

## Editorial

### *The Social Cohesion Strategy: progress and prospects*

The Council of Europe's *Strategy for social cohesion*, approved by the Committee of Ministers in July 2000, is now beginning to bear fruit.

The Council of Europe promotes a rights-based approach to social policy and sees poverty and social exclusion as, first and foremost, a denial of effective access to social rights. The centrepiece of the strategy to date has therefore been the series of activities on access to social rights. The results of the work on access to employment, access to social protection and access to housing, which was completed at the end of last year, have now been brought together in a comprehensive report entitled *Access to Social Rights in Europe*. The report was drafted for the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CDCS) by Professor Mary Daly of Queen's University, Belfast, who worked together with a small editorial group of experts. The high quality of the report, which is summarised in this issue of *Social Cohesion: Developments*, was immediately recognised by the CDCS. (See article on page 3)

The report is being publicly launched at the Conference on Access to Social Rights on 14-15 November 2002. As a sign of the political importance attached to this event, the Government of Malta is hosting the conference, thus making it one of the

flagship events of Malta's six-month Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (see also interview of Mr. Gonzi on page 2).

We cannot, however, rest content with publishing a high quality report. The challenge is now to ensure that the social policy community in the member States is made aware of what the report has to offer. For this reason, we shall in 2003 be asking member States to translate the report into their own languages and organise events designed to convey its message to a wider audience.

The other major event of this autumn has been the Forum on New social responsibility in a globalising world: the role of the State, the market and civil society, which was held in Strasbourg on 2-3 October 2002. This conference brought together a wide spread of government officials, business people, academics and representatives of civil society. There was general agreement that, if we are to evolve socially and environmentally sustainable forms of development in a globalising world, new models of partnership between government, business and civil society have to be found. As the Secretary General pointed out in his opening address, these need to be based on a new social consensus, and he called for a new code of ethics for development. (See article on the Forum on page 4)

In 2003, the work of the CDCS will move into a new phase. To mark this evolution, the Committee will be revising and updating its basic document, the Strategy for social

cohesion so as to take into account the lessons of the first few years of work:

- moreover, new work will be starting on several topics. In the first place, work is starting on a project on social services, with the emphasis on the rights and participation of users;
- secondly, as a contribution to the Council of Europe's Integrated Project "Responses to violence in everyday life in a democratic society" (see articles in Newsletter N°5 and 6), we shall be undertaking a wide-ranging study of the social integration of young people in disadvantaged urban areas. The aim will be to draw up guidelines for integrated social policy approaches to tackling the underlying causes of violence and related forms of anti-social behaviour.
- finally, as a follow-up to this year's major conferences in Madrid and Berlin on ageing, the Council of Europe plans to strengthen its work on the social consequences of demographic ageing and the quality of life of elderly people (see article on the Report "Improving the Quality of life of elderly persons in situations of dependency" in Newsletter N°6).

As the year 2002 draws to a close, the CDCS finds itself, therefore, looking back on its first few years of solid achievement and, at the same time, moving forward into several exciting and challenging areas of new work.

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**Newsletter: What do you see as the principal challenges facing you as a Minister for Social Policy?**

*The principal challenge for a Social Policy*

*Minister is to make sure that all policies respond to the realities of everyday life and therefore to the emergence of new social and economic realities within a globalised environment. Most welfare systems were designed during a period when we were not fully aware of the impact of demographic trends resulting from improved medical care. They were also designed when the cost of medical care was much less than it is today and when the family network constituted a much stronger support unit during times of crisis. Similarly, the importance of education and the impact of information technology as necessary tools for employment was much less than it is today which is why we are facing an imbalance between the needs of industry and the supply of labour. Gender equality and Health and Safety issues only moved to the forefront of social policy formulation in recent years with the further complication that we are today having to face a growing illegal immigration problem. The challenge is to update social policy in order to respond to all of this with a financially sustainable system.*

**Newsletter: Taking into account the results of the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development of Johannesburg, how would you reply to those who say that in an increasingly competitive global economy we can no longer afford the generous social protection to which we have become accustomed in Europe?**

