

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2010/2960(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on international adoption in the European Union		
Subject 4.10.03 Child protection, children's rights		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
17/01/2011	Debate in Parliament		Summary
19/01/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/01/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0013/2011	Summary
19/01/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2010/2960(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B7-0029/2011	12/01/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0030/2011	12/01/2011	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B7-0029/2011	12/01/2011		
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B7-0670/2010	17/01/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0036/2011	17/01/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0037/2011	17/01/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0038/2011	17/01/2011	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0013/2011	19/01/2011	EP	Summary

Resolution on international adoption in the European Union

The House held a debate on Oral Question [O-0193/2010](#) to the Commission on international adoption in the European Union.

Resolution on international adoption in the European Union

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of 17 January 2011, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on international adoption in the European Union.

The resolution had been tabled by the EPP, ECR, S&D, GUE/NGL, and ALDE groups.

It calls for consideration to be given to the possibility of coordinating at European level strategies concerning the instrument of international adoption, in order to improve assistance in the areas of information services, preparation for inter-country adoption, the processing of applications for international adoption and post-adoption services, bearing in mind that all international conventions relating to the protection of the rights of the child recognise the right of orphaned or abandoned children to have a family and to be protected. The Commission is asked to consider the functioning of national systems at European level. Members feel that priority should be given, whenever possible and in the child's best interests, to adoption in the child's country of origin, with possible alternatives being a family-care solution, such as foster or residential care, or finding a family through international adoption, in accordance with relevant national legislation and international conventions, and that placement in an institution should be used only as a temporary solution. They emphasise that the national legislation of the country of origin of the family seeking a child for international adoption must apply when it comes to children's rights protection in the long term.

The resolution notes that in Europe the problem of precarious childhood, and in particular that of abandoned and institutionalised children, is a significant one and should be treated with the utmost seriousness. Violations of the rights of children and child trafficking for adoption, prostitution, illegal labour, forced marriage and begging on the streets or for any other illegal purpose, remain a problem in the EU. Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the European Charter of Fundamental Rights has become binding and states that children shall have the right to such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being. Furthermore, the Lisbon Treaty states that the protection of the rights of the child is a Union objective.

Parliament urges Member States, the Commission: and EU institutions as appropriate:

- in cooperation with the Hague Conference, the Council of Europe and children's organisations, to develop a framework to ensure transparency and effective assessment of trends concerning abandoned and adopted children, including those who have undergone international adoption, and to coordinate their actions in an effort to prevent child trafficking for adoption;
- to play a more active role at the Hague Conference in order to exert pressure on the Conference to improve, streamline and facilitate international adoption procedures and to eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy, whilst committing themselves to safeguarding the rights of children from third countries;
- to recognise the psychological, emotional, physical and social/educational implications of removing a child from his or her place of origin and to offer appropriate assistance to the adoptive parents and the adopted child;
- to pay particular attention to children with special needs, such as children who require medical care and disabled children;
- to participate actively in the fight against child trafficking for adoption.

Lastly, Parliament recognises that procedural safeguards and proper scrutiny of all the adoption documents, including birth certificates, help to protect a child against violations of his or her rights stemming from doubts over age or identity. A reliable system of birth registration can prevent child trafficking for adoption. Accordingly, Parliament calls for consideration to be given to legal solutions to facilitate the mutual recognition of the documents necessary for adoption.