

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2967/03  
by Marie-Thérèse Hermange (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: European Ombudsman for children

The European Network of Ombudsmen for Children (ENOC) was created in 1997 by UNICEF at Trondheim (Norway) in order to provide a link between children's ombudsmen in Europe. The network currently includes several EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Each country or region which has an independent children's ombudsman may join the network, the main purpose of which is to ensure that children's rights are upheld to a greater extent in Europe by seeing that the Convention on Children's Rights is implemented, by supporting individual and collective action in the area and by encouraging the Member States to introduce relevant policies.

The network also acts as a forum for the exchange of information, experience and ideas between European countries, in particular by means of comparative studies.

Could the Commission not appoint an Ombudsman for children in order to increase the transparency and raise the profile of child-protection initiatives organised within Europe? Appointment of a European Ombudsman for children would enable the European network to be better coordinated and children's needs and interests to be better served.