

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

17 November 1999

B5-0256/1999}
B5-0257/1999}
B5-0258/1999}
B5-0264/1999}
B5-0265/1999}
B5-0266/1999}RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Banotti, Doyle, Ferrer, Hermange, Maij-Weggen, Peijs and Morillon, on behalf of the PPE/DE Group
Schulz and Gröner, on behalf of the PSE Group
Thors, Malmström, Nicholson of Winterbourne and Rutelli, on behalf of the ELDR Group
Lambert, Jill Evans and Flautre, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
González Álvarez and Morgantini, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
Muscardini and Crowley, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing motions by :

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|---|---------------------|----------------|
| - | the PPE/DE Group | (B5-0256/1999) |
| - | the PSE Group | (B5-0257/1999) |
| - | the ELDR Group | (B5-0258/1999) |
| - | the GUE/NGL Group | (B5-0264/1999) |
| - | the UEN Group | (B5-0265/1999) |
| - | the Verts/ALE Group | (B5-0266/1999) |

on the 10th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The European Parliament,

- A. noting that 20 November 1999 is the tenth anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and that all the EU Member States have ratified the Convention,
- B. noting that children, particularly disabled children and children from minority groups, experience discrimination or are denied education,

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PE 282.282/
PE 282.283/
PE 282.284/
PE 282.290/
PE 282.291/
PE 282.292/RC1
Or. en/fr

- C. whereas the right to education is a fundamental right which must treat boys and girls equally,
 - D. deploring the increase in sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution and pornography and urging the European Union to do all in its power to put an end to this scourge,
 - E. noting that at least 300 000 children under the age of 18 are currently taking part in military hostilities around the world and calling for the outlawing of the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict; recalling that according to the statutes of the International Criminal Court the recruitment and use of child soldiers is considered a war crime,
 - F. taking note of the intention expressed by the Commission to issue a communication on the rights of children,
 - G. whereas children are currently invisible in the Treaty of Amsterdam, and are therefore also absent from most EU policies, programmes and legislation, and are not always given priority in the legislation of the Member States of the Union,
 - H. whereas the UN Convention has played an important role in motivating governments to adjust national policies in acknowledgement of children's rights,
1. Wishes to formally acknowledge and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November 1999 and the improvements it has led to for millions of children throughout the world;
 2. Welcomes the inclusion of a draft clause on children and young people in the new Lomé convention and urges the EU and ACP countries to ensure that this clause is adopted in the final Convention;
 3. Calls on EU Member States to promote Article 12 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child and to involve children and young people at all appropriate levels of decision-making;
 4. Welcomes the proposal that any future European treaty should include a European charter of fundamental rights that refers to the specific rights of children;
 5. Calls on the Member States, at the next Intergovernmental Conference, to adopt a legal basis for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child as defined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
 6. Urges all Member States to ratify the new ILO Convention on the prohibition and immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour, which include all forms of slavery, the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflicts, child prostitution and pornography, the use of a child for the trafficking of drugs, and work which adversely affects the health and safety of children;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States.