



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS

The Director General

Brussels,
JUST.01/AC/rg

Mr Arun Dohle
Against Child Trafficking
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Subject : your e-mail request of 23 November 2018

Dear Mr Dohle,

I refer to your e-mail of 23 November representing the follow-up to the access to documents request registered under GESTED number 2018/3539.

As indicated by the Secretary General in his reply of 13 September 2018, your question concerning the European Commission position on what you call “right to a family” has to be treated as a request for information.

My reply follows the information already provided by DG DEVCO in relation to the access to documents request GESTDEM n. 2018/3528.

The European Commission has often underlined, in the context of its work on de-institutionalisation, the importance of preventing the separation of children from their families and of promoting the transition from institutional to community – based care (family or family-like solutions).

In the conference on the topic of quality care for children / de-institutionalization, which the European Commission organized together with the NGO Lumos in June 2018, reference was essentially made to the need to ensure that “*all children across the world can realize their right to live safely within families*” as opposed to living in institutions that are harmful to their development.

This general approach finds – where appropriate - a concrete implementation at national level and under the responsibility of national competent authorities, both in the European Union and in third countries.

Yours faithfully,

(e-signed)
Tiina Astola

