

Press Release

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Council of Europe parliamentarian visits Moldova to investigate disappearances of new-born babies for illegal adoption

Strasbourg, 01.02.2007 – Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC), who is preparing a report for the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) on the disappearance of new-born babies for illegal adoption, will visit Moldova from 4 to 6 February 2007.

She will seek to investigate allegations of newspaper advertisements targeting unmarried mothers who might be willing to sell their children for illegal adoption, and to look into the possible illegal trafficking of babies.

Speaking on the eve of her visit, Mrs Vermot-Mangold said: "I do not want to create a scandal just for the sake of it. My aim is to help this country – and other European countries – to fight trafficking in children, if it turns out such illegal activity is really taking place."

Her provisional programme includes meetings with NGOs involved in adoption and anti-trafficking in Moldova, as well as government officials and parliamentarians dealing with these questions. She is also due to visit maternity wards and a home for abandoned babies.

In August 2005 Mrs Vermot-Mangold visited Kharkiv in Ukraine, where she also looked into allegations that new-born babies were disappearing at birth.

Her final report – drawing together her conclusions from both visits, and any others – is due towards the end of 2007.

[Motion for a recommendation giving rise to the report](#)

Mrs Vermot-Mangold is due to give a press conference at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 6 February (location to be confirmed).

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The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 315 members from the national parliaments of the 46 member states.

President: René van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP/CD); Secretary General of the Assembly: Mateo Sorinas.

Political Groups: SOC (Socialist Group); EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); EDG (European Democratic Group); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).