2000 on the Ombudsperson for Children, the Ombudsperson can investigate, even without notice, every case on the spot.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children's ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>YES - The Ombudsperson for Children may speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children's Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Although a monitoring mechanism has not yet been put in place in Poland, the Ombudsperson for Children is authorised to access documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure.</p> <p>Legal basis: Article 10 section 1 point 2 of the Act of 6 January 2000 on the Ombudsperson for Children: The Ombudsperson can demand from public authorities, organizations or institutions to provide explanations, information or access to files and documents, including those containing personal data, also for inspection at the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children. The relevant border guard authorities refuse however to provide the Ombudsperson for</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			Children with information unless the request includes personal details such as first name, surname or document number.
 <b>EMN NCP Portugal</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>No. However, Portugal is still working on the implementation of the Fundamental Rights Monitoring Mechanism, which is to be overseen by the Ombudsman.</p> <p>As regards unaccompanied minors, the protection of their best interests and fundamental rights will be ensured by a guardian, a role which is still being finalized.</p> <p>It is important to highlight that protection of the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors will always be ensured by our Ombudsman’s Office, which has certain responsibilities in the area of child protection, without prejudice to the powers of the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children and Young People (CNPDPJC).</p> <p>The guarantee of fundamental rights for unaccompanied minors identified during screening is governed by child protection law and not by immigration law.</p> <p>Under Law no. 147/99 (Law on the Protection of Children and Young People at Risk) the committees for the protection of children and young people are the primary non judicial child protection authorities, judicial authority is guaranteed by family and minors courts and the Public Prosecution Service acts as mandatory legal representative of minors in judicial proceedings.</p>

## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>Although Portugal does not have a dedicated Ombudsman for children, our Ombudsman's Office has responsibilities in this area, always ensuring the protection of fundamental rights.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children's ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
	<p><b>EMN NCP Slovakia</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>Yes, as well. The Ombudsman (Public Defender of Rights) is the only body that will carry out all the activities of the independent monitoring mechanism. However, under the Children's Commissioner Act, there is no legal obstacle that would prevent the Commissioner from monitoring compliance with the rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening process as well. In addition, in the case of unaccompanied minors, the police also contacts the authority for the social and legal protection of children, which is also tasked with protecting children's rights.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>According to the amended legislation (Act on Residence of Foreigners), the Commissioner for</p>

## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>Children does not have a special role in protecting children's rights during the screening process. However, the Commissioner for Children is also empowered to act on his or her own initiative and may decide to conduct a review of the screening process.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>See response to questions 1 and 2. At the same time Office of the Commissioner for Children would like to propose a methodological instruction for the Bureau of the Border and Foreign Police, according to which the Office of the Commissioner for Children should be mandatorily notified of each apprehended unaccompanied minor immediately at the beginning of the screening.</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>Yes, the Commissioner for Children may, within the scope of his mandate of the national preventive mechanism pursuant to Article 4 (2) (h.) point 2 of Act 176/2015 Coll. on the Commissioner for Children and Persons with Disabilities also carry out systematic unannounced visits to other places where children are or may be children restricted in freedom by public authorities or as a result of dependence on the provision of care.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children's ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>Yes, it can. According to the provision of Article 4(2)(b) of Act No. 176/2015 Coll., the Commissioner is entitled to speak, without the presence of third parties, with a child who is placed in a facility where detention, imprisonment, detention of foreigners, protective treatment, or protective education is carried out; in a place where institutional care, educational measures, or interim measures under a special regulation are executed; or in a place where a child is located or may be located due to dependence on the provision of care.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>The monitoring mechanism is not carried out in the Slovak Republic by the Commissioner for Children. However, according to the relevant legislation, the Public Defender of Rights and the Commissioner for Children have the right to familiarize themselves with the file and other documentation related to the subject of their research. The exception is documents that are classified in a classified mode.</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Slovenia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>No. There is a cooperation protocol signed between the Slovenian Police and the Association of Social Work Centres, according to which, whenever a self-declared unaccompanied minor or a person presumed to be a minor is involved in police procedures due to illegal entry into the country, the local Centre for Social Work is notified. A representative then comes to the police</p>

## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>station and accompanies the minor during the police procedures.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>In Slovenia, the role of Ombudsman for Children is carried out by the Human Rights Ombudsman as part of their mandate. The monitoring mechanism in the screening process will be led by the office of the Ombudsman.</p> <p>3. Is the Children's Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>As explained above, the Ombudsman will be responsible for the monitoring mechanism; therefore, they and their staff may carry out announced or unannounced visits to all locations where screening is conducted.</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children’s ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>The Ombudsman has the right to access all police documents and to speak with any person involved in police procedures, including a child. However, in the case of a child, consent must be given by their parent or a social worker—particularly if the Ombudsman wishes to speak with the child without another adult present.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children’s Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>The Ombudsman has the right to access all police documents and to speak with any person involved in police procedures, including a child.</p>
	<p><b>EMN NCP Spain</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Does the authority responsible in your Member State to monitor the fundamental rights during the screening procedure is the same authority charged to guarantee the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors during the screening procedure? YES/NO. If yes, please explain your answer.</p> <p>In Spain, there is no officially designated authority responsible for monitory the screening. However, the authority responsible for monitoring fundamental rights- including during the screening procedure- is the Ombudsman.</p> <p>In its capacity as Ombudsman, and as NHRI, who receives complaints concerning the functioning of State, regional and municipal administrations, as well as public institutions under their authority. Within this general mandate, the Ombudsman may also examine</p>

## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>situations involving the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors. Source: Spanish Ombudsman.</p> <p>2. Does the Ombudsman for children in your Member State plays a role during the screening procedure concerning unaccompanied minors or separate children? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which role the Ombudsman for children has (e.g. advisory, observational, etc.) in the monitoring mechanism regarding unaccompanied minors or separate children? Please explain.</p> <p>The Spanish Ombudsman, by its organic law of 6st April 1981, and by the Organic Law 1/1996, of January 15, on the Legal Protection of Minors must ensure the protection of the rights of minors who may file complaints to the ombudsman. To this end, one of the Ombudsman’s deputies will be permanently assigned to handle matters related to minors, facilitating their access to appropriate mechanisms tailored to their needs and guaranteeing their confidentiality. Furthermore, they can visit the facilities and get access to all the documents. Source: Spanish Ombudsman.</p> <p>3. Is the Children’s Ombudsman consulted during the screening procedure on issues such as best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>This is expressly provided for in the law, the Ombudsman may play a role on these issues through its general mandate to protect and promote the rights of children. Its involvement stems from its statutory functions rather than from a specific provision in the screening procedure legislation. Source: Spanish Ombudsman.</p>
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## Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors

			<p>4. Can the Children's Ombudsman carry out unannounced visits to the screening facilities where the unaccompanied minors or separate children are being processed? YES/NO. If yes, please explain</p> <p>Under its organic law, the Ombudsman may visit facilities and has access to the relevant premises and documents. This suggests that it may carry out visits, including unannounced ones, in the exercise of its mandate. Source: Spanish Ombudsman.</p> <p>5. If you answer YES to Q.4, does the Children's ombudsman can speak in private with the child without the presence of the authorities of the screening facility? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>This should in principle be possible. However, the child cannot be compelled to speak with the Ombudsman; such communication depends on the child's willingness to do so. Source: Spanish Ombudsman.</p> <p>6. According to the monitoring mechanism put in place in your Member State does the Children's Ombudsman have access to documents, files, decisions concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children during the screening procedure? YES/NO. Please explain.</p> <p>Under its organic law, the Ombudsman has access to documents relevant to the exercise of its mandate, including documents concerning unaccompanied minors or separated children. Source: Spanish Ombudsman.</p>
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**Ad-Hoc Query on 2026.22 Screening procedure regarding unaccompanied minors**

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