

JACQUES BARROT

*Vice-président de la Commission européenne*

Bruxelles,  
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Dear Mr. Petersen,

Thank you for the letter concerning international adoption addressed to my predecessor Franco Frattini. I welcome your interest for the Commission activities on this matter.

It must be pointed out that there is no Community legislation on adoption. Decisions on adoption, measures preparatory to adoption and the annulment or revocation of adoption are expressly excluded from the scope of application of Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003<sup>1</sup> concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgements in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility, repealing Regulation (EC) no 1347/2000. It is therefore incumbent on individual Member States to safeguard the interest of all parties concerned in this important area of family law.

International adoption is regulated by the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, to which almost all Member States are Parties.

The Commission has launched a comparative study on adoptions among the Member States of the European Union. The objective of this comparative study is to provide an analysis of the national laws and practices in this field, identify practical problems encountered by citizens, in particular those which hinder the effective exercise of parental responsibility, and indicate possible solutions to these problems having particular regard to the protection of the rights of the child. The Commission expects to receive the final report in the first half of 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility, repealing Regulation (EC) No 1347/2000, OJ L 338, 23.12.2003.

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