*I think this is a superficial way of describing the challenge that we all face. The reality is that our systems were designed at a time when life expectancy was a lot shorter than it is today and when work opportunities especially in labour intensive sectors were much more commonplace than today. The real problem is not only to find the necessary funds to cover services for those who are in need today, but to understand that we are also facing some new "sustainability" dimensions, such as equality in education, removal*

*of the digital divide, opening up opportunities to communicate globally and opening up of global markets. The main concern of my government is to provide a safety net that eradicates poverty and social exclusion. We are therefore looking into ways of refining our social protection systems so that they provide for active inclusion and participation in the social and economic realms through targeting the most vulnerable sectors of society. But we complement this by investing heavily into education, training and life-long learning.*

**Newsletter: Malta occupies a pivotal position between Europe and Africa. Does the European model of social protection and social rights have anything to offer to African countries?**

*The European Social Model has been a crucial tool for the protection of workers, citizens and families in Western Europe. It places the human being at the centre of our policies and therefore achieves the crucial balance between productivity and efficiency on the one side, and respect for the dignity of the human being on the other side. In other words it gives a human face to the market economy. More importantly it is a successful model and has a track record that makes us proud of it. In this sense, this model has a lot to offer to our African neighbours especially those who still need to go through a process of transition and transformation. But I reiterate my personal opinion that the key to success everywhere, including Africa, lies in everyone's determination to invest in education and to consider education as important as life-saving water.*

*Malta has the unique advantage of having traded with our African neighbours in the Mediterranean basin for thousands of years. We respect the diversity of cultures that exist between peoples, and we also respect the fact that no one should impose a set of values on someone else. Within these parameters it is possible to build a social, economic and cultural exchange that benefits all sides.*

**Newsletter: Malta takes over the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in November 2002. During this Presidency, which questions in the social field would you like to pay particular attention to?**

*The Presidency needs to focus on matters that are directly affecting the Council of*

*Europe responding to the social challenges which Europe is facing. It is my opinion that, in social matters, the Presidency needs to focus on the fight to combat illegal trafficking and migration of humans, child pornography, social inclusion of persons with disability, in particular since the next year is the International Year of Disabled Persons, as well as the inclusion for persons with mental health difficulties.*

*The follow-up to the Malta Conference will also be a major issue of the Maltese Presidency. It is our belief that globalisation, though in essence a good force for social improvement, needs to be harnessed to mitigate potential negative consequences on the vulnerable and needy.*

**Newsletter: The Malta Conference on Access to Social Rights is the occasion for the public launch of the Council of Europe's report on access to social rights. As a government minister, which themes of this report are of particular value to you?**

*Our primary concern is to ensure free and universal access to Social Rights. It is therefore important for us to give particular attention to the obstacles that are contributing to social exclusion. We strongly believe that such obstacles should be removed or – where this is not possible – minimised. In this respect, my government will be looking closely at all those measures that are intended to increase access to and promotion of social rights.*

**Newsletter: Malta has taken the initiative to host this important Conference on Access to Social Rights. Furthermore, Malta wishes to give a new impetus to social questions during the six months of its Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. What concrete results are you expecting to see from the Conference on Access to Social Rights?**

*Malta expects to achieve greater synergy among the participating countries for a collaborative and harmonised programme to reduce individual, societal and structural obstacles. In this sense, we believe that the Council of Europe can provide the critical mass for positive action for social inclusion. In addition, we also expect the Conference to address and take a political position in respect of emerging social issues which are directly affecting the lives of Europeans.*



Social rights are one of the pillars on which Europe has been built over the last century. And yet, despite the fundamental advances achieved in this field,

social rights are by no means fully guaranteed in practice for all Europeans. The obstacles to access to social protection, health, employment, housing and education are many and varied, as is shown by the Report on *Access to Social Rights in Europe*. So one may well ask: What value can be put on a right which one is unable to actually exercise?

The Report on *Access to social rights in Europe*, written by Professor Mary Daly (Queen's University, Belfast) with the assistance of a Drafting Group and made public in Malta on 14-15 November 2002 at the conference on the same subject, compiles the outcomes of activities conducted by the Council of Europe's Directorate General of Social Cohesion on access to employment, social protection and housing, and other work carried out in the Council of Europe in the fields of health and education.

