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Kennedy calls for meeting with new Bulgarian Ambassador

DUBLIN NORTH'S Fianna Fail Deputy Michael Kennedy has asked newly appointed Bulgarian Ambassador Emil Savov Yalnazov to meet with him to discuss the horrific situation facing orphans in Bulgaria.

Deputy Michael Kennedy said: "I have been campaigning for an improvement in orphanages since I came into contact with Kate Blewett and her film Bulgaria's Abandoned Children which was broadcast in November, detailing the inhumane conditions in which children at the Mogilino Care Home were being kept."

"Shortly after its broadcast, I highlighted the issue in the Dail, appealing for urgent action to be taken by the Irish Government, as a member state of the EU and also as the home of hundreds of property investors in Bulgaria."

"I have since heard from the producers of the programme, who have formed a charity trust to help improve the circumstances of children in the care home. I am informed that many improvements have been made, although standards are still not completely satisfactory."

"As a result, I have requested that the newly appointed Bulgarian Ambassador meet with me, so I can get a better idea of what his Government's plans are for orphanages."

"Programme makers have been invited to show the film at the European Parliament in March, before which there will be a hearing on the whole area of the state of care in the Bulgarian mental health sector."

"I am determined to continue monitoring this situation," concluded Deputy Kennedy.