

**Question for oral answer O-000077/2015  
to the Council**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: Protecting the best interest of the child across borders in Europe

Having regard to rising public concern as manifested by an increasing number of petitions addressed to the European Parliament, would the Council take a position on the following issues:

1. In view of Article 81 of the TFEU on judicial cooperation in civil matters, does the Council intend to streamline principles and guidelines linked to cooperation in cross-border matters dealing with children, such as ensuring the preservation of the family unity when this is possible before a child is placed for adoption and always taking into consideration the best interest of the child? If so, does the Council envisage enhancing cooperation in this field to include these streamlined principles and guidelines to also apply in cases that do not involve cross-border matters?
2. Would the Council be willing to facilitate dialogue and the sharing of best practices with regard to the development of policies that support families in need in order to enable them to raise their children and prevent children being taken into care and placed for adoption?
3. Does the Council envisage the monitoring and coordination with respect to the functioning of the child welfare services across the EU Member States, focusing specifically on adoption practices dealing with cross-border cases, in order to ensure that the best interest of the child is preserved while respecting divergent cultural and social traditions across the EU?
4. Would the Council, in compliance with the Hague Convention, consider designating specialised family courts dealing with cross-border cases of child abduction, in order to ensure coherence and a swift return procedure in such cross-border cases and to encourage the exchange of best practices between those courts?
5. Could the Council elaborate on whether it would support any potential Commission-led European-wide initiative aimed at launching a web portal in which relevant legal information on the Member States adoption procedures, as well as the relevant authorities and institutions to turn to in cases of cross-border abductions are listed in a clear and accessible way.

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Forwarded: 19.6.2015

Deadline for reply: 10.7.2015