

10/6/02

Proposal for a resolution

**tabled by Mrs Sorensen, Mrs Evans and Mrs Hautala on
behalf on the Green/ALE Group**

on child labour in the football industry

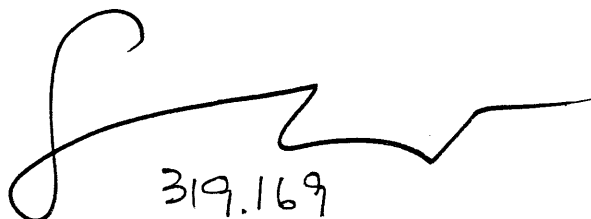
BS-334/02

The European Parliament

- having regard to the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- having regard to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children in New York, 8-10 May 2002,
- having regard to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and notably Article 24 on the rights of the child,
- having regard to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of June 18, 1998,
- having regard to the first Word Day against child labour on the 12th of July,

A.whereas, the use of child labour in the football industry is still common practice worldwide, despite the fact that FIFA and the sporting good companies committed themselves in 1998 in a contract, with a FIFA Code of Labour Practice included, prohibiting the use of child labour in its licensed products,

B.whereas, the FIFA admitted in 2000 that there was a problem to make sure that the "premium balls" featuring the company's brand name and the name of the event (in this case the 2002 World Cup) were only sourced from official FIFA-licensees, that equals that it is not unlikely that these footballs are produced with child labour,



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C.whereas, despite the fact that FIFA, ILO, UNICEF, trade unions and civil society organisations have established social protection projects and monitoring systems to prevent and eliminate child labour in India and Pakistan, newly published reports show clear evidence of many children, sometimes as young as 10, still producing footballs outside the main stitching areas in both countries, even with labels indicating "no childlabour used"

E.whereas the World Cup Campaign was initiated in 2001 by the Global March, born out of an international foot-march four years ago, when thousands of people took a journey over 80,000 kilometres, in four continents to mobilise worldwide action against child labour,

1. Condemns all forms of child exploitation and calls for the eradication of child labour, particularly in the football industry;

2. Calls on FIFA to a) take full responsibility for the labour conditions in all the factories where FIFA licensed goods are manufactured, b)make sure that no child is employed in the production of FIFA-licensed sportswear and footballs, as well as making sure that all children removed from labour are rehabilitated and given the opportunity to receive an education, c) sign and implement the FIFA Code of Labour Practice that was agreed upon by FIFA, ICFTU, ITGLF and FIET (now UNI) in 1996 and declare that code to be binding in all contracts with FIFA licenses and sponsors and e)agree on a transparent, credible and independent system for the monitoring and the verification of production of football industry;

3. Calls on all sporting goods companies to a) fully implement their contractual agreement with FIFA on child labour, b) disclose all the production sites of sporting goods and publish independently verified reports that their goods are produced in compliance with the FIFA Contract with the provision of living wages and c)implement a Code of Labour Practice of which the

quality is not less than the agreement reached in 1996 between FIFA and the international trade unions;

4. Urges the ILO to develop a credible and independent inspection system in order to enforce and monitor the ILO labour standards in the sporting goods industry worldwide and based on the above inspection system, develop ILO models of co-operation between public and private sectors to build effective methods of labour inspection, assessment and accreditation mechanism of private auditing systems;

5. Urges Unicef to use its co-operation with FIFA to promote the rights of children during the World Cup, to urge FIFA to fully implement its obligations with regard to the elimination of child labour and the implementation of other labour rights

6. Calls on FIFA and the national football teams to make the World Cup 2006 championship in Germany, the first international event free of child labour and in compliance with fair labour standards;

7. Calls on the Commission to see which steps could be taken as well within the framework of the Unions development policies as within its contacts with the FIFA and the sportings goods industry to prevent the use of child labour in the countries of production, and to report to the Parliament before the end of 2002 on the steps and measures taken;

8. Requests the Commission to see which financial- and other support it could give to local - and international NGO's and other organisations to help them to eliminate childlabour;

9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Commission, the FIFA, the ILO, the UNICEF, the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI), the International Sports and Leisure (ISL) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

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