

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0982/02
by Íñigo Méndez de Vigo (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: International adoption of Romanian children

Romania has suspended international child adoption procedures which affect Spanish families, because of possible irregularities.

Is the Commission aware of cases of adoption of Romanian children by families resident in the Member States of the EU which have given rise to abuse, whether sexual or other, or traffic in organs? If so, what are these cases and where did they occur? What steps has the Commission taken to investigate them and inform the relevant authorities of the facts?

Is it true that the moratorium on international adoptions introduced by the Romanian Government paralysed 1 197 adoption requests from Spanish families which were being processed? How many of these cases have been resolved since, under the aegis of the Emergency Order of 6 December 2001?

Is it true that at the end of last year, there were 50 000 children living in children's homes in Romania, and that 15 700 of the children had been taken into care that year? What is the annual mortality rate for children in these homes?