

APROBAT



20 iunie 2006

INFORMARE

privind participarea la reunirea Comisiei pentru mediu, agricultură probleme locale și regionale a A.P.C.E. (Paris 11-12 mai 2006), reuniunea Comisiei pentru egalitatea de șanse pentru femei și bărbați a A.P.C.E. (Paris 15 – 16 mai 2006) și reuniunea Comisiei pentru probleme sociale, sănătate și familie a A.P.C.E. (Strasbourg, 16 mai 2006 și Stockholm, 18-19 mai 2006)

În perioada 11 – 19 mai a.c., la Paris, Strasbourg și Stockholm s-au desfășurat reuniunile următoarelor comisii ale A.P.C.E.: Comisia pentru mediu, agricultură, probleme locale și regionale; Comisia pentru egalitatea de șanse pentru femei și bărbați și Comisia pentru probleme sociale, sănătate și familie.

Din partea Delegației Parlamentului României la A.P.C.E. au participat: doamna deputată Minodora Cliveti, președinta Comisiei pentru egalitatea de șanse pentru femei și bărbați a A.P.C.E., domnul deputat Cezar Florin Preda, Vicepreședinte al A.P.C.E., domnul deputat Ștefan Glăvan și doamna consilier Nadia Ionescu, secretara Delegației Parlamentului României la A.P.C.E.

În cadrul reuniunii Comisiei pentru mediu, agricultură, probleme locale și regionale a A.P.C.E. s-a decis decernarea Premiului European pentru anul 2006 orașului Szeged din Ungaria. De asemenea, au fost supuse spre examinare și adoptare mai multe rapoarte precum: Incendiile forestiere: consecințele asupra mediului și efectul politicilor de planning asupra spațiului; Agricultură și angajările ilegale din Europa; După Kyoto: cel de al doilea pilon de luptă împotriva schimbărilor climatice - acumularea de dioxid de carbon.

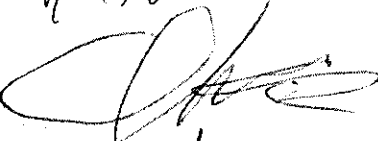
Cu ocazia reuniunii Comisiei pentru egalitatea de șanse pentru femei și bărbați a A.P.C.E., a avut loc prezentarea raportului „Parlamentele unite în combaterea violenței domestice asupra femeilor”, a cărui autoare este doamna deputată Minodora Cliveti, precum și o audiere cu privire la rolul femeii în societate.

În prima parte a lucrărilor Comisiei pentru probleme sociale, sănătate și familie a Adunării Parlamentare a Consiliului Europei a avut loc o reuniune comună cu membrii Academiei Naționale de Medicină a Franței. În cea de a doua parte a lucrărilor, Comisia s-a reunit la Stockholm, unde s-a desfășurat conferința cu tema "Să construim o Europă cu și pentru copii". Cu această ocazie, Majestatea Sa Regina Silvia a Suediei a susținut o alocuțiune prin care a salutat eforturile parlamentarilor europeni în vederea elaborării unor strategii și politici prin care condițiile de viață ale copiilor să fie mai bune, violența și abuzurile față de aceștia să fie combătute, iar drepturile, garantate prin Convenția privind drepturile copilului, să devină o realitate. Printre participanți s-au numărat: doamna Ingrid Burman, Președinta Comisiei pentru sănătate și bunăstare din cadrul Parlamentului suedez, doamna Berit Andnor, Ministra pentru afaceri sociale a Suediei, doamna Marta Santos Pais, Directoarea Centrului de Cercetare Innocenti din cadrul UNICEF. Pe parcursul lucrărilor parlamentarii români au prezentat eforturile autorităților române vizând îmbunătățirea condițiilor de viață pentru toți copii României, inclusiv pentru cei cu nevoi speciale, transpunerea acquis-ului comunitar în legislația națională și implementarea tuturor normelor referitoare la eliminarea oricărei forme de violență, abuz sau discriminare în privința copiilor.

