

Time for action to eradicate child poverty

Eurochild's presented highly praised report on the National Strategies on Social Inclusion and Social Protection

Eurochild launched its report on the analysis of the **NAPs/Inclusion** yesterday (12 February 2009) in the European Parliament and presented its **key findings and recommendations** from a **child rights perspective**.

The presentation was followed by a round table debate chaired by MEP Gabriele ZIMMER, bringing together experts, politicians, EC and government officials and NGOs to discuss the action needed at EU level to drive this agenda forward.

"No level of child poverty is acceptable in any developed country!"

Catrina WILLIAMS, President of Eurochild

Child poverty needs to be prioritised

The national and EU targets should apply **Zero Tolerance on child poverty**, to be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Increased resources have to be invested into prevention and early intervention.

Eurochild stressed that there is indisputable evidence that investing in children, and in particular young children, is the **most effective & sustainable way to prevent poverty**. This is even more important in the current economic crisis.

An **EC recommendation on child poverty has to be adopted in 2010** – the "European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion".

A Child well-being approach is essential

It's simply **not enough** to link child policy with income & employment potential – the **focus must be holistically on the child's emotional and social development**. The UNCRC should be used as a framework for monitoring progress of all policy and action affecting children.

"Across Europe, the implementation of children's rights at national level demands coordination amongst ministries. Ideally we would have a lead ministry paving the way."

Gabriele ZIMMER, MEP (Germany, GUE/NGL)

Children must be recognised as key stakeholders

There are **good examples of child participation which are not reflected in the national social inclusion strategies**. Empowerment of children is key to tackling poverty. **Training in participation** should be given to all working with and for children, and the **EU should support more exchange** of good practice across Member States.

More attention must be given to the most vulnerable children

Children from out-of-home care are the **most likely to end up living in poverty** and to be marginalised from mainstream society.

"Participation of most vulnerable children is crucial - their voices are often ignored."

Jana HAINSWORTH, General Secretary of Eurochild

The report and further information can be found on our website: www.eurochild.org



For more information, please contact:

Bjorn Becker, Information and Communications Officer

Tel: +32 (0)2 511 70 83

e-mail: bjorn.becker@eurochild.org

Eurochild^{AISBL} is an international network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to improve the quality of life of children and young people. Its work is underpinned by the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Eurochild is co-funded by the European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. The views expressed in this Press Release do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Commission.