

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3804/06  
by Alfonso Andria (ALDE)  
to the Council

Subject: Pro-paedophilia party in the Netherlands

The PNVD party (Party of Neighbourly Love, Freedom, and Diversity, referred to below as the 'PNVD') was founded in the Netherlands on 30 May 2006. The PNVD is aiming, among other things, to liberalise child pornography and sexual relations between adults and children and to lower the age of consent from 16 to 12. On 17 July 2006 a court in The Hague ruled against a petition to prevent the PNVD being set up. The party's policy goals – which the Dutch Government has described as utterly despicable – are contrary to the standard-setting principles laid down in conventions, protocols, and declarations on the rights of the child and prevention of abuse and sexual exploitation of children that have been signed and ratified by all the EU Member States, the Netherlands included. The incompatibility is especially glaring in the light of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in New York in 1989, which in Article 19 requires States Parties to take legislative, administrative, social, and educational measures to protect children from all forms of physical violence, including sexual abuse, and in Article 34 stipulates that they must do everything appropriate to prevent children being induced to engage, or coerced into engaging, in any unlawful sexual activity. It is a worrying fact that what is happening in the Netherlands might set a dangerous precedent posing a real risk of incitement to unlawful acts and offences against children in Union countries.

What steps will the Council take in this matter? Furthermore, if the PNVD were to contest elections and some of its members were to be elected to the Dutch Parliament, would this not constitute a breach of Article 6 TEU, according to which 'The Union is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, principles which are common to the Member States'? If that were the case, and given what has occurred in the past in similar circumstances, does the Council believe that it could apply measures to the Netherlands as provided for in Article 7 TEU?