

towards the eradication of poverty







The European Commission's commitment to **Education & to the elimination of Child Labour**

A report by Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour Campaign





















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The 'Stop Child Labour - School is the Best Place to Work' campaign is Alliance2015's, in collaboration with the Dutch platform which includes the ICN, the FNV and the AOB, longest running campaign. Established in 2003, the ultimate goal of this campaign is the elimination of all forms of child labour through the provision of full-time, quality education.

In November 2005, several campaign partners visited Brussels to deliver a petition to the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel. The petition, which contained over 170,000 signatures, called on the European Commission (EC) to step up its efforts to tackle the issue of child labour. Commissioner Michel gave assurances that the EC would implement measures to ensure an effective response to the problem. He also pledged that the EC would never provide aid in the form of budget support to those countries which were not committed to tackling child labour.

Speaking at the High-level Meeting on Education which took place in May 2007 in Brussels, Commissioner Michel stated that there was no alternative to education if we are to improve the lives of the world's children.

The desire to see an end to the intolerable practice of child labour is widely held. In a speech on November 2007 the leader of the biggest political group in the European Parliament stated in no uncertain terms that globalisation could only be a factor of prosperity if it was accompanied by rules which prohibited the exploitation of children.

Alliance2015's Stop Child Labour campaign hopes that officials from the international development ministries/ departments in the 27 EU Member States also share these views. They are in the process of discussing the EC's draft aid programmes for almost 80 countries in Africa, and the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

The country programmes, which are timetabled for adoption before the end of this year, will be the principal means through which the EC provides its aid to almost 80 developing countries for the majority of the time remaining before the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is therefore hugely important that they fully support the objective of universal primary education, including through addressing the issue of child labour.

The EU has made clear commitments to supporting education and eliminating child labour in its partner countries in the developing world. Now is the time for it to deliver.

Jetteke van der Schatte Olivier Coordinator, Stop Child Labour Campaign The Hague, November 2007 Vagn Berthelsen President, Alliance2015 Copenhagen, November 2007

It is time to end child labour... school is the best place to work

There are currently approximately **218 million child labourers** aged 5-17. That is one in seven children going to work instead of going to school. They work in fields and factories, they sew footballs and t-shirts, they pick coffee and cocoa, they mine, they dig, and they fight in wars. They are all trapped in poverty with little hope of escape. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – particularly goal 2 – will only ever be realised if all forms of child labour are eradicated and all children have the opportunity of full-time, quality education.

The goal of universal access to primary education (MDG 2) is impeded by education systems that discriminate against poor and marginalised children and low-quality education perpetuates high absenteeism and dropout rates, especially among girls. Instead of going to school, these children join the workforce. Through the provision of full-time, quality education, child labour can be eliminated and MDG 2 can be achieved.

The latest ILO global estimates on child labour indicate that progress in Africa towards the elimination of child labour is lagging behind other regions. Sub-Saharan Africa has the greatest incidence of economically active children - 26.4% of all 5-14 year-olds, compared to 18% for Asia-Pacific and 5.1% for Latin America. It is ranked second behind Asia in absolute terms, with 49.3 million children working. Sub-Saharan Africa was the only region in the world in which the number of child labourers rose between 2000 and 2004. The persistent challenges of widespread and extreme poverty, high population growth, the AIDS pandemic, recurrent food crises, and political unrest and conflict all exacerbate the problem.1 According to UNESCO, the lowest school enrolment rates can be seen in Sub-Saharan Africa - where child labour prevails, children are not attending school.

The six Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign partners² seek to eliminate child labour through the provision of full-time, formal, quality education. They are actively engaged in several Sub-Saharan African countries, including Angola, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Based on evidence received from Alliance2015's partner organisations in these countries, there are concerns that support for children's rights in general and the issue of child labour in particular, including that from the European Commission (EC), is insufficient to tackle the problem. Alliance2015 wants to ensure that the momentum and efforts already made to eliminate child labour through the provision of education are continued, expanded and strengthened.

