

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4910/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Children's rights and adoption process in Romania

With its resolution P6\_TA(2005)0531 the European Parliament called on Romania to settle the cases of application for international adoption made during the moratorium 'with the goal of allowing inter-country adoptions to take place in those special cases'.

1. Given that sufficient time has passed for domestic solutions to be found for all the children for whom international adoption was denied, does the Commission have clear evidence that each child has been adopted? If not, should not the adoption of these children by their previously identified foreign families be considered a better permanent solution for the children?
2. What discussions has the Commission had with regard to the success of domestic solutions? Has the Romanian Government been held accountable for the placement of all children whose families of origin are unable or unwilling to care for them?
3. What is the Commission's view about the new ruling by the Romanian courts on domestic adoption? The ruling allows biological parents to retain control over their child's future, requiring their permission for the child to be adopted at several court hearings along the way, including a final court hearing. Does the Commission not agree that the long bureaucratic process for domestic adoption is not in the best interest of the child? What does the Commission think about a check if the giving out of confidential data of adoptive parents to biological parents is in accordance with data protection principles?
4. Has an expedient means of registering births of all children currently in hospitals, maternity clinics, institutions for the disabled, and state care been created so that these children's rights as citizens of Romania and their best interests can be protected and upheld?
5. What is the Commission's position on institutionalised and hospitalised children being tied to beds and chairs as a means of 'keeping them safe'?
6. What is the Commission's position on abandoned children living in hospitals until age two? Only at the age of two are they legally allowed to go to children's institutions.
7. Can the Commission confirm that suicide attempts of abandoned children and children in institutions are on the rise and a major problem?