

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6948/08

by Glenys Kinnock (PSE) and Eluned Morgan (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Conditions in children's homes in Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey

Would the Commission please comment on concerns raised with us by a number of our constituents regarding the conditions in children's homes in Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey? A recent ITV documentary report by the Duchess of York highlighted the alleged maltreatment of abandoned children in children's homes in Romania and Turkey, while a number of press articles regarding the situation in Bulgaria have also recently been published by British newspapers.

In its response to Written Question P-4115/06 submitted by Glenys Kinnock MEP in 2006, which highlighted concerns about the situation in Romanian orphanages, the Commission referred to its monitoring report on Romania's progress towards EU accession and stated that it had found that the living conditions in the child institutions had improved substantially and were generally of a good standard. The Commission also referred to the Romanian Government's national action plan aiming to assist mothers at risk of abandoning their children.

As it is now two years since their accession to the EU, would the Commission please clarify whether it considers that Romania and Bulgaria have adequately improved the conditions in their children's homes in line with the requirements set out ahead of their accession?

Would the Commission also please comment on the conditions in Turkey's children's homes and provide details of what is being done to improve the conditions in light of Turkey's ongoing accession negotiations with the EU?