Deputată Minodora CLIVETI



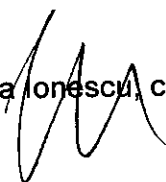
Deputat Cezar Florin PREDA



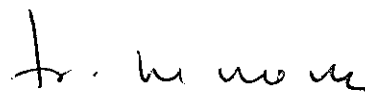
Deputat Ștefan GLĂVAN



red. Nadia Ionescu, consilier



D G A E



AS/ENA (2006) OJ 05

20 April 2006

AENAOJ_06_05

MME IONESCU NADIA
CONSEILLERE PARLEMENTAIRE
CHAMBRE DES DEPUTES
CAMERA DEPUTATILOR
CALEA IZVOR 5, SECTOR 5
RO - 010086 BUCAREST
ROUMANIE
044 30

Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs

DRAFT AGENDA

for the meeting to be held in PARIS

at the Council of Europe Office

(55 avenue Kléber, Paris 16^{ème} – *métro station Boissière*)

(tel: +33 (0) 1 44 05 33 60, fax: +33 (0) 1 47 27 36 47)

on **Friday 12 May 2006** (from 9.30 am to approx 5.30 pm)

1. **Agenda**
[AS/ENA (2006) OJ 05]

Adoption of the draft agenda

2. **Minutes**
[AS/ENA (2006) PV 04]

Approval of the draft minutes of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 12 April 2006

3. **Statement by the Chair**

***This draft agenda, addressed to members of the Committee and their alternates, is the
convocation to the meeting***

Copy to Secretaries of national delegations

4. **2nd Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Agriculture (Strasbourg, 28-29 September 2006)**

Presentation by **Mr Bertrand Hervieu**, Secretary General of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (ICAMAS) of the Annual reports for 2005 and 2006
Exchange of views
5. **Forest fires: the consequences for the environment and the effect of spatial planning policies**
Rapporteur: Mr Txueka, Spain, ALDE
[AS/ENA (2006) ..., AS/ENA (2006) 21 rev]

Adoption of a draft recommendation
6. **Agriculture and illegal employment in Europe**
Rapporteur : Mr Dupraz, Switzerland, ALDE
[AS/ENA (2006) ... + ...]

Report by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Andalusia (Spain) on 3-4 April and consideration of the programme of the visit to the Bouches du Rhone (France) on 15-16 May 2006
Exchange of views
7. **Europe Prize**
[AS/ENA (2006) ..]

Final selection of the 2006 winners of the Europe Prize, Plaques of Honour, Flags and European Diplomas, on the basis of the proposals submitted by the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize
8. **Seal hunting**
Rapporteur: Mr Nessa, Italy, EPP/CD
[AS/ENA (2006) 12 + 25]

Presentation of a draft explanatory memorandum by the Rapporteur
Exchange of views
9. **The promotion of local self-government along Council of Europe borders**
Rapporteur: Mr Gubert, Italy, EPP/CD
[AS/ENA (2006) ..]

Presentation of a draft explanatory memorandum by the Rapporteur
Exchange of views
10. **Beyond Kyoto: the second pillar in the fight against climate change – accumulation of carbon dioxide**
Rapporteur: Mr Grachev, Russia, EDG
[AS/ENA (2006) 23]

Presentation of a preliminary draft explanatory memorandum by the Rapporteur
Exchange of views

11. **E-waste and its consequences for the environment**
Rapporteur: Mr Coşkunoglu, Turkey, SOC
[AS/ENA (2006) ...]

Presentation of an outline report by the Rapporteur
Exchange of views

12. **Replies by the Committee of Ministers to adopted texts concerning the Committee**
[Doc. 10870, Rec. 1725 (2005), AS/ENA (2006) 24]

- Europe and bird flu – preventive measures in the health field

13. **Work programme of the Committee**
[AS/ENA (2006) 02 rev 5]

- A. **Appointment of rapporteurs**
- B. **Reports on past events**
- C. **Forthcoming activities**

14. **Other business**

15. **Future meetings**

Strasbourg, 30 May - 1st June 2006: *Sub-Committee on Local and Regional Democracy* on the occasion of the plenary session of the Congress

Paris (CoE Office) 9 June 2006 – *Plenary committee*

Riga (Latvia), 16-17 June 2006: *Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development* on the occasion of the Conference on Energy Co-operation around the Baltic Sea

Strasbourg, during the 3rd Assembly part-session (26-30 June 2006)

Strasbourg, 28-29 September 2006: *Plenary committee* on the occasion of the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Agriculture

Restricted
AS/Soc (2006) OJ 4
9 May 2006

Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee

Draft agenda¹

of the meeting to be held in Stockholm
on Thursday 18 May (at 10.15 am) and Friday 19 May 2006
[Riksdagen, former Förstakammarsalen, 1st Chamber, entry at Rikspan]

