

**Question for written answer E-003955/2014/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Fabrizio Bertot (PPE)**

Subject: Streamlining adoption procedures

Intercountry adoptions, especially those involving children from non-EU countries, force families to go through a long, complicated and expensive process, which represents an extremely difficult test for all concerned. The fact that there has been an overall fall in the number of adoption procedures in a number of Member States proves this, although the economic crisis is also a factor, since families now have more limited purchasing power. Since 2007, the number of adoptions has fallen from 4 509 to 4 060 in Germany, from 3 162 to 1 343 in France, from 3 648 to 2 573 in Spain (the latest data available dates from 2011, but there has been a consistent downward trend over the years) and from 3 330 to 3 050 in Great Britain. Lastly, the number of adoptions in Italy has fallen from 3 420 in 2007 to 2 825 in 2013. In particular, the number of couples who have applied for adoption has fallen from 3 154 in 2010 to 2 291 in 2013.

On 19 January 2011, Parliament adopted a resolution in this regard to harmonise the legislation in the Member States, inviting them to improve the assistance provided to couples who have applied for adoption, in terms of information services, preparation, processing application procedures and post-adoption services.

Furthermore, bureaucratic complications and red tape, in addition to acting as a deterrent to new adoptions, can also encourage the continuing existence and even proliferation of the unacceptable and illegal trafficking of minors.

What steps has the Commission taken to respond to the requests set out in the resolution adopted by Parliament?

Does it intend to draw up bilateral agreements with the nations from which most of the children adopted in the EU originate?

How does it intend to influence international adoption procedures at the Hague Conference?