The report is written against the background of the part played by social rights in the development of Europe, which distinguishes it from other parts of the world. Although social rights are closely associated with the European social model, they are currently being challenged because of the change in values and developments such as globalisation or the political and economic reforms taking place in central and eastern Europe, which have changed perceptions of the state's role. The report affirms that these changes must not be seen as a sign of a weakening commitment to social rights in Europe and that the arguments in favour of guaranteeing

social rights are stronger today than ever.

Social rights, as legal provisions designed to respond to social needs and to promote social cohesion and solidarity, form a whole in which the structural framework of a right, the process for its implementation and the necessary resources are interdependent. However, certain conditions must prevail in order that a right may be exercised. And many obstacles may hinder the effective exercise of these rights; those obstacles are fully analysed in the Report on Access to Social Rights.

The first type of obstacle concerns the way in which rights are formulated. A right may also be restricted to certain population categories, which is a second type of obstacle. Gaps in the social security net are a third type of obstacle, and the absence of a minimum threshold for granting benefits a fourth. Other obstacles linked to psychological and sociocultural factors are also analysed in the report. A further category has to do with failure to pay the necessary attention to the situation and particular needs of disadvantaged groups and regions.

In order to overcome or eliminate these obstacles to access to social rights, transverse policies and measures are implemented in the Council of Europe member states. The Report on *Access to Social Rights in Europe* examines certain of these measures and proposes integrated approaches for improving access to social rights, based on the following principles: user-oriented delivery; enabling, empowerment and development; quality; integration of services and benefits; partnership; transparency; equality; monitoring and review of implementation.

The report also sets out inter-sectorial policy guidelines for facilitating access to social rights. These have several objectives: the first is an explicit, interpretable and inclusive formulation of social rights; measures also need to be implemented to ensure application of

those rights. Guaranteeing real access to rights also entails measures to furnish users and providers with sufficient resources and capabilities. A further aim must be better management and more efficient procedures for implementing rights, and measures to improve information and communication about rights, benefits and services, which are key factors in the exercise of rights. Lastly, the report advocates measures to eliminate psychological and socio-cultural obstacles on the part of both providers and users and to eliminate the vulnerability of disadvantaged persons and regions.

Finally, the report reaffirms the relevance of social rights in Europe and the need to promote a sustainable development approach based on human rights, as advocated by the Council of Europe through its activities and legal instruments. Guaranteeing these rights, as the report shows, is a key element in the success of the economic, political and social reforms at present taking place in Europe.

Being mindful of the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of this report, the Council of Europe has invited experts from the 44 member states and several non-member states to meet in Malta on 14-15 November 2002 to discuss the report's policy recommendations at this Conference.

Further information about the Malta Conference and the Report can be found on the Web site: <http://www.coe.int/SocialRights>

The report *Access to Social Rights in Europe* (ISBN 92-871-4985-2, 15 €) can also be ordered at Council of Europe Editing.

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The 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Ministers responsible for Migration Affairs took place in Helsinki on 16 and 17 September 2002. The theme of the Conference was "Migrants in our societies: policy choices for the 21st century". The Ministers discussed the challenges posed by integration policies and migration management and the ways of meeting those challenges. Some twenty ministerial delegations were present at the Conference.

The Ministers took stock of the migration situation in Europe and distanced themselves from certain alarmist and xenophobic commentators who see migration as a "scourge". On the contrary, the data gathered by the Council of Europe and Eurostat show that, in the European Union, migration accounts for approximately three-quarters of the population growth recorded in 2001; our ageing societies depend on such demographic growth.

The flow of migrants to Europe is very unlikely to be reversed in the near future, but there is a consensus – as also expressed at the Bratislava Conference of European Ministers responsible for Social Security (21-23 May 2002) – that the countries concerned gain economic and consequently cultural and social benefits from immigration.

The Helsinki Conference provided the opportunity to put into practice one of the underlying principles of the Council of Europe's migration management strategy, namely dialogue and co-operation between countries of origin, transit and destination. For the first time, observers and delegations from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt took part in this meeting.