1. Opening of the meeting

- Opening of the meeting by Mr Marcel Glesener, Chair of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee
- Welcoming words by Mrs Helena Bargholtz, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Children

2. Agenda

AS/Soc (2006) OJ 4

Adoption of the draft agenda

3. Minutes

AS/Soc (2006) PV 3

Approval of the draft minutes of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 10, 11 and 12 April 2006

4. Address by Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden (Friday 19 May, 10.45)

5. Building a Europe for and with Children : exchange of views on children's rights in Sweden

- **Swedish Child Policy – In the best interests of the child** by Mrs Berit Andnor, Minister for Social Affairs
- **15 years after the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child : Implementation of the Convention in Sweden** by Mrs Lena Nyberg, Children Ombudsman
- **Focus on Children** by Mrs Ingrid Burman (MP) Chairperson of the Riksdag Committee on Health and Welfare
- **Children's rights to protection against crime: a public responsibility** by Dr Pernilla Leviner, University of Stockholm, Karolinska Institutet

¹ This draft agenda, addressed to members and alternates of the **Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee**, to observers and special guests (copy to secretaries of national delegations), serves as the convocation to the meeting.

6. **Europe-wide ban on corporal punishment of children : follow-up to the Assembly's report and to the 3rd Summit of Heads of States and Governments**
Mrs Helena Bargholtz (Sweden, ALDE)

Communication by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views

7. **The role of national institutions in the promotion of children's rights** by Mrs Marta Santos Pais,
Director, Innocenti Research Centre, Unicef, Florence

8. **HIV/AIDS in Europe**
Mrs Christine McCafferty (United Kingdom, SOC)
AS/Soc (2006) 12

Communication by the Rapporteur and exchange of views on a preliminary draft report

9. **Demographic Challenges for Social Cohesion**
Mr Michael Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE)
AS/Soc (2006) 14
Doc. 10923

Exchange of views and approval of a draft opinion

10. **European Prisons Charter**
Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Ali Riza Gülçiçek, Turkey, SOC
AS/Soc (2006) 17
Doc. 10922

Exchange of views and approval of a draft opinion

11. **Work programme of the Committee**

Reports on meetings

- Ad hoc Sub-Committee on the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Revised European Social Charter (Strasbourg, 3 May 2006)
- Joint meeting of the Sub-Committee on Health with the Chairmen of the Academies of Medicine of the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, France and Belgium (Strasbourg, 16 May 2006)
- Conference of European Ministers responsible for family affairs (Lisbon, 16 and 17 May 2006)

12. **Any other business**

13. **Date and place of next meetings**

Strasbourg – 3rd part of the Assembly session, 26-30 June 2006

Paris (Senate, Room Clemenceau) – Conference on the situation of ageing persons in Europe, 13 September 2006

Paris CE – Plenary Committee, 14 September 2006

Strasbourg – 4th part of the Assembly session, 2-6 October 2006

Restricted
AS/Soc (2006) 15
19 April 2006

Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee

Preliminary draft programme

for the meeting to be held on **18 – 19 May 2006, Stockholm**
Riksdagen, "Förstakammarsalen", former 1st Chamber. Enter at Rikspan

A contribution to the Council of Europe's programme for children "Building a Europe for and with Children by promoting children's rights, awareness raising and information and by fighting violence against children"

Wednesday 17 May 2006

Arrival of participants
Accommodation at Hotel Reisen or Gamla Stan

Thursday 18 May 2006

Morning

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 09.30 am | Registration of the participants |
| 10.15 am | Opening of the meeting by Mr Glesener, Chair of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly
Welcoming words by Mrs Helena Bargholtz (Sweden), Chair of the Sub-Committee on Children |
| 10.20 am | Mrs Berit Andnor, Minister for Social Affairs
<i>Swedish Child Policy – "In the best interest of the child"</i> |
| 10.45 am | Lena Nyberg, Children's Ombudsman
<i>15 years after the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Implementation of the convention in Sweden</i>
Exchange of views |
| 11.30 am | Coffee break |
| 11.50 am | Mrs Ingrid Burman (MP), Chairperson of the Riksdag Committee on Health and Welfare
<i>Focus on Children</i>
Exchange of views |
| 12.30 am | Lunch at the invitation of Mrs Ingrid Burman, Chairperson of the Committee on Health and Welfare |

