

02/07/01

**Draft resolution**

**pursuant to Rule 50**

**tabled by Van Hecke and Banotti, HERMANGE**

**on behalf of the EPP-ED Group**

**on the EU position in the Special Session on Children of the UN General Assembly**

**The European Parliament,**

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- recalling its previous resolutions on children's rights, such as the resolution on child soldiers of 17 December 1998, the resolution on the protection of families and children of 28 January 1999 and its resolution on child trafficking in Africa of 17 May 2001 ;
  - having regard to the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by 191 countries ;
  - having regard to the EU sponsored resolution on the rights of the child, which was adopted by the UN Commission on the Rights of the Child on April 25 2001 (UNCHR resolution 2001/75) ;
  - having regard to the upcoming Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Children, which will take place in New York in September 2001 ;
  - having regard to article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights ;
- A. Whereas at the World Summit for Children in 1990 world leaders issued an urgent, universal appeal to give every child a better future and adopted a plan of action to improve the health and development of children, including reduction of mortality rates, malnutrition, improved access to safe drinking water and to sanitation ;
- B. Whereas new international agreements enhancing child protection have been adopted in the past decade, such as the Mine Ban Treaty of Ottawa, the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court, the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the ILO Convention 182 on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour ;
- C. Whereas the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by all but two member states ;
- D. Whereas progress on the rights of children has been made in some areas but the world leaders failed to reach the overall targets set at the World Summit for Children and have been slow in implementing the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child ;

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- E. Whereas 10 million children under five years of age die every year of preventable diseases and malnutrition, whereas sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, affect millions of children, especially adolescent girls;
- F. Whereas over 110 million children of primary school age, the majority of them girls, are not enrolled in school, millions are taught by untrained and underpaid teachers in overcrowded, unhealthy and poorly equipped schools, and one third of all children fail to complete five years of schooling;
- G. Whereas during the 1990s, more than two million children died as a result of armed conflict, more than three times that number were permanently disabled or seriously injured, and some 20 million children were displaced or became refugees ;
- H. Whereas over 100 million children are trapped in the worst forms of child labour, including child slavery, trafficking, debt bondage, prostitution and pornography and an estimated 2 million girls aged 5 to 15 are forced into the commercial sex market every year ;
- I. Whereas the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Children, which will take place in New York in September 2001, provides a good opportunity to find ways and mechanisms for the implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child ;
- J. Whereas a wide range of children's rights – including civil rights and freedoms, the right to protection from abuse, economic and sexual exploitation and violence – have become broadly recognized and should be reflected in the Action Plan of the Special Session ;
- K. Whereas the successful implementation of the goals established at the upcoming Special Session on Children will depend on the creation of an effective monitoring system ;
1. Calls on the Presidency to report to the European Parliament and the European Commission on EU priorities for the 2001 Special Session as expressed during the UNGASS Prepcom ;
  2. Calls on the EU and its Member States to ensure that the outcome of the Special Session will enhance the pace of implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child; will urge universal ratification and implementation of the new treaties that strengthen the protection of children's rights; will stress the importance of the right of children to protection from violence, exploitation and abuse, as well as health, education and nutrition; and will ensure strong mechanisms to monitor government obligations and commitments ;
  3. Calls on the EU and its Member States to insist that the outcome document includes lessons learnt from the review of progress in achieving the goals of

the 1990 World Summit for Children, including reasons for failure in reaching the targets set at the Summit ;

4. Calls on the EU and its Member States to insist that the outcome document proposes measures to protect developing countries for the negative impacts of globalisation, including the development of global trade rules that work for the benefit of all children and the encouragement of greater corporate social responsibility for children by global companies ;
5. Calls on the EU and its Member States to ensure that the Plan of Action adopted at the Special Session on Children include the creation in every state of appropriate laws and structures to enable full implementation of the Convention of the Right of the Child ;
6. Calls on the EU and its Member States to ensure that the goals set at the Special Session are quantified, specifying the baseline year, the baseline figure and the target figure, and to ensure that geographically spread goals are used rather than global average goals ;
7. Calls on the EU Member States to make the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the ratification and implementation of the new treaties and the implementation of the commitments made during the 2001 Special Session a national and European priority, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights ;
8. Calls on the EU Member States to establish an independent body to monitor the implementation of the outcome document of the Special Session and to adopt a comprehensive national action plan, with specific, time-bound and measurable objectives ;
9. Calls on the Council to make the ratification of the new treaties by third countries a priority in its political dialogue with these countries, and to make the ratification and implementation of these treaties an important element in talks with applicant Member States ;
10. Calls on the Commission to ensure that all proposed EU directives, legislation, policies and programmes contain a child perspective in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and be subjected to child impact analyses in order to assess their potential implications for children ;
11. Calls on the Member states at the next intergovernmental conference to include a legal base in the EU Treaties to promote a child perspective and compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
12. Asks Council and Commission to ensure that the rights of the child are part of the negotiating process on human rights in accordance with the Copenhagen criteria for accession

13 Calls on the EU Presidencies to include the state of ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of the Child in the conclusions of their presidencies

14 Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly, the Chairs of its inter-parliamentary delegations, the national parliaments of EU member states, the UNGASS secretariat, UNICEF and the national delegations at the UN General Assembly's Special Session on Children.

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