

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0516/04  
by Anna Karamanou (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Illegal transplantation of children's organs in Albania intended for patients in EU countries

Reports have appeared in the Albanian press citing official Italian sources and stating that at a clinic in the Albanian town of Fieri children's organs are being removed and transferred for transplantation in Italy and France. According to the same Albanian press report, Italian and Albanian doctors are involved in this practice. The doctors contact Albanian networks which find the children and they remove the organs for transplantation for a fee paid to the children's parents. Finally, it is reported that 39 Albanian children have gone missing without trace, and that no one - not even their families - have searched for them.

What actions does the Commission intend to take to bring pressure to bear on the Albanian government to put an end to these grave incidents forthwith and on EU Member States to improve judicial and police co-operation?