Afternoon

- 14.15 – 17.30 Committee meeting

Exchange of views on:

- *Follow-up to the Assembly's adoption of the report on a Europe-wide ban on corporal punishment of children and to the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government (Warsaw, May 2005) : Mrs Helena Bargholtz (Sweden, ALDE)*
- *Children's rights to protection against crime – a public responsibility*
Ms Pernilla Levner, University of Stockholm, Karolinska Institutet
- *HIV/AIDS in Europe*
Rapporteur: Mrs Christine McCafferty (United Kingdom, SOC)
- *Demographic Challenges for Social Cohesion*
Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Michael Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE)

Evening

- 19.00 pm Departure by boat from Skeppsbron (Hotel Reisen)
- 20.00 pm Dinner at the invitation of the Swedish PACE Delegation
Venue: Nacka Strand
Host : Mrs Carina Ohlsson
- 22.30 pm Departure from Nacka to Skeppsbron by boat

Friday 19 May 2006

- 10.00 am Continuation of the meeting

Mrs Marta Santos Pais, Director, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre
The role of national independent institutions in the promotion of childrens' rights
- 10.45 am Statement by Her Majesty the Queen of Sweden
- 11.00 am Concluding words by Mrs Helena Bargholtz and Mr Marcel Glesener
- 11.20 am Departure from the Riksdag (Riksplan) to Karolinska Institutet
- 12.00 am Luncheon at the invitation of the Karolinska Institutet
- 13.15 pm Presentation of research projects
- 15.00-17.00 pm Visit to Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital

End of the programme
Departures to the airport / return to the hotels



Council of Europe

Note
to Editors

tel : +33 (3)88 41 25 60 / fax : +33 (3)88 41 39 11 / e-mail : pressunit@coe.int

Sa Majesté la Reine Silvia participe à une réunion de l'APCE sur les droits de l'enfant en Suède

Strasbourg, 17.05.2006 - Sa Majesté la Reine Silvia participera à l'échange de vues sur les droits de l'enfant en Suède que la Commission des questions sociales de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe (APCE) organise à Stockholm le 18 mai 2006.

Berit Andnor, Ministre des Affaires sociales, prononcera une allocution sur la politique de la Suède pour l'enfant, tandis que l'Ombudsman pour les enfants, Lena Nyberg, analysera les 15 ans qui ont suivi l'application de la Convention des droits de l'enfant de l'ONU dans ce pays. Ingrid Burman, Présidente de la Commission parlementaire de la santé et du bien être, abordera la politique de priorité aux enfants, tandis que le Dr Pernilla Leviner, de l'Université de Stockholm, discutera des droits de l'enfant à la protection contre le crime : une responsabilité publique.

La réunion fait partie de la contribution de l'APCE au programme du Conseil de l'Europe «Edifier une Europe pour et avec les enfants ».

[Projet d'ordre du jour \(PDF\)](#)

Lieu et date :

jeudi 18 mai 2006 à 10h15 - Riksdagen, ancienne Förstakammarsalen, 1ère chambre.

Contact : Unité de communication de l'APCE, + 33 3 88 41 31 93, pace.com@coe.int

Her Majesty Queen Silvia takes part in a PACE meeting on childrens' rights in Sweden

Strasbourg, 17.05.2006 – Her Majesty Queen Silvia will take part in an exchange of views on childrens' rights in Sweden being organised by the Social Affairs Committee of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) in Stockholm on 18 May 2006.

Social Affairs Minister Berit Andnor will speak on Swedish child policy and Childrens' Ombudsperson Lena Nyberg will analyse 15 years of Sweden's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Chair of the Swedish Parliament's Health and Welfare Committee Ingrid Burman will discuss the "focus on children" policy, while Dr Pernilla Leviner of Stockholm University will address the public's responsibility in protecting children from crime.

The meeting will form from part of PACE's contribution to the Council of Europe programme "Building a Europe for and with children".

[Draft agenda \(PDF\)](#)

Place and time:

Thursday 18 May at 10.15 a.m. in the Riksdagen, former Förstakammarsalen, 1st chamber.

