

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0483/10  
by Andreas Mölzer (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Adoptions from Haiti

Aids, violence and poverty have made Haiti one of the most important countries for adoptions. About 1 300 Haitians are adopted abroad every year. Even before the earthquake, hundreds of thousands of orphans lived in orphanages and on the streets. Many European families would now like to help by adopting a child. Some countries, including France, the Netherlands and the USA, are planning to simplify the formalities in this respect.

In principle, the Commission advises against fast-track adoption procedures. That makes sense in order to prevent illegal adoptions and human trafficking. After all, experience has demonstrated that human traffickers profit all too willingly from the chaos after natural disasters. During legal adoption procedures, candidates for adoption are vetted, and the children's situation and documents are also checked. Now that the state institutions have been mostly destroyed, it is currently almost impossible to determine whether a child still has relatives.

1. Are efforts being made at EU level to accelerate adoptions which were already approved before the earthquake?
2. What is the EU's general position on adoptions from third countries?
3. To what extent are efforts being made to respond to the children's specific situation in the context of EU aid?
4. What EU measures against child trafficking have proved to be particularly successful?