

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3820/06  
by Alfonso Andria (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Pro-paedophilia party in the Netherlands

On 20 May 2006<sup>7</sup> the NVD (Charity, Freedom and Diversity) Party was set up in the Netherlands. Its aims include the liberalisation of child pornography and of sexual relations between adults and children and the lowering of the age of sexual consent from 16 to 12. On 17 July 2006 a court in The Hague found a complaint filed with a view to preventing the formation of the NVD to be inadmissible. The aims set out in the party's programme, which are considered by the Dutch Government to be utterly despicable, violate the main provisions of the conventions, protocols and declarations on children's rights and the abuse and sexual exploitation of children which have been signed and ratified by all EU Member States, including the Netherlands.

They are particularly at odds with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted in New York in 1989, which, among other things, stipulates that States Parties undertake to take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, including sexual abuse (Article 19) and to take all appropriate measures to prevent the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity (Article 34). In the past the Council has, in particularly serious instances involving the violation of Article 6 of the TEU, imposed the sanctions provided for in Article 7 of the TEU on the Member State concerned. The events in the Netherlands are a cause for concern because they could set a dangerous precedent in view of the real risk that they will foster unlawful behaviour and give rise to offences against children in EU Member States.

Given the above, what action does the Commission intend to take in this matter?