

WRITTEN QUESTION E-7009/08  
by Glenys Kinnock (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: International parental child abduction

Would the European Commission please clarify its position on issues of child welfare and wellbeing, which arise when bi-national marriages break down and a child is abducted by one or other parent? The Commission will be aware that under Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union on Children's Rights, children have a right to a relationship with both parents and that the interests of the child should be paramount. In 1987, the European Parliament created the post of European Parliament Mediator for International Parental Child Abduction in recognition of the problem. In light of the fact that these sorts of cases are increasingly common due to the growth of cross-border mobility within the European Union, would the Commission please provide its assessment of the issue and clarify whether it feels that there is scope to legislate in this area?