Contact: PACE Communication Unit, +33 3 88 41 31 93, pace.com@coe.int

ED043b06



**Karolinska
Institutet**

Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Visit at the Karolinska Institutet, May 19, 2006

Program

- 12:00 Lunch at Svarta Räfven, Faculty Club at Karolinska Institutet
- 13:00 Transportation by bus to Skandia-salen, Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital
- 13:20 Welcome
Professor Harriet Wallberg-Henriksson, President, Karolinska Institutet

Presentations

Chair: *Dr. Martin Grann, director Center for Violence Prevention (CVP)*

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 13:30-13:40 | General introduction
<i>Dr. Martin Grann, CVP</i> |
| 13:40-14:00 | The "Shaken Baby Syndrome" - a most difficult clinical diagnosis.
How to improve the medical clinical diagnosis.
<i>Dr. Olof Flodmark, Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital</i> |
| 14:00-14:20 | The cycle of violence: History of trauma and abuse in juvenile delinquents.
<i>Dr. Vladislav Ruchkin, CVP</i> |
| 14:20-14:40 | Violent video games - entertainment or training in aggressive behavior?
<i>Dr. Frank Lindblad, Institute of Psychosocial Medicine</i> |
| 14:40-15:00 | Children and justice: The shared responsibility of the health profession and the legal system.
<i>Dr. Clara Gumpert, Forensic Psychiatry</i> |
| 15:00-15:20 | Pedophilia: Current challenges in crime prevention and treatment.
<i>Dr. Niklas Långström, CVP</i> |
| 15:20-15:45 | Coffee |
| 15:45-16:00 | Presentation of Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital
<i>Dr. Hans Forssberg, Professor in Neuropediatrics and Vice President, Karolinska Institutet, and Dr Peter Graf, Chief Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital</i> |
| 16:00-17:00 | Conducted tour of Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital |



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Memorandum

12 May

Ministry of Health and Social
Affairs
Sweden

Check against delivery!

Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs,
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,
Stockholm 18 - 19 May, 2006

Address by Ms Berit Andnor, Minister for Social
Affairs, Sweden, on Swedish Child Policy - in the best
interest of the child

Distinguished Members of the Parliamentary Assembly,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to have been invited to present
Swedish child policy to you. I am also very happy that
the Committee has chosen child policy as the theme for
its meeting in Sweden, thus contributing to the
Programme "Building a Europe for and with Children".

My address will give a general overview of Swedish
child policy, and I would also like to take the opportunity
to address some of our common problems in Europe in
connection with the rights of the child.

Over the past five years the work on the rights of the child has evolved into a separate policy area in Sweden – child policy.

The reason for this is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Child Convention, which has been of decisive importance in changing the view of children, from being objects of the adult world's care and benevolence to being subjects with their own rights, entitled to respect for their person, integrity and opinions.

Thus the Child Convention is the basis for our efforts to improve conditions of children and young people in society. The basic principles and intentions of the Convention are also reflected in the objectives of our child policy: "Children and young people are to be respected and to have opportunities for development and security, as well as participation and influence."

Ever since Sweden ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 we have worked systematically to fulfil the Convention requirements. Funds have been set aside for information campaigns to raise the level of awareness and knowledge about the rights of the child. A broad parliamentary review has been made of Swedish

legislation and practice. Our legislation is subject to continuing adjustment aimed at strengthening the children's perspective. A national strategy was adopted by a unanimous Riksdag. It aims to reflect the Child Convention in all public decisions and in all activities that concern children and young people. Central parts of the strategy aim at increasing our knowledge and helping us to develop methods among decision-makers and occupational groups concerned at various levels of society.

The Government also gives priority to measures allowing children and young people to voice their opinions on all matters that concern them, such as custody, housing and access, or assistance and child care issues within the social services, but also on matters that concern community planning and traffic, crime prevention and Internet use. We have a Children's Ombudsman who provides support and is proactive at different levels of society – you will soon be meeting her. The Government also imposes clear requirements on its agencies to integrate a children's perspective into their activities.

In addition to this state support given to families with children, both as regards finances and parenthood itself, is of course fundamental to a child's growth.

The basis of family policy is the best interest of the child, according to the Child Convention, along with universal welfare and gender equality.

Universal welfare systems are financed jointly and cover the whole population. They contribute to equality in conditions of life, and between men and women.

In our model, employment is the key, both for men and women. Consequently, the right conditions must exist for both men and women to reconcile family and work.

