ORAL QUESTION H-0107/04 for Question Time at the part-session in March I 2004 pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure by Marialiese Flemming to the Commission

Subject: Corporal punishment of children

The national laws of Austria, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands already make provision for the protection of children from corporal punishment and maltreatment.

Given the small number of Member States which prohibit such treatment and with enlargement imminent, the pressure is growing for a standardised system of appropriate protective provision throughout Europe.

In view of the differences in national rules, it would be of great value if the Commission were to carry out a study with a view to establishing a harmonised system of child protection at European level, prohibiting corporal punishment and maltreatment.

When does the Commission intend to take action in this very important area?

Tabled: 23.02.2004

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