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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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Doc. 13144
18 March 2013

Serious violation of the Lanzarote Convention by the Netherlands

Reply to Written question[1]: Written question No. 621 (Doc. 13065)
Committee of Ministers

1. In reply to the Honourable Parliamentarian's Written Question, the Committee of Ministers observes that according to information received from the Dutch authorities, the Netherlands considers that it has properly investigated the case in question. The case is currently pending before the Hague Court of Appeal. The Dutch Government underlines that combating sexual exploitation of children is a priority and that it has ratified and is implementing the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse ("Lanzarote Convention", CETS No. 201).

2. The Committee of Ministers wishes to inform the Honourable Parliamentarian that it is not part of the monitoring procedure provided for by the Lanzarote Convention. This is the mandate of the Committee of the Parties ("Lanzarote Committee"), composed of representatives of the Parties to the Convention, including representatives of the Parties that may accede to the Convention under Articles 45 and 46 (Chapter X of the Convention), and in which the Parliamentary Assembly has a representative. Thus, the Committee of Ministers as such is not in a position to reply to questions concerning the effective implementation of the Convention.

3. Finally, the Committee of Ministers reiterates its strong support for the Lanzarote Convention as a major instrument to combat sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. The Committee of Ministers encourages all member States that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

1. Adopted at the 1165th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (13 March 2013).