

**Question for written answer E-003472/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Damiano Zoffoli (S&D)

Subject: Protection of children's rights in the context of international adoptions in Italy

Articles 1, 4 and 5 of the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and Article 20 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child demonstrate the European Union's commitment to protecting children's rights.

In Europe, in addition to the already serious problem of child trafficking, adoption numbers have also slumped, for both economic reasons – the ongoing crisis – and administrative reasons – the complexity of the procedures.

In Italy, the situation is particularly alarming: the Commission for International Adoptions has not been operational for the past two years, and adoptions have fallen by 50%. As a result, many children are being looked after by public care services and are therefore deprived of the chance to grow up in a more homely, calmer environment.

The situation is harmful to the best interests of those children. Is the Commission aware of it?

If so, how will it call on the Italian authorities to tackle the issue of cross-border adoption of children?