The Swedish parental insurance scheme is generous and flexible. Together with child care services or out-of-school activities, which are affordable, easily accessible and of high quality, it gives both men and women the opportunity to reconcile family and work. This, in turn, has contributed to the fact that Sweden has managed to combine high labour force participation rates for women with fairly high fertility rates.

In 2004, the labour force participation rate for women in Sweden was 76.6 per cent. At the same time, the fertility rate in Sweden was 1.75 children per woman.

Children's participation in child care services in Sweden is very high: 83 per cent of all children aged between one and five take part in pre-school and child care activities, full time or part time depending on the working hours of their parents.

In an equal society, when it comes to work and children, the one should not exclude the other in any situation. The fact that single parents in Sweden, unlike many in other countries, are in such a good position is mainly because the majority of women are in paid work. About 73% of single mothers have a job. But this would not be possible without childcare.

The emphasis on employment, in combination with the universal welfare system and targeted special family support measures has resulted in very low child poverty rates, compared with other countries, as has been shown by an OECD study.

The child needs to establish a close relationship with both its parents. In Sweden, the paid parental benefit days are divided equally between the parents, but they can be transferred between the parents. To encourage men to make more use of their right to parental leave, we now apply a system where two months are reserved for each parent, which cannot be transferred.

Parental benefit gives parents 80% of their qualifying income, but there is a ceiling. One of the reasons men fail to claim more parental leave could be that they usually earn more than women and that the loss of income is therefore greater when they stay at home. The Government has recently presented a Bill to the Riksdag proposing a higher income ceiling. This way, more parents will actually receive 80 % of their normal income.

Distinguished Delegates,

The work of creating favourable and secure conditions in which children and young people can grow up, and preventing their exposure to abuse and violation has been in progress for a long time in Sweden. For example, I

would like to mention that corporal punishment has been prohibited for almost thirty years.

Children are entitled to protection against all forms of violence in the home. Children are closest to their parents, and violence always does great damage to children in their relationship with their parents.

Our experience shows that a special law against corporal punishment of children has been of major importance for making parents, professionals, the public and children themselves aware that it is forbidden to hit children. Attitudes have changed radically in the years since the Act came into force, and at present the legal ban on corporal punishment of children has wide support.

But when we look at the situation in Europe, we note that at present only 16 of the Council of Europe's 46 member states have passed legislation against corporal punishment of children. It is unacceptable that bringing a child up using corporal punishment can still be perceived as a private family matter, and that society cannot interfere in how parents discipline their children. Ignorance exists in many quarters as to the effect of violence on children.

The Child Convention instructs us all to protect children against all types of violence. Not least from a children's rights perspective, corporal punishment of children in my opinion must be forbidden in all the Council of Europe's member states as soon as possible.

We are, of course, willing to share our experience. Legislation must be accompanied by broad information measures directed at influencing the attitudes of parents, decision-makers and the public. Parents must also be given support and help in their parental role so that they understand that bringing up a child does not go hand in hand with corporal punishment, and that violence must be avoided even in frustrating situations.

Not all children in Europe are able to grow up in their own family. Many have to spend their childhood in institutions. If the child cannot be placed in a foster family or adoptive family, international adoptions provide another chance of a family for the child, which will give them a secure upbringing in another country.

Many of the children given up for intercountry adoption are of Roma origin. They are often overrepresented in comparison with other children. We must all ask ourselves why Roma children do not have the same

chances of living with their biological parents or in a family in their country of origin.

Moreover, in the long-term perspective, there may be reason to question whether we who live in different countries in Europe should continue to adopt each other's children. At present very many children in European countries are given up for adoption in other European countries.

We should work together more actively in Europe to enable children to have the benefit of growing up with their parents or in another family in their home country.

In conclusion: Sweden has come far in its efforts to improve the living conditions of children and young people, but we still have far to go – we can and should constantly strive to become even better. Many countries in Europe are well equipped to go further in their policies for children and young people than the minimum standard set by the Child Convention. At the same time, we must be aware of, and receptive to, the needs that other countries may have for support in meeting the requirements of the Child Convention. The Convention provides an excellent foundation for cooperation, since

we all, in acceding to the Convention, have agreed on a common basic outlook as regards our children, their needs and their rights.

The Council of Europe thus plays an important part in promoting and supporting the rights of the child in all European countries, and I welcome the decision by the Warsaw summit last year to start the programme “Building a Europe for and with children”, and the work that is under way to implement it.

Thank you for your attention.