The EC is currently planning its aid programmes for the period up to 2013 – a period which covers almost all the remaining time left for realising the MDGs. The EC's aid programme, with a value of approximately €51 billion, is an important tool for the realisation of the European Union's (EU) ambition of "promoting a global, social and responsible policy". The Lisbon Treaty, which was agreed by EU leaders in October 2007, defines the objective of all EU aid as the 'eradication of poverty.'³

This study looks at the EC's aid programmes in five countries in Southern Africa under the tenth European Development Fund (EDF 10). The five countries selected are: Angola, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.⁴

Specifically, the study looks at the prioritisation of child labour within the context of education in these countries – all of which have a high incidence of child labour. The Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign has analysed information available on the draft CSPs for these countries based on surveys with stakeholders. The findings of this analysis are put within the context of existing EC policy documents on children's rights and child labour and are related to the challenges of realising MDG 2 in these five countries.

The report outlines the EC's policy framework on child labour. It continues with case studies on child labour and education in the five selected ACP countries and the EC's response in its aid programming up to 2013. This is followed by conclusions and recommendations.

At the policy level, the EC has made numerous formal commitments and formulated requirements on children's rights in general and child labour in particular, outlined in various official documents (detailed in Annex 1). Particular statements on education as a solution to child labour can be found in the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)⁵ which governs the EC's relations with developing countries in Asia and Latin America. In Article 11 2(b) of the thematic programmes under the DCI, the commitment is reflected for 'the promotion of compulsory and free education up to the age of 15 to combat all forms of child labour.' As the thematic programmes in this instrument do not have a specific geographic focus, they also cover the ACP countries.

The link between education and child labour is also reflected in the strategy paper for the 'Investing in People' thematic programme.⁶ Under the heading 'Knowledge and skills for all', Investing in People states that 'the link between education and combating all forms of child labour should be a priority area.'

The European Parliament's (EP) resolution on the exploitation of children in developing countries, with a special focus on child labour makes reference to stopping child labour through education in four articles:

- In Article 22, the EP 'reiterates its view that there is a mutually reinforcing relationship between a lack of education and child labour, making education the basic instrument for achieving Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.'
- 2. In Article 24, the EP 'calls on the Commission to use its position as the principal donor of official development assistance among international institutions such as UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank and the IMF, to urge these multilateral donors to exert pressure for the framing of policies to eliminate child labour and to design and implement education policies and programmes that integrate all working and other out-of-school children into formal fulltime education, without discrimination on grounds of sex, disability, ethnic or racial origin, religion or culture, until the permissible age of employment according to ILO Convention 138.'

- 3. In Article 32, 'the EP calls on the European Union to compel countries with statutes banning child labour already in place to completely eliminate child labour in their countries and get these children and backlogged adolescents into schools over a three year grace period.'
- 4. In Article 37, the EP 'points out that a requirement of universal full-time education is an education system which includes strategies for bringing all children who work (or who do not go to school for some other reason) into a full-time school system.'

In Chapter III of the explanatory statement which accompanied the motion for a European Parliament resolution 'Towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child' (draft report),⁸ the request is made that 'the EC should thus ensure that no discrimination with regard to access to education can be tolerated.'

In November 2005, the EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, received a petition containing 170,000 signatures collected by the Stop Child Labour campaign. The petition called on the EC to step up its efforts to tackle child labour.

In a speech delivered after he had received the petition, Commissioner Michel gave assurances that the issue of child labour was at the heart of the EC's development policy and that the EC would implement measures to ensure that it would be resolved. He also pledged that the EC would never provide budget support to a country which was not serious about combating child labour.

The Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign has analysed available information on the draft CSPs and NIPs 2008-2013 for Angola, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, focussing on child labour.

This analysis reveals a stark inconsistency between the EC's policy framework and its implementation. While the EC has made commitments to the promotion of children's rights and to the elimination of child labour, including its link to the provision of universal, formal education, these commitments have not been translated into practice through the CSPs or NIPs for these countries.

