



Tackling Child Labour and Exploitation in the European Union

"110 million children and adolescents are involved in child labour and are effectively deprived of the opportunity to receive an education. The employment of many of these children is in breach of the ILO Convention on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1973). In addition, conditions in the workplace are often hazardous and the children themselves may work as slaves or be victims of trafficking in breach of ILO Conventions 29 on forced labour and 182 on the worst forms of child labour."

"The fight against those crimes which particularly affect children, such as trafficking in human beings, must be based on concrete measures to protect children from violence and exploitation. Preventive measures must be combined with assistance to child victims of these crimes so as to ensure their rehabilitation, recovery and long-term social inclusion."

- 'A Special Place for Children in EU External Action',
Communication from EU Commission, February 2008

Radisson Blu
EU Hotel
Brussels

2nd December 2009

Organised by



Centre for
Parliamentary
Studies



"An International Symposium for gathering knowledge, discussing the latest challenges and sharing best practices in EU-wide child labour policy"

“Child labour needs to be tackled at all levels and through concerted efforts from governments, international community, civil society, industry and social partners. We need to ensure that children’s rights are promoted throughout the world – with all our policies and programmes. Therefore we pursue a comprehensive approach to eliminate of all forms of child labour, covering political, trade, development and governance dialogue, and action on poverty alleviation, the labour market, social dialogue and social protection with an emphasis on free and universal primary education. After all, children are our future and we owe them the best possible start in life!”

- **Benita Ferrero-Waldner, EU Commissioner, June 2009**

“In 2005, the ILO has estimated that 2.45 million people are victims of human trafficking in the world, 43% for purposes of sexual exploitation and 32% for purposes of labour exploitation. Children represent 40% to 50% of victims ... Europe must ensure that the rights of the child, as well as human rights in general are fully taken into consideration within the development and implementation of our policies. The Commission Communication on the ‘Stockholm Programme’ clearly states that we must now continue to develop an ambitious EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child. I believe that particular attention should be paid to the issues of violence, poverty and children in situations of particular vulnerability, particularly in the context of immigration.”

- **Vice-President Jacques Barrot, EU Commissioner, June 2009**

Abstract and Programme

Despite the continuing economic development and social progress across Europe, disturbing facts reveal that child labour is becoming an increasingly prevalent issue affecting many countries within the EU. It is an alarming phenomenon that spreads across borders and sectors affecting the most vulnerable groups in society. The EU Commission has acknowledged that urgent action is required to develop a strengthened **child-focused** framework, recognising children as independent citizens with their own interests and needs. This approach should also encompass action plans at EU and national levels working alongside a comprehensive European strategy for the protection of children against all forms of exploitation.

Although some crucial steps have already been taken in terms of “**child proofing**” EU legislation and policy, an inclusive and longer term strategy is needed to engage all international, national and regional stakeholders to raise awareness of this issue and also to provoke new and more decisive measures in the EU.

This special International Symposium, hosted by the *Centre for Parliamentary Studies*, offers an invaluable opportunity for local, regional and national authorities to gather comparative knowledge, discuss the latest challenges and share examples of cross-border best practices. Tackling child labour and other forms of exploitation in new and innovative ways requires action on several levels:

- An appraisal of current policy initiatives and priorities of the EU
- Delineation of existing co-operation and multi-agency frameworks at local, national and trans-national levels
- Identify gaps and explore solutions to improve co-ordination and information exchange
- Analyse and learn from tangible examples of best practices in different member states to establish recommendations for future actions

In order to encourage greater political will, facilitate policy discussion and explore comprehensive and integrated solutions to tackling child labour, the *Centre for Parliamentary Studies* is proud to host this second event as part of a series of international conferences aimed at raising awareness of these issues and welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders. The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.



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Wednesday 2nd December 2009
Radisson Blu EU Hotel, Brussels

- 09:00** *Registration and Morning Refreshments*
- 10:00** **Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Mr. Willy Bruggeman PhD, Professor at the Benelux University Centre; Chair of the Belgian Federal Police Board (confirmed)
- 10:10** **Tackling Child Labour in the European Union – Applying ILO Experience and Best Practices**
- Child labour exploitation as an international phenomenon
 - Conceptualising child labour in the EU – understanding the root causes and creating a sustainable preventative framework
 - Understanding the link between child labour and child trafficking
 - Recommendations for future actions at EU regional and local levels
- Speaker:*
Ms. Yoshie Noguchi, Senior Legal Officer, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, International Labour Office (confirmed)
- 10:40** *First Round of Discussions*
- 11:00** *Morning Coffee Break*
- 11:20** **Implementing Preventive Measures against Child Trafficking at International, National and Regional Levels**
- Pan-European cooperation in child trafficking – future challenges and necessary actions
 - International legislative, judicial and punitive aspects of child trafficking
 - Information technologies on child trafficking
 - Current scourge of trafficking in Europe – recommendation for action to future EU Presidencies
- Speakers:*
Mr. Humbert de Biolley, Deputy Director, Council of Europe, Liaison Office with the European Union (confirmed)
Mrs. Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General, Eurochild (confirmed)
- 11:50** **Second Round of Discussions**



12:10 *Networking Lunch*

13:10 **Child Labour, Child Trafficking and Other Forms of Exploitation at National and Local Levels**

- UK experiences and lessons learned in tackling child labour and trafficking
- Motives for child labour and trafficking – national and local preventative measures
- Minimum standards for dealing with child victims
- Building capacity to support victims' care and economic independence

Speakers:

Mrs. Christine Beddoe, CEO, ECPAT UK (confirmed)

Mrs. Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General, Eurochild (confirmed)

13:50 **Third Round of Discussions**

14:10 *Short Break*

14:20 **Safeguarding Children from 'Sex Tourism' – Child Focused Approaches at EU and National Levels**

- Revision of national jurisdictions in protecting children from travelling sex offenders
- Existing EU legislation – scope for improvements
- Partnership working – police cooperation, border cooperation and control
- Using best practices from existing collaboration at national and European levels – recommendation to future EU Presidencies

Speaker: Mrs. Madi Sharma, Group I – Employers – UK, European Economic and Social Committee (confirmed)

14:50 **Fourth Round of Discussions**

15:10 **Chair's Summary and Closing Remarks**

15:20 *Networking Reception & Refreshments*

16:20 *Symposium Close*