The Conference also gave the Secretary General the opportunity to present to the Ministers his proposal "to create a structure in close relation to the Committee of Ministers and to the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress, which would facilitate or, where needed, provoke [...] dialogue between sending, transit and receiving countries. It would actively promote co-ordination with ministries and non-governmental organisations of the countries concerned and establish co-operation to fight the economic, political and sociological causes of migration. It would launch analyses on issues of interest to member States in the preparation of their political decision-making and would propose innovative policies and law. This structure would also help implement the strategy at the national level and would subsequently monitor the progress made.

*The elements of this new structure to implement the strategy already exist but are dealt with separately and I am sure that bringing them together in this new structure will have a synergetic effect and will give each element a new light - like putting all the pieces of the migration puzzle in the right place".*

The Ministers took note of this proposal, which means that the way is now open to explore this new avenue, especially as they undertook, in their final declaration, to set up close and lasting bilateral and multilateral co-operation between receiving, transit and origin countries in order to:

- improve the exchange of information to combat irregular migration, clandestine channels and trafficking in human beings;
- prevent irregular migration by enhancing legal provisions (penal, fiscal and civil);
- combat efficiently traffickers and criminal gangs through co-operation with countries of origin and transit;
- deal with irregular migrants in co-operation with other countries (receiving, transit and origin countries) with a view to finding appropriate solutions with due respect to human rights.

A structure of the kind proposed could be an ideal setting for dialogue and network-building.

The Ministers also undertook to combat smuggling and trafficking of human beings and migrant exploitation by:

- developing national policies and plans of action in order to ensure the effective protection of and assistance to victims of smuggling and trafficking, especially women and children as well as unaccompanied minors;
- promoting information campaigns against trafficking in human beings;
- promoting research and analysis on various methods of state response to the phenomena of illegal migration and trafficking in human beings in the countries of origin, transit and destination.

Here too, a structure which ensures that migration issues are dealt with in a consistent manner would speed up research and analysis and improve the effectiveness of measures to combat people-trafficking.

The next step is therefore to explore, with all the parties concerned and in close co-operation with the European Union, the possibilities of setting up a structure, such as that proposed by the Secretary General, which would co-ordinate and oversee appropriate activities and act as a catalyst in stimulating dialogue between countries of origin, transit and destination.

Further information on the Helsinki Conference and the Council of Europe's activities in the migration field may be found on the Website <http://www.coe.int/migration>

The Final Declaration is now available in PDF format in English, French and Russian

Migration is becoming a cross-cutting issue within the Organisation. The Parliamentary Assembly and the Directorate General of Human Rights accordingly offer viewpoints on the subject in this newsletter (see pages 5 and 7).

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## Forum for Children and Families: Recommendation on Child day-care in Europe

The adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of Recommendation Rec (2002) 8 on child day-care embodies the completion of ten years work by successive Council of Europe committees of experts on this issue.

The original approach was developed in the context of the Childhood Policies Project (1992-1996) under which a working group was established in order to examine the interests of the child in relation to child day-care and family policies and to draw up a draft position paper on child day-care focusing on the interests of the child, rather than the more usual perspective which links the provision of day-care with the employment needs of parents. Child day-care was thus one of the main topics discussed at the concluding conference of the Childhood Policy Project in Leipzig in May 1996.

Under the Programme for Children (1998-2000), child day-care continued to be a key element and Focus Group II on "Children and Child Day-Care" was established to visit and study day-care centres in several European countries to identify good practice. Bearing in mind the findings of the study visits, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant Council of Europe documents, the Focus Group II drew up principles that could form the basis for a recommendation on the subject.

The concluding conference of the Programme for Children, held in Nicosia in November 2000, endorsed these principles and recommended that they should form the basis of a Council of Europe recommendation on child day-care. In response the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CDCS) mandated the Forum for Children and Families to draw up a preliminary draft recommendation. The Recommendation on child day-care was prepared by a drafting group set up by the Forum for Children and Families in Autumn 2001, and was approved by the European Committee for Social Cohesion in May 2002.

The recommendation as adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 18 September 2002 calls upon the governments of the member states to "take action to promote accessible, affordable, flexible and good quality child day-care services..."

To this effect the recommendation stresses that:

- Child day-care is for children: it must therefore be organised in their best interests;
- Child day-care should be available for all children and there should be a system to ensure that children are not excluded from day care because of the economic situation of their families;
- Child day-care services should focus on a child's development in a way that combines care and education. Education that begins in the early years plays a crucial part in developing a child's capacity to enjoy learning throughout life.