Education and child labour

According to the latest information available about

the draft CSPs and NIPs for the ACP countries for the period 2008-2013, it appears that eleven countries will have a specific budget for education (see Table 1). The total budget for education under EDF 10 is € 264.8 million or 2.7% of the total NIP (€ 9.7 billion). Under EDF 9, this was € 395.5 million or 5.1% of the total NIP (€ 7 billion). This constitutes a significant decrease in the EC's funding for education.

Based on an analysis of information available on the draft CSPs, it appears that only five countries will prioritise education under EDF 10, (8.3%), compared to thirteen under EDF 9, 17.6% (see Table 2). Of the five countries selected for this study, it appears that only two will include direct support for education. (See Table 3).

Table 1. Allocations to Education under EDF 10

Investing in people Human Development									
Countries	Education (€ million)	NIP (€ million)	Education / NIP (%)						
Somalia	55.0	212.3	26						
Botswana	48.0	56.3	85						
Namibia	35.0	82.6	42						
Sudan	30.0	258.0	12						
Zimbabwe	19.4	129.6	15						
Angola	15.0	172.9	9						
Comoros	10.0	36.0	28						
Gabon	8.0	40.8	20						
Liberia	5.6	119.7	5						
Mauritania	4.0	124.8	3						
Swaziland	2.8	52.6	5						
Total	264.8 2.7%	9712.9 100%							
(EDF 9)	395.5 5.1%	7026.1 100%							

Table 2. Education as a priority in the EC's country programmes for ACP countries

	Education				
	2002-2007		2008-2013		
	Number	%	Number	%	
Number of country programmes about which information was available	74	100	61	100	
Number of country programmes with education as a priority sector	13	17.6	5	8.3	
Number of country programmes with some direct support for education	1	1.3	0	0	

Table 3. Education in the country programmes for the five case countries

Education in the EC's country programme	Angola	Uganda	Tanzania	Zambia	Zimbabwe
As a priority sector					
As part of another priority sector	Human and Social Development				Human and Social Development
Some direct support					

When it is mentioned in the EC's country programmes, child labour is not analysed in any detail. None of the country programmes for the five case countries addresses the issue of child labour in its analysis and rationale of the priority sectors, or in the concrete strategy. This is particularly alarming considering the severity of the problem and its direct negative influence on the realisation of MDG 2 in these countries.

In the EC's aid programmes to the five case countries, no indicators are related specifically to child labour and there are not formulated results addressing the issue of child labour.

Specific examples from the five case countries give more insight into the problem of child labour and education and the EC's response to it in its aid programming to the countries.

3.1. Angola

Child labour is commonplace in Angola with many children involved in the worst forms such as child prostitution, domestic work and hazardous labour. There is also a high incidence of street children in Angola. Law enforcement is weak and there is a lack of inspection. According to UNICEF, around 30% of children aged between 5 and 14 are working. Although the HIV&AIDS prevalence is lower here than in the other selected Sub-Saharan countries, the incidence of all forms of child labour is still high. This is partially due to Angola's recent instability, high incidence of child soldiers, internally displaced people and returning refugees. From 1961 to 2002, 4.5 million people were displaced due to conflict - 65% of whom were under the age of 15. As a result of the conflict, the number of domestic labourers has also increased. There has also been a significant increase in the in the number of orphans and separated children. In many cases, child domestic servants are subjected to physical harm and sexual abuse and have little or no access to education.

According to UNICEF, 44% of children do not attend school, with a higher dropout rate and a lower completion rate for girls. Gross primary school enrolment for boys over the period 2002-2004 was 80% compared to 69% for girls. Gross secondary school enrolment for boys over the same period was 21% compared to 17% for girls. A recent study found that only 20% of children affected by the conflict had ever attended school, and only 30% of children remain in school after the fifth grade. Education is free of charge by law, but not enough schools are available and there is a lack of materials, resources and trained teachers.

In the EC's draft country programme for Angola, education is included within the broader priority of human and social development. The decision to provide direct support for education is welcome considering the current situation of education in the country. However, the draft programme does not pay attention to child labour and its link to the provision of full-time education and MDG 2.

