

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

SJR(2) –12-06(p7) Annex 1

Date: Thursday 21 September 2006

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: SJR Committee EU Priorities (2006)

Suggested priorities identified	Timing
<p data-bbox="39 808 376 846">Rights of the Child</p> <p data-bbox="39 904 1278 1032">The European Commission adopted its Communication "Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child" on 4 July 2006. The Strategy contains proposals which are likely to be of interest to Committee Members.</p> <p data-bbox="39 1093 1249 1220">The Communication proposes to establish a comprehensive EU strategy "to effectively promote and safeguard the rights of the child in the EU's internal and external policies and to support Member States' efforts in this field."</p> <p data-bbox="39 1281 1289 1541">It is recognised that children's rights are far from being generally respected and that their basic needs are not being met. The EU therefore aims to add its weight to push children's rights to the forefront, to add value to the efforts of Member States and to strengthen recognition and respect for the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The UN Convention was itself adopted by the National Assembly as the basis for policy making in January 2004.</p> <p data-bbox="39 1601 1155 1639">The Strategy is structured around seven specific objectives which include:</p> <p data-bbox="39 1700 1278 1827">Capitalising on existing activities (e.g. tackling human trafficking) and addressing urgent needs. The Commission will therefore undertake the following urgent measures:</p> <p data-bbox="39 1888 1259 2013">To attribute one single six digit telephone number (beginning with 116: 116 xyz) within the EU for child help-lines and one for child hotlines dedicated to missing and sexually exploited children (end 2006).</p> <p data-bbox="39 2074 1222 2139">To support the banking sector and credit card companies to combat the use of credit cards when purchasing sexual images of children on the Internet (2006).</p>	<p data-bbox="1332 808 1474 846">4 July 06</p> <p data-bbox="1332 904 1485 943">Published</p>

To promote ‘a clustering of actions’ on child poverty in the EU (2007).

Identifying priorities for future EU action e.g. to collect comparable data on children’s rights (2007)

Mainstreaming children’s rights in EU actions (2007).

Establishing efficient coordination and consultation mechanisms e.g. increasing children’s involvement in decision making and the setting up of a coordinator for the rights of the child (2006).

Enhancing capacity and expertise on children’s rights and communicating more effectively to publicise children’s rights (2007 onwards).

A progress report will be presented every year, and the Commission has stated its commitment to allocating the necessary human and financial resources to implement the Strategy.

Green Paper on the role of civil society in EU Drugs Policy

26 June -
30 Sept

European Commission consultation, to explore how best organise a continuous dialogue with civil society organisations active in the drugs field to ensure their knowledge and expertise is taken account in the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2005-2008. The Drugs Action Plan was one of the suggested priority items for SJR in 2005.

EU Alcohol Strategy

September

Commission Communication consulting on the development of an EU alcohol policy - the aim is to reduce the health and social effects of alcohol consumption. An independent report on alcohol use in Europe, commissioned by the European Commission was published in June 2006 by the Institute of Alcohol Studies in London. This will inform the Commission’s thinking as it prepares the Communication.

Postal services

November

Proposal for a Directive on an internal market for postal services, confirming, if appropriate, the date of 2009 for the full accomplishment of the postal internal market or determining any other step towards it (i.e. the opening of remaining postal monopolies to competition). Will be accompanied by:

a report on the application of the current postal directive; and

a prospective study has been published on the impact on universal service of the full accomplishment of the postal internal market in 2009. The results of the 2005 consultation on postal services have been published.