Priorities

On the basis of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the EU’s priority is to ensure that children are respected and that they are given the chance to develop and enjoy security.

The EU also aims at protecting children from all forms of violence, exploitation and child labour, as well as promoting their access to justice.

Did you know?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, to protect the rights of children, is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. It encompasses civil rights and freedoms, family environment, basic health and welfare, education, leisure and cultural activities and special protection measures for children.

According to Amnesty International, there are estimated to be between 100 million and 150 million street children in the world.

Although the global number of child labourers had declined from 246 million to 168 million, since 2000, this still accounts for 11% of the child population as a whole.

Children in hazardous work that directly endangers their health, safety and moral development make up more than half of all child labourers, numbering 85 million in absolute terms.


Top 3 Facts

The EU has prioritised children’s rights in 84 countries around the world in EU local Human rights Country Strategies for the period 2011-2013.

Following a joint effort between the EU and UNICEF, a Child Rights Toolkit aiming to integrate a child rights approach throughout development programming, budgeting, policy-making and law making has been completed and launched through regional training organized for EU delegations and others donors.

The final electronic version will be available and officially launched during the first semester of 2014.

Through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, €13.2 million has been earmarked for the years 2007-2013 to support worldwide civil society in implementing projects on children.
Human Rights:
The EU has adopted its first ever unified Strategic Framework for Human Rights and Democracy.

Main links:
EU support to children affected by armed conflict:

Humanitarian aid and civil protection:
http://ec.europa.eu/echo/EU4children

9th May Europe Day