3.2. Tanzania

Even though Tanzania has ratified both international labour conventions aimed at eliminating child labour, it continues to be a major problem in the country. In the 2000/2001 labour force survey, ILO-IPEC and the National Bureau of Statistics reported that 39.6% of children aged 5 to 17 were economically active, while 47.8% were engaged in housekeeping activities. Another study investigated the level of child labour and found significantly more orphans than non-orphans engaged in paid labour.

Tanzania's progress towards achieving education for all is also slow.¹³ Although compulsory education is granted for seven years, there are inadequate numbers of schools, teachers and resources and only a limited number of children continue their education after primary school.¹⁴

Education was a priority sector in the EC's country programme under EDF 9, with an allocation of € 43.5 million. However, it seems that education will not be prioritised in the EC's programme under EDF 10 even though there is a clear need to increase the provision of education and to continue strengthening education sector planning. According to the EC, education is included in its general budget support (GBS) to Tanzania and some specific indicators have been formulated in this regard. The lack of a sectorwide approach (SWAp) in education has created a situation where the need for secondary education, emerging from the success of enrolling children in primary education, has not been identified, and therefore, resources have not been appropriately allocated.15

The EC's draft country programme for Tanzania only includes one reference to working children in the outline of the government policy, without any further details or analysis. The current priority sectors are macroeconomic support, infrastructure, communications and transport, and trade and regional integration. Child labour does not form part of the analysis, rationale or strategy within any of these priority sectors. In the trade and regional integration priority sector, the link with child labour is clear - trafficking of children who are forced into bonded labour, prostitution, domestic work or other kinds of forced work across the border of their own countries. Bilateral and regional trade dialogue and agreements should assess the impact on children and pay special attention to clauses and mechanisms which seek to protect children and prevent child labour.

3.3. Uganda

A joint ILO and MGLSD (Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development) survey released in July 2005, estimated that approximately 2.7 million children are employed in Uganda. This is 34% of all Ugandan children aged 5-14. Children move across the country to work on farms and plantations, in markets, on the streets, in fishing, as domestic servants and often, they are smuggled across borders. The movement of boys and girls from rural to urban areas is so widespread that it is considered the 'norm' among the rural populace.

According to the 2002 census, the country's primary school enrolment rate was 84% for boys and 83% for girls. Education is not compulsory even

though the government has granted resources to allow free education and girls continue to have higher dropout rates than boys.¹⁶

In the EC's draft country programme for Uganda, child labour or forced work for children is only mentioned once without any further details or analysis: 'the use of child labour still remains part of rural and even urban livelihoods in many parts of Uganda.'

According to the EC, education will continue to be addressed in its GBS and the draft programme includes specific performance indicators on education. The EC only addresses education through this aid modality, since the education sector has a specific SWAp in place with the participation of a large number of development partners. According to the EC, this provides a basis for the successful implementation of the sector's policies. However, although it is estimated that Uganda will meet the MDG target of net primary enrolment ratio, the primary completion rate cannot be met without better policies, stronger institutions and additional funding. Therefore, the EC must ensure that the move from sector budget support (SBS) to GBS does not leave the education sector with inadequate planning and resources.17

According to available information, the two priority sectors of the EC's draft country programme for Uganda will be economic integration through transport and conflict resolution. Child labour does not form any part of the analysis, rationale or strategy within either of these priority sectors. In the conflict resolution priority sector, the issue of child labour should be always considered in dialogues and agreements, given the hugely negative consequences of conflict on children, including their recruitment as child soldiers, the loss of a parent or quardian or their becoming part of an internally displaced family. All of these factors create the conditions for child labour. In many cases, children in conflict and post-conflict situations are unable to access education.

3.4. Zambia

According to figures published by the ILO, there were more than 550,000 children working in Zambia in 2001. In 2006, about 11% of children in the 5-14 age group were involved in child labour. 85% of these were involved in the worst forms.

