

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



BARONESS NICHOLSON OF WINTERBOURNE

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
PRESIDENT, DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH IRAQ
VICE PRESIDENT, WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF THE EUROMED ASSEMBLY

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Mr Bernard Kouchner
Foreign Minister
Republic of France

20 November 2008

Dear President-in-Office, dear Bernard -
Lead Poisoning in IDP Roma families in Kosovo

You will recall that during your time in office on behalf of the UN and the international community a block of IDPs of Roma families were placed by UNHCR on the tailing stands of a lead mine. I recall visiting them myself in September 1999 when I also had a honour of meeting with you.

You stated then that these families would be moved immediately. I know you will be appalled as I that some families are still there. The inevitable consequences of continuing exposure to environmental lead poisoning will be clear to you as was the case in 1999.

I raised the question with Mr Jouyet this morning and attach my letter to him in the strong belief that you will exercise your authority as President-in-office of Council by moving the families to a transitional safe haven with medical care provided whilst assisting them to plan for a long and healthier future.

With every good wish,

Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne MEP

Enclosures