

**U.S. MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION  
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

USEU FAX COVER SHEET  
UNCLASSIFIED

FAX: (32) 2 513-1477  
TEL: (32) 2 508-2222

Political Section

27 Boulevard du Regent  
B-1000 Brussels

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 30, 2002

**FROM:** Joe Ruth - tel. 508-2794

**TO:** Roellie Post - 299-1666  
Gabriele Scaramucci - 285-7795

**SUBJECT: Romania's Adoption Policy - The EU Position**

I believe that you are the appropriate people to receive the attached non-paper regarding Romania's adoption policy. Washington has asked me to seek clarification of the EU Commission's position. It's frankly not clear to me whether the Commission has developed a position on its own or whether the Member States play an important role. Hence, I'm sharing it with both of you. Please call me if you have any questions. I'll call tomorrow to follow up. Thanks very much for your help.

Sincerely,



*(Please pass this document without delay. Thank you.)*

### ROMANIA'S ADOPTION POLICY

-- Romanian government is continuing to review "pipeline" adoption cases -- specifically, those that had proceeded to advanced stages before the adoption moratorium was announced.

-- In parallel, a draft new adoption law has been prepared, and has been reviewed by EU, UNICEF, USAID, and other experts. If implemented correctly, the new law may significantly reduce costs for prospective adoptive parents as well as the risk of corruption in the adoption process.

-- We have urged the GOR to identify resources required to implement the law now and apprise us if assistance is needed.

-- We know that many families in the U.S. as well as in the EU are ready to provide loving homes for children who otherwise have no hope. In the interest of these children, we believe the law should be enacted and implemented as quickly as possible, and the moratorium on adoptions should be lifted.

-- The GOR appears to believe that the EU Commission (and perhaps the member states) does not want the law to be moved forward or international adoptions resumed until broader child welfare reform legislation is adopted.

-- We would appreciate a clarification of the EU Commission's position.

-- We and the EU are working together with GOR on child welfare issues and agree there's a critical need; USG has provided a \$15 million grant to that end.

-- A complete reform of the child welfare system would take years. It would be wrong to have children identified for adoption to suffer in the interim. A continued moratorium would also create potential problems in our Congress at the time of Congressional debates on Romania's candidacy for NATO accession.

-- We believe the new adoption law should be moved forward rapidly, the moratorium for pipeline and other cases lifted, and that our experts should be working with GOR now to define training and other needs to allow the law to be implemented as quickly as possible.

-- Our contacts with individual EU country embassies in Bucharest leave us convinced that there are many would-be adoptive families in EU countries who share the same anxieties and concerns held by American families who have had their adoption hopes stymied. We therefore urge that you work with us to move the adoption law forward quickly and to expeditiously resolve those pending cases adversely affected by the moratorium. At the same time we should continue to work together to promote reform of the child welfare system in Romania.