Moreover, the recommendation identifies various aspects of quality which include the skills of the caregivers, the involvement of parents, the programme of activities, the physical environment, and the proportion of children and adults in the group

Lastly, the recommendation underlines that quality should be a continuing subject of debate for everyone involved, and supports the idea of national and international research in child day-care as well as the dissemination of research findings.

The full text of the recommendation can be found at: [http://cm.coe.int/stat/E/Public/2002/adopted\\_texts/recommendations/2002r8.htm](http://cm.coe.int/stat/E/Public/2002/adopted_texts/recommendations/2002r8.htm)

In order to capture the spirit of the recommendation and to promote its implementation the drafting group is in the process of finalising a brochure and a video on child day-care which will be made available later on this year.

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## Activities in the field of social security

The Council of Europe has been very active in the social security field in 2002. The 8th Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Security held in Bratislava in May 2002 gave new impetus to the Council's work in this field (see Newsletter N° 6). Furthermore, the intergovernmental expert committees in the social security field have held their annual meetings and a large number of bilateral and regional cooperation activities have taken place under the programme for the central and eastern Euro-

## Parliamentary Assembly: Clandestine migration and the rights of clandestine migrants

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has over recent months shown a constant interest in the issue of clandestine migration and the situation of clandestine migrants. At first sight it could appear repetitive to refer both to clandestine migration and to clandestine migrants, but this choice is intentional: clandestine migration is a priority in the agenda of international organisations and governments, while all too often the rights and dignity of clandestine migrants are not.

Recommendation 1577 of the Assembly, adopted at the September 2002 part-session, tries to address these concerns, recommending the creation of a single pan-European instrument on clandestine migration, a 'charter of intent' which would have the dual purpose of enhancing co-operation in dealing with irregular migration flows and of asserting the rights of migrants who live in a situation of illegality in Council of Europe member States.

To deal effectively with clandestine migration means first of all prevention. The Assembly has given a strong signal of the need to address the root causes of migration flows, namely poverty and political unrest, in partnership with countries of origin, transit and destination. Prevention also means maintaining transparent and clear channels for legal migration; it means co-operating with other States in the fight against smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings; it means also – but not only – strengthening border control.

Again, to deal effectively with clandestine migration implies devising and implementing a policy of management of migration in which both citizens of destination countries and migrants can have confidence; it implies the acknowledgement that migration is a constant feature of our society and cannot be stopped, but should be regulated in the interest both of States and of migrants and potential migrants.

Finally, and most importantly, migrants can be emigrants or immigrants, they

pean member states. The 11<sup>th</sup> /2002 edition (2002) of the MISSCEO comparative tables of social protection systems have been published.

The Committee of Experts on Standard-setting Instruments in the field of Social Security (CS-CO) held its 4th meeting in Strasbourg on 17-19 September 2002. This Committee is an important aspect of the supervisory procedure for the application of the European Code of Social Security. It adopted its conclusions on the governmental reports for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and forwarded them to the Committee of Ministers, which in turn will adopt its Resolutions on the application of the Code by the contracting parties for this period. Furthermore, the Committee held a debate on the development of privatised pension schemes in Europe, with the participation of prominent speakers from the International Labour Office and the European Commission, as well as academics specialised in the social security field. This debate will provide a basis for a working party under the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CDCS), which will further study this trend with a view to making concrete proposals for adapting the Strategy for Social Cohesion of the Council of Europe.

The Committee of Experts for Co-ordination in the Social Security Field (CS-CR), which is responsible for promoting co-ordination of social security schemes through the international coordination conventions in this field drawn up by the Council of Europe, held its 4th meeting in Strasbourg on 2 and 3 July 2002. The 8th Conference of Ministers recommended promoting knowledge and ratification of those Council of Europe legal instruments that are aimed at facilitating the integration of migrant workers, and in particular those instruments aiming at a complete pan-European social security coordination network, namely the European Interim Agreements on Social Security Schemes and the European Convention on Social Security. Furthermore, the Conference recommended strengthening the Council of Europe's role linked to the exchange of information on social security co-ordination and the sharing of experience and practices between member states, as well as its role of observing developments in the field of social security co-ordination within Europe. The Committee developed a strategy for the follow-up to the Conference, which will be considered by the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CDCS) at its next meeting.

