

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2211/07
by Alfonso Andria (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Inter-country adoptions in Bulgaria

The European Charter of fundamental rights and the Hague Convention stipulate that all children have the right to a family and to 'such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being'. In the European Union, which is founded on free movement of persons as well as goods, thousands of children in the various Member States are being denied this right by antiquated national legal systems that do not conform to European and international rules. As regards Bulgaria, the Deputy Minister of Justice, Margarit Ganev, issued a worrying statement on 23 February 2007 calling for the number of inter-country adoptions to be drastically cut. Furthermore, some 10 000 orphaned or abandoned children are being housed in Bulgarian specialised institutions, where sanitary conditions and standards of hygiene are wretchedly poor. Over 1600 couples are involved in inter-country adoption procedures which have been blocked de facto for three years, thus preventing many children from finding a family abroad and enjoying decent living conditions. Lastly, the written declaration of 10 July 2006 on international adoption in Romania was signed by 408 Members, and Parliament has been pursuing other initiatives in the same field.

What steps will the Commission take to deal with the very serious situation, as described above, regarding inter-country adoption of Bulgarian children by citizens of other Member States?