



Doc. 13113 rev.
29 January 2013

Intercountry adoption: children as hostages of international relations

Written declaration No. 536

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

1. We are worried about the situation of Russian children who are taken as hostages of transatlantic diplomatic tensions following the interruption by the Russian Federation of intercountry adoption procedures involving the United States of America as a "receiving country".
2. On the pretext of protecting Russian children against violence, the State Duma, in December 2012, adopted a new law prohibiting the intercountry adoption of Russian children by American families. This may affect numerous children, given that about 650 000 Russian children are currently estimated to be growing up without parental care and about 60 000 were placed in American families in the past 20 years.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to the fact that the child's best interest must be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies", as provided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We call upon the Russian authorities to revoke the above-mentioned decision.
4. Especially in times of economic crisis, children as a vulnerable group (including many children with disabilities) must not be further victimised by short-sighted political decisions, but be given the widest range of care options possible.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

RUPPRECHT Marlene, Germany, SOC
ANDERSEN Karin, Norway, UEL
BODEN Fernand, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
BONET PEROT Sílvia Eloísa, Andorra, SOC
DOBBIN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
FRITZ Erich Georg, Germany, EPP/CD
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE
HANSON Margus, Estonia, ALDE
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
KYRIAKIDES Stella, Cyprus, EPP/CD
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
McNAMARA Michael, Ireland, SOC
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
ROUQUET René, France, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHUSTER Marina, Germany, ALDE
STROE Ionuț-Marian, Romania, ALDE
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden, SOC
WERNER Katrin, Germany, UEL

Total = 20

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left