

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2008/2203(INI)

20.1.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Development

on a special place for children in EU external action
(2008/2203(INI))

Rapporteur: Milan Horáček

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Points out that half of the world's population are children; stresses in this respect the need to consider children's rights as a priority of EU development policy; recalls that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child made children's rights an inalienable part of human rights in general, and therefore calls on the Council and the Commission to include this issue in all bilateral and multilateral human rights and political dialogues, and to include children's rights in its social, educational and economical policies;
2. Calls on the Commission and the Council to give high priority to children's rights in their dialogues with developed and middle-income countries, and to coordinate action to address certain particularly difficult issues (such as China's role in Sudan, children in armed conflict, etc.);
3. Calls on the Commission and EU Member States to promote the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the protocols thereto, and to enhance the support given to reforms of third countries' legal systems which are designed to protect children;
4. Calls on the Commission to increase the coherence of measures to support children's rights as between EIDHR and thematic and geographic budget lines, and to take into account the most vulnerable children, especially those involved in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations and those living in least-developed countries;
5. Requests the Commission to include the issues of street children and the fight against child trafficking in its policies vis-à-vis Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood countries, and to coordinate ENPI and EIDHR resources with a view to achieving that goal; stresses the need to analyse and combat the causes of child trafficking and organ trading, especially where the victims are Roma children;
6. Calls on the EU to add to the thematic programme on asylum and migration forming part of the Instrument for Development Cooperation support to especially vulnerable groups such as children of migrants and children in poverty;
7. Stresses that, in its external actions, the EU should strongly encourage third-country governments to comply with international children's rights standards, in particular as regards the provision of basic social welfare services to children, such as free food distribution in schools and nurseries and access to health care; stresses, at the same time, that ensuring equitable access to education for children in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict situations constitutes an important investment in conflict prevention;
8. Requests the Commission to include the fight against impunity in its external actions and relations with third countries, as an important measure to prevent violations of children's rights;

9. Calls on the European Union, in its external action, to pay specific attention to the situation of children facing discrimination, including children in conflict with the law and children deprived of their liberty and placed in closed institutions; stresses that children should have easier access to justice and specialised assistance, and that their age must be taken into consideration throughout the judicial proceedings by means of special protective measures;
10. Calls on the Council and the Commission, when negotiating action plans on justice and home affairs with third countries, to address the issue of juvenile justice, having regard not only to the ratification of relevant international and regional standards but also to the effective implementation thereof;
11. Stresses that, in EU relations with developed and middle-income countries, it is also important to give children a decent future, enhancing their social status, system of values, possibilities and vision;
12. Emphasises that, in EU relations with developed and middle-income countries, projects for the development of children's social competences, tolerance, solidarity and responsibility for their environment, especially in the context of fighting climate change, are of the utmost importance;
13. Stresses that excessive use of television, computer games and internet by children easily leads to violence, isolation, depression, obesity and irregular social behaviour; therefore considers that control of the content as well as advisory and information campaigns to parents should be promoted.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	20.1.2009
Result of final vote	+: 46 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Vittorio Agnoletto, Angelika Beer, Monika Beňová, Călin Cătălin Chiriță, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Michael Gahler, Jas Gawronski, Alfred Gomolka, Klaus Hänsch, Richard Howitt, Ioannis Kasoulides, Maria Eleni Koppa, Helmut Kuhne, Vytautas Landsbergis, Johannes Lebech, Philippe Morillon, Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, Raimon Obiols i Germà, Vural Öger, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Justas Vincas Paleckis, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Alojz Peterle, João de Deus Pinheiro, Samuli Pohjamo, Bernd Posselt, Libor Rouček, Christian Røvsing, Flaviu Călin Rus, Katrin Saks, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, György Schöpflin, Hannes Swoboda, István Szent-Iványi, Charles Tannock, Inese Vaidere, Geoffrey Van Orden, Ari Vatanen, Andrzej Wielowieyski, Zbigniew Zaleski, Josef Zieleniec
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Alexandra Dobolyi, Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Kinga Gál, Aurelio Juri, Aloyzas Sakalas, Inger Segelström