

## POST Roelie (ELARG)

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**From:** POST Roelie (ELARG)  
**Sent:** mercredi 30 mai 2001 11:41  
**To:** LEIGH Michael (ELARG); KONTOU Athanassia (CAB); GRILLO PASQUARELLI Enrico (ELARG)  
**Cc:** MORDUE Simon (RELEX); NEAGU Mariela (RELEX); MCCLAY Patrick (ELARG); QUINN Martijn (ELARG)

I assisted to the EP meeting to prepare the World Summit organised by Mme Hermange (with UNICEF + NGO's) and delivered a speech on children and enlargement.

MEP Mme Hermange, a contact of Mr. de Combret, told me before the meeting that she agreed to the need to review adoption legislation in Romania, but that there should not be a moratorium. She asked me to address this issue during my speech - Romania - Regular Reprot - adoption - need to change legislation - moratorium. I did not address the issue.

Mme Hermange, however, as chairperson raised it publicly after my speech. She said that the Commission, while doing a good job on this issue, should negotiate that an intermediary solution will be found until new legislation is in place.

### Speech Interpol

Sexual abuse and trafficking in children is rapidly increasing and knows many forms. Over the last decade the child protection services in the developed world have been improving, it has become very difficult to have sexual abuse in the family, in the village, in your country. So, this is how trafficking started. There is sex tourism, but more and more children are trafficked, whereby criminal rings are involved and trafficking lines go around the world - Eastern Europe is increasingly becoming a source. There is evidence from investigations in member states of institutions abusing the system for adoption of children. Often criminal organisations are behind illegal adoptions, facilitating contacts between customers from the MS and institutions in origin countries, taking care of forgery of documents and corruption of officials.

Issues to be considered for this issue:

- the age of consent for sexual contacts, there is no general agreement about this, some countries have no legislation etc.
- sufficient resources are needed for children anywhere, in order to protect them
- the majority of victims come from countries with social/political problems (involvement of gangs of criminals)
- sex tourism (children are trafficked into the EU and to US and sometimes sent on to the Far East).

For example, over the last 6 months, 96 children arrived in the UK and were taken care of by the social services. Within weeks they disappeared to Italy. When some of them were retraced, found back abused, they did not wish to file complaints and thus there was no case. Awareness with children has to be raised.

Another growing linked problem is pornography on the internet - this is an international problem, which needs international response. A recently discovered website, where 30\$ had to be paid to download pictures, had an average income of 1.5 million \$ per month. The demand for these services is increasing, because it is considered easy and anonymous.

Programmes as DAPHNE and STOP should be increased. Wealthier countries, who are responsible for the market, have a moral obligation to provide funding to set up child protection services in the delivery countries - in order to duly protect the children for any kind of abuse.

Roelie