Approximately 90% of boys and girls working in rural areas work predominantly in agriculture, livestock and forestry activities.

As the number of Zambians dying of HIV&AIDS continues to increase, so too does the number of orphans and child-headed households. Even though the primary enrolment rate has increased from 64.9% in 1999 to 79.8% in 2004, it is unlikely that Zambia will reach its education targets by 2015.¹⁸

According to the EC, support to public expenditure and improved service delivery in the education sector will be ensured through GBS and its performance assessment framework The EC argues that its country programme for Zambia will not prioritise education under the human development priority sector, due to donor harmonisation and coordination in line with the Paris Declaration. It also states that this harmonisation and coordination is operationalised and agreed through the Joint Assistance Strategy for Zambia (JASZ) (with agreed decongestion in that sector and significant funding from The Netherlands, Norway, Denmark and DFID). Additionally, according to the Zambia Millennium Development Goals Status Report 2005, five MDGs can be met by 2015, including the target of all boys and girls completing a full course of primary education. Net enrolment ratios for the entire basic cycle (grades 1-9) rose from 64.9% in 2001 to 92.6% in 2005. However, attention should be paid to the low transition rates of boys and girls from primary to secondary education, which was 23.7% in 2004.19

The EC's draft country programme for Zambia seems set to include more detailed information on child labour than the programmes for the other case countries. The strategy paper will include facts and figures and some insight will be given into the policy framework on child labour, in the form of national laws and international conventions signed by the government. Health will be prioritised under the human and social development focal sector. Particular attention will be paid to orphans and vulnerable children, but there will not be any mention of child labour. Given the high HIV&AIDS prevalence in Zambia and the resulting rise in the number of children that are working, this is a worrying omission.

3.5. Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, 26% of children aged 5-14 are involved in child labour. 90% of these children live in rural areas. According to labour experts, the crisis in Zimbabwe's agriculture sector has fuelled the employment of children on farms and children now constitute the bulk of farm workers in the country. According to one commentator, 'Child labour has always been there but this time the problem is getting out of hand.'21

By the mid-1990s, Zimbabwe had achieved near universal primary education due to free accessible education. However, this trend has recently reversed, indicating that the MDG targets on education will not be realised by 2015. A large number of children have been driven out of school by high fees and the government's so-called "clean up" exercise. The primary enrolment rate fell from 86% in 1990/91 to 79% in 2002/03 and the proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reached grade 5 fell from 92.4% in 1990 to 67.6% in 2004.²² This reduction in the primary enrolment rate is due to a combination of factors, including the introduction of cost recovery measures and the increasing inability of parents to afford fees.

Human and social development is likely to be a priority sector in the EC's aid programme for Zimbabwe. The sectors of health and education should be prioritised within this sector and particular attention should be paid to orphans and vulnerable children. The decision to prioritise the social sectors of health and education is welcome considering the current situation of education in the country. Given that Zimbabwe is experiencing decreases in its primary enrolment and dropout rates, there is an urgent need for investment in the education system.

In the EC's draft country programme for Zimbabwe, child labour or forced work for children is only mentioned once without any further details or analysis: 'Children are more exposed and are victims of abuses, forced work and hazardous occupations.' There is no mention of child labour under the priority sector human and social development. Given the high HIV&AIDS prevalence in Zimbabwe and the increasing numbers of children working as a result, this is a worrying omission.

Conclusions

Child labour concerns have not been integrated into the rationale and strategy of the EC's aid programmes for 2008-2013 for Angola, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia or Zimbabwe. This is despite both the immense challenges which these countries face in the areas of education and child labour and the existence of a clear EC policy framework on children's rights and child labour. There is also a significant decrease in the number of ACP CSPs in which educationwill be prioritised under EDF 10. Finally, the lack of focus on education and child labour in the ACP countries raises serious questions about the effectiveness of the EU's contribution to the achievement of MDG 2.

