

- **Petition 0712/2006 by Lidia Jochimsen (Polish), on alleged discrimination by the German youth welfare authorities against Polish speakers**

The petitioner indicates that the German youth welfare authorities called upon to deal with difficulties in mixed Polish-German households issue written or oral notification that Polish may not be used in cases where the family supervision is being sought by the German parent, involving the presence of a youth welfare authority representative specially trained in supervising relations between children and parents in cases of antisocial behaviour. The use of Polish is banned on a number of grounds, for example the argument that it is not in the educational interests of the children. The petitioner, however, argues that this contradicts the theory that bilingualism is good for children's development. The petitioner, who is herself affected by this, regards it as discrimination, arguing that the German authorities are upholding the interests of the German parent alone. She accordingly takes the view that the German youth welfare authorities are infringing the principle of children's rights and non-discrimination on the basis of nationality and is accordingly seeking action by the European Parliament.

#### **Information**

- Petition 038/2006 concerning a similar subject was dealt with as indicated below.

#### **Recommendations**

- declare admissible;
- ask the Commission for information;
- consider with Petition 0038/2006.

- **Petition 0713/2006 by Beata Monika Pokrzeptowic-Meyer (Polish), on alleged discrimination by the German youth welfare authority against Polish speakers**

The petitioner indicates that the German youth welfare authorities called upon to deal with difficulties in mixed Polish-German households issue written or oral notification that Polish may not be used in cases where the family supervision is being sought by the German parent, involving the presence of a youth welfare authority representative specially trained in supervising relations between children and parents in cases of antisocial behaviour. The use of Polish is banned on a number of grounds, for example the argument that it is not in the educational interests of the children. The petitioner, however, argues that this contradicts the theory that bilingualism is good for children's development. The petitioner, who is herself affected by this, argues that the stance adopted by the German authorities is a clear case of discrimination against Polish parents, taking the view that lack of linguistic proficiency on the part of German youth welfare authority staff responsible for supervising the children of mixed couples is no excuse. She argues that the German youth welfare authorities are infringing the principle of the rights of the child and non-discrimination on the basis of nationality and is accordingly seeking action by the European Parliament.

### **Information**

- Petitions 0038/2006 and 00712/2006, concerning a similar subject, were dealt with as indicated below.

### **Recommendations**

- declare admissible;
- ask the Commission for information;
- Consider together with other petitions on the same subject.