The Council of Europe currently carries out an extensive programme of co-operation activities on a country-by-country and re-

gional basis in the field of social security for central and eastern European member states. The aim of the programme in the standard-setting field is to assist these states in defining a national social security framework compatible with the European Code of Social Security and its Protocol and to assist the national authorities in preparing for early signatures and ratifications of these legal instruments. In 2002, activities are taking place with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine. Of particular importance is a regional seminar for the South-East European member and observer states on the financing of pensions. This is being organised in the context of the Social Cohesion Initiative of the Stability Pact and will take place in Ljubljana on 25 and 26 November this year. A major result of this programme was the signature by Romania of the European Code of Social Security at a special session during the Ministerial Conference in Bratislava. Several other member states have stated their intention to sign or ratify the Code shortly. The aim of the programme in the co-ordination field is to promote the legal instruments of the Council of Europe with a view to a complete pan-European social security co-ordination network. A major result of this programme was the signatures by the Czech Republic and Moldova of the European Convention on Social Security.

The Council of Europe will organise a social security training course on the standard-setting instruments for 70 participants from all member states at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg on 20-22 November this year. The course is part of the programme of co-operation activities to promote ratification of the European Code of Social Security and its Protocol and responds to a need for the training of civil servants on a continuous and regular basis that continues after entry into force of these legal instruments.

The Mutual Information System on Social Protection of the Council of Europe (MISSCEO) has prepared the 11th/2002 edition of the MISSCEO comparative tables of social protection systems and will begin the preparation of the 12th/2003 edition at a meeting organised in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity which will take place in Bucharest on 12 and 13 December this year.

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can find themselves with or without a legal status, they may be sources of labour or of potential labour, but first and foremost they are human beings and thus are entitled to all the rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights as well as in other international human rights instruments. It should be a primary concern of Council of Europe member States that these rights are respected.

Recommendation 1577, like many others in the field of migration, has been initiated by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. It represents the culmination of the work of the Rapporteur, Mr Wilkinson (United Kingdom, European Democratic Group) as well as of a series of initiatives organised by the Committee, such as the Conference on the situation of clandestine migrants in Council of Europe member States (Paris, 13 December 2001), the visit to the Sangatte reception centre (7 March 2002) and the European day on asylum, migration and refugees (Lucern, 27 May 2002).

The interest of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography in the situation of clandestine migrants in Europe has not come to an end with the adoption of Recommendation 1577: beginning of October, the Committee organised a round table on irregular migration, with the participation of relevant IGOs and NGOs as well as of members of the European Parliament (Brussels, 3 October 2002).

Among the future topics of discussion in the Committee there will be, at the initiative of its Chair, Mr Tadeusz Iwinski, the creation of a permanent European observatory on migration, a body that should help to co-ordinate the efforts for the implementation of the Council of Europe's strategy of migration management and exchange of information, and one which will also be open to the participation of non-Council of Europe member States.

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## Initiative to set up a new European body for the Roma

On 24 January 2001 the President of Finland Ms. Tarja Halonen proposed before the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe that "serious consideration be given to a need to create for the Roma some kind of consultative assembly to represent them on the pan-European level". Initial responses from the Roma community were positive and stressed the need to study the details further. The Government of Finland committed itself in its statement at the ministerial meeting of the Council of Europe in May 2001 to advance the initiative in close consultation with the Roma organisations and with the advice of experts involved in promoting Roma rights.

Following an international seminar on Roma participation in Europe, organised in Helsinki in October 2001, an Exploratory Group was constituted to study the issue and give its recommendations for the setting-up of a European body for the Roma. The group held its last meeting on 19-20 September 2002 to finalise its work.

Despite the increasing attention paid to the disadvantaged status of the Roma and international and national efforts made to improve their status and position, the Roma are still today discriminated against in all parts of Europe. Especially, there are problems concerning access to employment, housing, health care, education and entry to public facilities. Also violent attacks against Roma are a commonplace.