Recommendations

The Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign makes the following urgent recommendations to the FC:

1. Increase allocations to education in country programmes to ensure that MDG 2 is realised and that child labour is eliminated

Country programmes are the principle means through which the EC delivers its aid to developing countries. The EC has a responsibility to contribute to the achievement of MDG 2 and to the elimination of child labour in these countries. The EC's overall contribution to education is disproportional to its stated commitment. In order to address this, the EC must increase its contributions specifically aiming at the provision of universal, full-time, quality education.

- 2. Operationalise mainstreaming through concrete actions and financial support
- Mainstreaming children's rights means taking actions to include child labour concerns in the analysis and rationale of all the focal sectors and in each activity of the EC's aid programming. For instance, within trade and regional integration programmes, the EC should identify what measures are taken to ensure that these programmes do not exacerbate the incidence of child labour.
- The EC should ensure that its staff understand and recognise the importance of mainstreaming

children's rights and the elimination of child labour.

- Child labour and its link to education should be addressed in formal political dialogues with the partner country government and with other international donors.
- Education and child labour concerns should be mainstreamed in GBS through the inclusion of specific results-based indicators related to available statistics.
- 3. Include clear references to the development of an integrated strategy to stop child labour in country programmes

The existing policy framework on children's rights and child labour should be implemented in a coherent manner in all of the EC's internal and external actions. These commitments should also be implemented in the country programmes for the ACP countries. In cases where education is included as a priority sector, the issue of child labour should be incorporated as a key component and consideration of child labour concerns should also be given in other relevant priority sectors.

4. Provide information on the division of labour in country programmes

Under the voluntary code of conduct on the EU Division of Labour, the EC should identify the division of labour for supporting the provision of education and the elimination of child labour. In countries where there is a need and where other donors are not adequately covering action in the provision of education, the EC – a major donor in the largest number of countries across the globe, has a responsibility to ensure that adequate support and funding is provided.

5. Justify the selection of priority sectors and operationalise ownership

The selection of priorities in the EC's country programmes needs to be justified through consultation with partner countries. Currently, evidence of consultation with key partners is absent, despite the requirement for this in the Cotonou Agreement. The Member States Committee (EDF Committee) should demand that the Commission defines and operationalises ownership.



Endnotes

Chapter 1

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Child rights and child labour in EU policy documents

The commitments in the European consensus on development¹ Article 103.

"Democracy, good governance, human rights and the rights of children will be promoted in partnership with all countries receiving Community development assistance. These issues should be systematically incorporated into the Community's development instruments through all Country and Regional Strategy Papers."

The commitments in the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)²

- Article 11 on thematic programmes, specifically 2b) Education, knowledge and skills includes: (III) "the promotion of compulsory and free education up to the age of 15 to combat all forms of child labour."
- Article 11 on thematic programmes, specifically 2d) Other aspects of human and social development includes: (III) Youth and children:
 - "combating all forms of child labour, trafficking of and violence against children and promotion of policies taking into consideration youth's and children's particular vulnerability and potentials, protection of their rights and interests, education, health and livelihoods, starting with participation and empowerment."
 - "using the Community's position as the principal donor of ODA among international institutions to urge the multilateral donors to exert pressure for the framing of policies to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, particularly the hazardous ones with a view to promoting the effective elimination of all forms of child labour, combating trafficking of, and violence against, children and promoting the role of children and youth as actors for development."

The commitments in *Investing in people*³

 Thematic programme 1, Knowledge and skills for all: "The link between education and

- combating all forms of child labour should be a priority area".
- Thematic programme 2: Employment and social cohesion: "Employment, combating inequalities and promoting social cohesion form an important new theme in the Union's external relations and development policy. This includes decent work for all, (......), combating all forms of child labour (..)."

