

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2671/07
by Manolis Mavrommatis (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: International adoptions in the EU

According to the 2006 statistics, the annual number of international adoptions in the European Union of 27 has risen sharply, the largest number taking place in Spain followed by France, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark and the United Kingdom.

A large number of international agreements are now in existence concerning the protection of children and the provision of parental care. The 1967 European Convention on the Adoption of Children seeks to harmonise the legislation of the signatory states regarding the movement of children from one country to another for adoption purposes. Of the EU Member States, only Denmark, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom have ratified the convention. Similarly, the 1993 Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption, has been ratified by Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden alone.

What Community measures have been taken for the protection of children being adopted by European citizens? Are international agreements between EU Member States and third countries being envisaged, so as to ensure uniform protection in all EU Member States for children from third countries being adopted by EU citizens?