Further efforts are needed to eliminate discrimination against the Roma. Political representation of Roma and participation in decision-making processes are lagging behind that of the majority population. Participation of the Roma minorities in public life needs to be enhanced in the countries where they live.

The Council of Europe and the OSCE are already actively working on Roma issues. The contributions by all these bodies are essentially complementary, mutually reinforcing and invaluable for the Roma. Their work nevertheless raises a question of ownership. An inherent shortcoming in these existing activities is the lack of arrangements which would ensure the participation of Roma. At the same time, it is clear that the most effective solutions to the problems faced by the Roma would be found through the participation of the Roma in the planning, implementation and the follow-up of the decisions and programmes concerning them.

The potential of the creation of such a body has also been acknowledged in international fora. The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly endorsed the setting up of a European body for Roma in April 2002 with its recommendation 1557 on the legal situation of the Roma in Europe.

Considering the strong normative framework and the well-established institutional networks that has been created in the framework of the Council of Europe in the fields of human rights, social cohesion, culture, legal affairs and multi-disciplinary work, it seems that this international organisation would provide the best location for the functioning of the new body. Close links with various organs and sectors of the Council of Europe working in the field of minority rights, non-discrimination, social rights and migration in particular and human rights and social cohesion in general should thus be created.

In addition, it would be useful to develop co-operation with other relevant international institutions. Of particular interest could be the institutions which have already established or are in the process of creating channels of co-operation with external expert and/or representative institutions. At the European level natural co-operation partners would be found within the framework of the OSCE and the EU. At the global level, fruitful institutional links could be established with various mechanisms, agencies, programmes and funds working in connection with the United Nations.

The fifth and last meeting of the Exploratory Group was held in Strasbourg at the end of September 2002. In this connection, the group agreed on its terms of reference, including the functions and working methods and the funding of the new body

The forum will be composed of national delegates, representatives of the Roma and of the major non-governmental organisations. It will be assisted by a small executive body. It will establish links with the various sectors and organs of the Council of Europe and will at the same time serve as a source of information and as a pressure group.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe is now examining the proposals.

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## Human Rights: the work to fight trafficking in human beings

Trafficking in human beings has become in the last decade a major problem in Europe. Every year, a vast number of people, the majority of whom are women and minors, are trafficked within and over borders and submitted to various situations of exploitation. This phenomenon has now reached such an unprecedented level that it is possible to speak about a new form of slavery. It concerns practically all member states of the Council of Europe, as countries of origin, transit or destination of the victims.

Trafficking constitutes a violation of human rights. Since the late 1980s, the Council of Europe, whose principal vocation is to safeguard and promote human rights, has been the "natural home" for activities aiming to combat a phenomenon that constitutes a violation of people's dignity and integrity, their freedom of movement, as well as, in some cases, their right to life.

Given that trafficking on such a scale is a relatively new phenomenon in Europe, many member states do not yet have any specific laws to deal with the question. It is essential that anti-trafficking measures take account of the fact that it is a very complex issue and efforts must be made to address the entire cycle of trafficking, and all its aspects, such as prevention, prosecution of offenders, protection of and assistance to victims.

Aware of the need for standard-setting work in this field, the Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation No. R (2000) 11 on action against trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Follow-up to this recommendation is high on the agenda of the Steering Committee for equality between women and men (CDEG), especially the promotion of national and regional action plans to combat the phenomenon.

Under the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Council of Europe is responsible for a

### **Roma under the Stability Pact project: evaluation shows work should continue**

As over two years had passed since the *Roma under the Stability Pact* project began operating in south-eastern Europe, it was felt that the time had come to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the work done to promote respect for the rights of a community that aspires to citizenship. The evaluation conference on the joint Council of Europe, OSCE/ODIHR and European Union project on *Roma under the Stability Pact* was held in Strasbourg on 30 September and 1 October. The Roma/Gypsies Division of the Directorate General of Social Cohesion was responsible for organising the event.

With representatives of Roma NGOs and various international governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental institutions that are involved to a greater or lesser extent with Roma/Gypsy issues, around 70 participants helped to evaluate the first phase of the Council of Europe's activities conducted from January 2001 to September 2002 and also to identify new priorities for action in South-east Europe that could serve as the basis for devising a new joint project for 2003/2004.

