

Brussels, 14 December 2010

Mr Dan Constantin
Chief editor
Jurnalul National

With reference to the article entitled "Battle of International adoptions reaches peak", published in Jurnalul National on 3.12.2010, the European Commission would like to point out the following:

The "official report" referred to in the text is in fact a comparative study carried out on the request of the European Commission by an external contractor (the law firm DBB) chosen by means of an open tender procedure. The study followed a request by several Members of the European Parliament as well as a number of complaints from citizens and associations about practical difficulties faced in intra-EU adoptions. It was foreseen in the EU's "Civil Justice" programme, set up in 2007. The contractor carried out the study independently: the revisions of the work in progress were requested by the Commission only to reflect the agreed terms of reference in accordance with the financial regulations. This is the normal procedure to ensure the consultant delivers exactly what was contractually agreed. The study was published in its entirety on the website of the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters on 16 December 2009 (see: http://ec.europa.eu/civiljustice/publications/publications_en.htm). The establishment of a "European Adoption Agency" is indicated by the contractor as a policy option amongst several others. Neither the study itself, nor the European Commission, has on any occasion indicated it as the best option.

The international conference on adoption that took place in Strasbourg in December 2009 was organised jointly by the European Commission and the Council of Europe. It was open to all interested stakeholders with public announcements made by all means (web, press release). The event itself was even live web streamed. The proceedings of the joint conference will be published early in 2011 on the website of European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters. However, the presentations made by several speakers (included the Commission's representatives) are already available on the Council of Europe website. (see: http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/family/adoption_conference_EN.asp).

The European Commission would appreciate if the above mentioned remarks will be published by your newspaper as a right to reply to the article concerned.

Best regards,

Françoise LE BAIL
Director-General Justice
European Commission

