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Commissioner Olli Rehn,  
DG Enlargement  
The European Commission  
200 Rue de la Loi  
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Dear Commissioner,

British newspapers reported last year that, despite assurance by the Commission to the contrary, large numbers of Romanian orphans, many of them with physical disabilities and special learning needs, were still living in appalling conditions in the country's orphanages. I recognise that tackling the enormous problems in this area is a considerable task and that the Commission has been doing its utmost to help the Romanian authorities get the situation under control. However, UK based organisations working in Romania claim that, in order to meet the conditions for accession earlier this year, children were being moved to remote orphanages away from the scrutiny of Commission staff and subjected to the same degrading treatment meted out under Ceausescu's regime.

I would be grateful, therefore, to learn the extent of Commission monitoring on this matter and what procedures are in place to protect against attempts to side step inspection and ensure any progress made to date is verified and is ongoing.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.