



Brussels Office Newsletter

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Introduction

Welcome to the April issue of the Save the Children Brussels Office Newsletter which provides information on the activities of the Brussels office as well as on the latest EU policy developments on children's rights. This Newsletter is written by Charlotta Odland (Information and Administration Officer), Olivia Lind Haldorsson (Head of Office) and Hans Lind (Advocacy & Policy Officer). The Newsletter is free and can be received by e-mail or by post. Articles can be reproduced, provided the source is acknowledged. Please distribute this newsletter widely within your organisation and let Charlotta know if you would like to be placed on the mailing list on tel. + 32 2 512 7851, fax + 32 2 513 4903, e-mail: savechildbru@skynet.be or on our website at: www.savethechildren.net

Communication on the Rights of the Child

The Commission's presentation of the Communication on the Rights of the Child has been postponed from June until July. The Inter service consultation has led to a large number of amendments, which has delayed the preparation of the final Communication.

In earlier drafts of the Communication, the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DG DEV) was to present, as part of the overall Communication, an

Action Plan during 2006 for Children in Development Cooperation. This has been postponed until 2007.

Save the Children regrets the slow progress, and calls for continued consultation with civil society and a strategy on how the Commission will ensure meaningful child participation.

For more information contact hans-savechildbru@skynet.be

EU Communication Policy

As reported in our March newsletter, Commissioner Wallström has presented a White Paper on a European Communication Policy; Defining Common Principles – Which way forward? Consultation is presently taking place with civil society as to how the European institutions should be consulting with and dialoguing with Europe's citizens.

In order to facilitate consultation with the EU's youngest citizens, Save the Children has prepared a child friendly questionnaire based on the White Paper, with hopes that the Commission will use it to facilitate the participation of children and to provide the Commission with useful input.

Using the questionnaire, Save the Children will carry out national consultations in a number of European countries, and present a synthesis of children's views to the Commission. Save the Children's European members are encouraging schools and youth organisations to participate in the White Paper consultation, that will be finalised 1st of July.

For more information on the White Paper, go to:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/06/271&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

For more information on child participation contact olivia-savechildbru@skynet.be

Hunger Reduction

Save the Children organised on the 4th of April a meeting with Directorates General Development, ECHO and Research, and a representative from the ACP secretariat, to present Save the Children's strategy for hunger reduction.

For more information on the strategy, please go to:

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk/jsp/whatwedo/subtheme.jsp?section=health&subsection=nutrition>

For more information contact hans-savechildbru@skynet.be

EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict

The Council working group on Human Rights (COHOM) has prepared an Implementation Strategy on the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict. Save the Children welcomes the Implementation Strategy, which calls for reporting from Heads of Missions, as well as EU support for the UN to set up task forces for monitoring and reporting on violations of children's rights in situations of armed conflict. COHOM also calls for the Commission to integrate the Implementation Strategy both in the ongoing work on the Communication on the Rights of the Child and in the future development cooperation 2007 – 2013.

COHOM furthermore encourages European Group on Training to invite Save the Children, UNICEF and UNDPKO to present the training on child protection which has so far been given to peacekeeping forces. Likewise it encourages collaboration with Save the Children, UNICEF and OHCHR on child protection training for staff.

More information on the strategy, please to go:

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/hr/news65.pdf

For more information contact hans-savechildbru@skynet.be

Fundamental Rights Agency

27th of April, the Austrian Presidency updated Civil Society in Brussels on the ongoing dialogue in the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission, on the setting up of a Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna the 1st of January 2007. Negotiations are far from finished, but so far it has been decided that the Agency will work on different thematic areas, of which children's rights might be one.

Save the Children has, together with other NGOs working on children's rights, called for a clear mandate for the promotion and protection of children's rights, as well as close cooperation with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Council of Europe.

For more information contact hans-savechildbru@skynet.be

Calls for Proposals

The European Refugee Fund has posted its call for proposals. The next deadline is the 31st of May.

For further information please go to:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/refugee/funding_refugee_en.htm#

Publications

Call for Papers: The editors of the Children and Society journal will be publishing a special issue in the spring of 2007 on the topic of displacement and asylum. The editors are calling for contributions from a variety of disciplines such as anthropology, social policy and social work, social psychology etc, which will cover experiences in Europe and the South, policy and practice and will offer reflection of a more critical nature.

Submission deadline for proposals (500 words): 31 May 2006

For more info, contact: Jason Hart, Jason.hart@geh.ox.ac.uk or Jo Boyden, jo.boyden@geh.ox.ac.uk

The Dublin II Regulation. A UNHCR Discussion Paper

The Dublin II Regulation, which entered into force in September 2003, identifies the Member State responsible for examining an asylum claim. This study by the UNHCR makes 20 recommendations as to how gaps in the application of the Dublin II regulation can be filled, and underlines strongly that no asylum seeker should be sent outside of the Dublin space without having had his/her application examined. At present, the Regulation presupposes a harmonized asylum policy in the European Union, which does not yet exist. Asylum seekers therefore receive different treatment in different countries and regions of Europe, leading to gaps in the application of the Regulation.

For the full text, please go to: <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendoc.pdf?tbl=RSDLEGAL&id=4445fe344>

UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection: The Application of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees to victims of trafficking and persons at risk of being trafficked. These UNHCR guidelines are intended to provide interpretative legal guidance for governments, legal practitioners, decision-makers and staff carrying out refugee status determination in the field.

To download the guidelines, go to: <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendoc.pdf?tbl=RSDLEGAL&id=443679fa4>

Falling Short of the Mark: An International Study on the Treatment of Human Trafficking Victims. This study published by the Future Group includes analysis of the laws and practices of specific countries with regards to their compliance with Articles 6-8 of the Trafficking Protocol, as well as giving a comparative analysis of best practices.

For the full report, please go to:

<http://www.thefuturegroup.org/TFGhumantraffickingvictimsstudy.pdf>

Keeping Children Safe: A Toolkit for Child Protection: The Keeping Children Safe Coalition launched this comprehensive child protection resource recently in London. The aim of the toolkit is to help agencies recruit staff safely, strengthen policies that prevent abuse within agencies, help deter, detect and respond to abuse, create child safe environments and to ensure that child protection is integrated into all areas of operation.

For more information, go to: <http://www.keepingchildrensafe.org.uk/>

Forthcoming Events

5 May 2006, University of East Anglia, Cambridgeshire, UK Child Abuse and Neglect: Attachment, Development and Intervention

The School of Social Work and Psychosocial Sciences at the University of East Anglia undertakes wide-ranging research in child and family social work and promotes the use of theory and research in practice.

For more information email: Sue Bailey s.e.bailey@uea.ac.uk

23-26 October, 2006, The Hague & Amsterdam, The Netherlands 3rd Annual World Conference on Children Without Parental Care

The non-profit organisation International Advocates for Children (IAC) is organising its 3rd Annual Conference on children without parental care. Workshops will be organised on Reunification, Child Soldiers, Foster Care, Adoption and Institutional Care.

For more information contact info@iachildren.nl, tel: +31 20 320 5050.