

Question for written answer E-014738/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Arne Gericke (ECR)

Subject: Criticism of German youth welfare offices - scandal in Gelsenkirchen

The high number of young people being taken into care by German youth welfare offices has repeatedly been the subject of criticism - the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions alone has received some 500 petitions on this subject. The Committee is also critical of this phenomenon and has set up a special working group to examine it. Legal proceedings are still under way in Gelsenkirchen (D) against senior officials of the youth welfare office, who housed more than 250 German children in Hungarian children's homes after taking them into care and are supposed to have also made a profit out of it.

1. Has the Hungarian company 'Neustart Reszocializációs Kft' (company registration number 02-09-069761) based in Pécs received EU funds or EU Structural Fund resources (possibly via the Project 'KÖSZI Prof') since 2005?
2. Does the Commission share the critical position of the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions as regards the actions of youth welfare offices in Germany and the high number of young people being taken into State care?
3. Are comparative figures available for the number of children taken into care in the EU Member States?