

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Legal Affairs

2007/2093(INI)

12.9.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Legal Affairs

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on a European strategy for children's rights
(2007/2093(INI))

Draftsman: Antonio López-Istúriz White

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Legal Affairs calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Urges all those Member States which have not yet done so to ratify the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
2. Urges those Member States which have not yet done so to ratify the Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children; urges the EU institutions to promote the third-country ratification of the main international child protection instruments, especially those tending to improve the situation of immigrant children;
3. whereas the implementation by the national authorities of Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility¹ is giving rise to a variety of interpretations; urges the Commission to draw up guidelines and a list of best practices with a view to clarifying and facilitating the implementation of this regulation;
4. Calls on the Commission and Council to comply with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (especially its Article 24) when legislating, thus ensuring that children's rights – in particular those of children who are in disadvantageous, exposed or vulnerable situations or who are members of migrant or ethnic minorities, especially Roma - are systematically taken into account in all legislative proposals;
5. Recalls that accession of the European Community to the Council of Europe's Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms would be an excellent means of improving child protection in the EU, and urges the Council to bring about that accession as soon as possible;
6. Urges the Council to adopt as soon as possible the proposal for a framework decision on the organisational and substantial aspects of the exchange of information between Member States on criminal records (COM(2005)0690);
7. Urges the Council to improve Europol's capabilities as regards the fight against crossborder crimes affecting children, with special regard to the dissemination of child pornography on the Internet, and to consider the possibility of investigation teams on the matter being led by a Europol agent;
8. Points out that international standards on child protection are applicable to unaccompanied minors arriving in European Union territory via irregular immigration procedures; calls on all local, regional and national authorities, and on the European Union institutions, to

¹ OJ L 338, 23.12.2003, p. 1.

cooperate as far as possible in protecting these unaccompanied minors; calls on the Commission to establish international cooperation and assistance procedures with the third countries of origin so as to ensure that minors are properly returned to these countries and calls for mechanisms to be established to protect these minors once they have returned to their countries or origin, both within their biological families and through mechanisms or institutions that will offer them effective protection;

9. Calls on the Commission to submit a report on the possible inclusion in all international agreements between the EC and third countries of a specific and legally binding clause on respect for children's rights as defined at international level.

PROCEDURE

Title	European strategy for children's rights
References	2007/2093(INI)
Committee responsible	LIBE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	JURI 26.4.2007
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Antonio López-Istúriz White 29.1.2007
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	19.3.2007 11.6.2007
Date adopted	11.9.2007
Result of final vote	+: 24 –: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Marek Aleksander Czarnecki, Bert Doorn, Monica Frassoni, Giuseppe Gargani, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Othmar Karas, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Klaus-Heiner Lehne, Katalin Lévai, Alain Lipietz, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Hans-Peter Mayer, Manuel Medina Ortega, Hartmut Nassauer, Aloyzas Sakalas, Francesco Enrico Speroni, Daniel Stroj, Rainer Wieland
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Janelly Fourtou, Jean-Paul Gauzès, Barbara Kudrycka, Michel Rocard, Jacques Toubon
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Albert Deß, María Sornosa Martínez
Comments (available in one language only)	...