

Strasbourg, 13 March 2006

**Note for the attention of the ALDE Bureau Members**

International adoption is a phenomena which, in the context of the world today, is escalating: on the one hand the number of families wishing to adopt a child from another country is rising, and on the other, the countries of origin of the children are becoming more and more numerous.

At this current moment, the European Union does not have the competence in the matters of adoption. The legislation in place in the Member States in this area differs from one Member State to another, mainly because it touches on the national concept of the family.

This conference aims to provide an overview of the practice of international adoption, with an approach essentially centred on Europe, in terms of legislation, history, social and numbers.

Its principal objective will be to answer the following questions:

- Should the European Union follow the area of adoption or should this area remain in the strict competence of the Member State?
- International adoption, national adoption, or orphanages, what is the best solution for the well-being of the children?

The members of ALDE Group will benefit from this conference to which NGOs working in the area of international adoption will be invited (in the Member States of the EU and in the countries from where the children are adopted), experts, members of national parliaments and national governments as well as representatives from the Council and the European Commission.

Jean-Marie Cavada et Claire Gibault

**Date** Thursday 9 November 2006

**Place** European Parliament

**Interpretation** EN FR ES IT DE

**Participants :** MEPs  
National Government representatives  
Members of National Parliaments of Member States  
Defenders of children's rights  
Civil society (NGOs and in particular intermediaries for  
adoption at international level: countries of origin of the  
children and countries of adoption)  
Personalities who are or have adopted.

**Amount :** 15.000€