

# Press Release

## Parliamentary Assembly Communication Unit

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## Assembly calls for easing of adoption rules

Strasbourg, 24.01.2008 – In a recommendation unanimously adopted today, the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) called for the easing of international adoption rules. PACE recommended a revision of the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption, to secure harmonisation in this area and greater flexibility, while continuing to ensure that children's rights are respected.

The Assembly also noted that the absence of rules on registration – in some countries there is no legal requirement to register children at birth - and general laxity in procedures have permitted the emergence of parallel circuits and trafficking in children. Establishing strict procedures, in particular for ensuring post-adoption monitoring, should lead to a considerable reduction in abuse. PACE therefore urges member states that have not yet done so to amend their family and criminal law to prevent trafficking in children and illegal adoptions.

In her report, Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC) is particularly critical of the disappearance of new-born children in Europe for the purposes of illegal adoption and the trafficking of babies for sale. During her fact-finding visits, the rapporteur met mothers who had been told by hospital officials that their babies had died shortly after birth, whereas it seems likely that they were sold for adoption. PACE therefore calls on the authorities of the countries that may be concerned to reopen the cases of newborn babies that have disappeared and conduct inquiries.

[Recommendation 1443 \(2000\) of the PACE on international adoption: respecting children's rights](#)

[Council of Europe Convention of 25 October 2007 on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#)

[Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption of 29 May 1993](#)

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 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).