

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0817/01
by Gian Gobbo (TDI)
to the Commission

Subject: Situation of children in Romania

The situation of children in Romania is a matter of serious concern. A large number of reports show that many Romanian children and adolescents are the victims of daily violence and abuse. Of particular concern is the situation of orphans, who live abandoned in the streets of Bucharest and Timisoara, or in prison-like conditions in orphanages.

Many of these children also suffer from AIDS and the Romanian public services are generally incapable of covering the costs of complex medical treatment.

An equally unacceptable problem is the systematic exploitation of children by the local Rom population, which is in some cases tantamount to slavery.

- What action does the Commission intend to take to improve the situation of Romanian children during the enlargement process?

- Has the Commission received any pieces of convincing evidence relating to press revelations about alleged trafficking in Romanian children for the benefit of child abuse networks operating in the European Union, a traffic which is believed to include illegal exports of organs and in which certain international NGOs operating in Romania are alleged to be implicated?