

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2008/2144(INI)

8.10.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on Combating sexual exploitation of children and child pornography
(2008/2144(INI))

Rapporteur: Lissy Gröner

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes with concern the increased distribution of child pornography via the internet, involving ever younger children; calls on all Member States to make the blocking of access to child pornography websites a legally binding obligation, so that companies providing access to the internet are obliged to block such criminal sites;
2. Calls on the Commission, in the framework of international cooperation, to strengthen efforts on filtering and closing down websites displaying child pornography;
3. Calls on the Member States to report on the state of play of the dialogue with stakeholders on closing down illegal websites; calls on the Commission to intensify talks with national authorities and stakeholders, in order to build-up an integrated strategy aiming at closing down such websites;
4. Stresses in particular the need to develop awareness-raising campaigns for parents and teenagers concerning the dangers of child pornography on the internet and especially concerning the risk of sexual exploitation in chat-rooms and forums; congratulates Member States which have already launched such campaigns;
5. Pays tribute to European NGOs and professional organisations which have already developed campaigns aimed at parents and children;
6. Calls on the Member States to give appropriate support to the victims and their families, and to inform the Commission of what precise measures have been taken in that respect, in particular as regards language support, legal and psycho-social counselling, special residence permits granted and assistance in criminal proceedings;
7. Calls on the Member States to improve the protection of children abused by family members;
8. Calls on the Member States to report in detail on the state of cross-border cooperation, in particular if cooperation with NGO's is foreseen either by law or in practice;
9. Calls on EUROPOL to set up a specific unit which deals with child pornography and child prostitution, is composed of experts trained in gender specific issues, and with a view to cooperation with the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT); calls for close cooperation between this specific unit and the police authorities in the Member States and third countries with competence in the field of child pornography and child prostitution, thus establishing a trans-national network to tackle these issues;
10. Calls on the Member States to report on the destination of assets seized in the context of a proven case of child prostitution or child pornography;

11. Calls on the Member States to review their procedural provisions concerning jurisdiction and the issue of extraterritoriality so as to ensure that the perpetrators do not escape prosecution; invites the competent authorities to exchange information in this regard;
12. Calls on the Commission, in cooperation with Member States and relevant international bodies, to present regular studies analysing gender-disaggregated data, focusing in particular on:
 - the origin of victims;
 - the social and family environment;
 - the possible links with international trafficking;
 - the role of the family in cases of prostitution or child pornography;
 - cases of multiple victims;
 - job advertisements, especially in the services sector, aimed at under-age girls;
13. Calls on the Member States to check whether their child protection laws still adequately ensure protection against the sexual exploitation of children and teenagers, in the light of the rising incidence of sexual exploitation and harassment in new media and communication technologies and the general trend of sexualisation of children and teenagers;
14. Calls on the Commission to assess further needs in terms of protection of the victim and their family, taking into account alternative forms of families.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

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| Date adopted | 7.10.2008 |
| Result of final vote | +: 25 -: 1 0: 0 |
| Members present for the final vote | Edit Bauer, Emine Bozkurt, Ilda Figueiredo, Věra Flasarová, Claire Gibault, Lissy Gröner, Zita Gurmai, Esther Herranz García, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Lívia Járóka, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Roselyne Lefrançois, Siiri Oviir, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Zita Pleštinská, Christa Prets, Teresa Riera Madurell, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Eva-Britt Svensson, Britta Thomsen, Anne Van Lancker, Anna Záborská |
| Substitute(s) present for the final vote | Mary Honeyball, Marusya Ivanova Lyubcheva, Maria Petre, Petya Stavreva |