The commitments in the EP resolution on the exploitation of children in developing countries, with a special focus on child labour⁴

- Article 6: The EP "urges the Commission to fully integrate children's rights, including the elimination of child labour, in all its actions in a coherent way, particularly in the Country and Regional Strategy Papers and in national/ regional programmes, (...) and to focus its attention on the essential role of education."
- Article 22: The EP "reiterates its view that there is a mutually reinforcing relationship between a lack of education and child labour, making education the basic instrument for achieving Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015."
- Article 24: The EP "calls on the Commission to use its position as the principal donor of official development assistance among international institutions such as UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank and the IMF, to urge these multilateral donors to exert pressure for the framing of policies to eliminate child labour and to design and implement education policies and programmes that integrate all working and other out-of-school children fulltime education, formal into without discrimination on grounds of sex, disability, ethnic or racial origin, religion or culture, until the permissible age of employment according to ILO Convention 138."
- Article 32: "the EP calls on the European Union to compel countries with statutes banning child labour already in place to completely eliminate child labour in their countries and get these children and backlogged adolescents into schools over a three year grace period."
- Article 37: The EP "points out that a



requirement of universal full-time education is an education system which includes strategies for bringing all children who work (or who do not go to school for some other reason) into a full-time school system."

Requirements in the *Mainstreaming* guidelines on Children rights⁵

In the programme guide for country and region strategy papers, a special document has been included with specific guidelines for the mainstreaming of children rights in the CSPs and RSPs.

(Children's rights:)

- "The EU has clearly identified the promotion of children's rights as a discrete issue meriting specific attention: children's rights are enshrined in Article 24 of the European Union's Charter on Fundamental Rights".
- "The EU policy framework on social and human development pays a clear attention to children, especially in the areas of health, AIDS and population, education and gender equality. Some of the specific areas of children rights' abuse are linked to EU policies on children soldiers, trafficking of children, and all forms of child labour."

The guidelines prescribe:

- to include children organisations and representatives in the assessment and discussion on their own needs,
- to analyse children rights in the country, prior to country programming,
- to assess the state of children in the country through their progress towards MDG indicators related to children, including an analysis of the policy framework, strategies and main providers on basic services addressing children's rights and needs (e.g. prevention and protection of children victims of all forms of child labour) and an assessment of extreme abuses,

The following principles of the EC's response strategy in mainstreaming children rights and needs in the EU Development Cooperation have to be covered:

- Ownership: PRSP and sector policy truly owned by the country and developed in consultation with civil society, including children representatives – which includes an assessment of children's rights and needs.
- Attention to children rights through the EU support to the focal areas: e.g. attention to clauses and mechanisms preventing child labour under focal sector trade and regional integration; special programmes to legislate and enforce the law against child labour under focal sector governance, democracy and human rights, etc.

The commitments in *Towards an EU Strategy* on the Rights of the Child⁶

Chapter IV. Conclusion: "The Commission will develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure that the European Union contributes to promoting and safeguarding children's rights in all its internal and external actions and supports the efforts of the Member States in this field."

The commitments in the [draft] EC Action plan on children and development⁷

This plan is intended to become approved by the end of October 2007. Very unfortunate, because it contains further concrete requirements for the CSPs (chapter 6, page 10):

- mainstreaming children's rights and needs also in the non-focal areas,
- linking with aid modalities general and sector budget support,
- when it applies to general budget support, it should identify pertinent indicators and targets of the main priorities related to children rights and needs,
- carry out child impact assessments in the annual, mid-term and end of term reviews.

Annex 3. Priorities for regional and global actions (...). 1. Preventing all forms of child labour: "The EC is working with the ILO and the ACP group through the IPEC (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour) strategy in the ACP region. This initiative will be scaled up and linked with support to education and governance at country level (..)."

Commitments requested in the European Parliament motion for a European Parliament resolution "Towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child" (draft report)⁸

Chapter III, paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Statement includes:

- "Children should be protected against the worst forms of exploitation, such as child labour, coerced involvement in conflicts (child soldiers) and domestic slavery."
- "The EC should thus ensure that no discrimination with regard to access to education can be tolerated."

Endnotes

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- 6. Commission of the European Communities, (2006), Communication from the Commission "Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child" (COM (2006) 367 final
- 7. Draft version of end of November 2006. The Stop Child Labour campaign has given its written comments on this draft in January 2007.
- 8. (2007/2093(INI))