



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General Enlargement

B – Coordination of Negotiations and Pre-accession; Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey

The Director

08-07-2004

Brussels,
ELARG/B3/MR/RP D(2004) 102978

Dear Ms. Dillon,

I refer to your reply to my letter of 19 May in which you question the European Commission's opinion on adoptions, especially where it concerns the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The EC position is based on the work of an independent panel of EU experts on family law who have a wide ranging academic and practical experience coming from several Member States. This panel examined the Romanian draft legislation last year in order to see if it gave similar rights and protection to children as in the present member states. Their position, of course, was not based solely on the provisions of the UN CRC to which I referred in my previous letter, as the Convention is indivisible and its articles interdependent. The Panel based itself also for example on Unicef's Handbook for the Implementation of the UN CRC, which's usefulness is widely acknowledged.

I would like to underline once more that the Commission has never been opposed to intercountry adoptions as such, or adoptive parents. Our main focus has been on the system of child care in Romania in order to arrive at the usual situation in the Member States of the EU where international adoptions are the extreme exception.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. Sara Dillon

Associate Professor of Law