The participants had many things to say. Whether with regard to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro or "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", large numbers of proposals for action were put forward. Some of these will be incorporated in the future Council of Europe project, OSCE-ODIHR work or other activities.

The Migration and Roma/Gypsies Division has been involved in the work of the Stability Pact for South-east Europe since September 1999. This led to a regional programme on the Roma community in the Balkans, drawn up in close co-operation with the OSCE-ODIHR. The 18-month programme set out to tackle three key aspects of the problem, to be divided between the various partners: addressing the most acute crisis situations that affect Roma, developing policies on Roma affairs, and boosting Roma participation and fostering the work of Roma organisations through networking.

Geographically, the project was confined to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", producing very practical results in those countries: in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a joint committee comprising representatives of

government ministries and elected Roma representatives was set up to devise a national programme for Roma; in Croatia, several meetings were organised, at which the communities came closer together and various reports were drafted giving a clearer insight into Roma living conditions, while, in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", some progress was made in the education and employment sectors, even though, in general, activities had difficulty getting off the ground because of the obstacles caused by a local crisis and elections. Lastly, although Serbia and Montenegro were not included in the first programme, several information meetings did take place and it is important to note that the federal authorities have announced their intention to adopt a national policy for Roma.

For the future, the Council of Europe Secretariat has established new priorities such as closely monitoring the local implementation of national programmes or strategies on Roma issues, stepping up co-operation between local authorities and Roma NGOs and boosting cross-border co-operation and exchanges of information, while focusing on a thematic approach. It was with this in mind that Mr Scicluna, Co-ordinator of Council of Europe activities for Roma/Gypsies/ Travellers, underlined the importance of co-operation both between various Roma NGOs and between them and local and national authorities. He also stressed that it was vital that the partnership project in this area between the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the OSCE-ODIHR should be carried forward.

The basis for continued development of the work started on the ground is now taking shape. On 9 October, for instance, the EuropeAid Co-operation Office of the European Commission, which is responsible for the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, confirmed the granting of €300 000 in aid to the Council of Europe and the OSCE-ODIHR for a joint project by the two institutions covering the period 2003/2004. On 16 October, the two partners were due to submit a detailed project proposal to the European Commission, thereby also giving it access to some of the recommendations made at the evaluation conference. A new agreement between the Council of Europe and the European Commission is due to be signed by the end of the year.

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project on criminal law reform in the field of trafficking in South-East Europe (Lara Project). This project aims to ensure that trafficking in human beings is made a full criminal offence, that victims' human rights are protected and that the relevant legislation is developed in a co-ordinated way.

International governmental organisations and NGOs have repeatedly taken action to fight trafficking, both through adoption of texts and concrete action in the field. In spite of this, the CDEG agrees that there is definitely a need for a Council of Europe Convention on trafficking in human beings to deal with the issue at the pan-European level in a more comprehensive and monitored way. It was thought that the main added value of such a convention, besides a system of monitoring, would be a clear human rights focus and the inclusion of a gender perspective.

A feasibility study on the drafting of such a convention has been prepared and is at present in the hands of the Committee of Ministers.

A Group of specialists working under the authority of the CDEG has prepared a study on the impact of new technologies on trafficking in human beings, looking at the techniques used and how they work, the users and their motives, as well as the existing legislation. The report also explores the effects of the use of these new technologies on the victims of trafficking and the resulting violations of human rights.

For more information on the Council of Europe's work in the field of combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation, see the Equality Division's web site: <http://www.humanrights.coe.int/equality/>

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### Women's contribution to social cohesion in Russia

The conference on *Women in a Changing World* held in St Petersburg from 17 to 19 October 2002 by the Social Cohesion Development Division in partnership with the St Petersburg Institute of Social and Economic Studies brought together 178 mostly female participants from the various regions of the Russian Federation, especially the north-west of the country. The event received financial support from the Government of Finland and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The presence of the Governors of St Petersburg and of Leningrad Region, Mr Yakovlev and Mr Serdyukov, the Chair of the Federation Council Committee for Social Policy, Ms Petrenko, and the former Minister for Social Welfare of the Russian Federation, Ms Bezlepkina, demonstrated the growing political interest in issues involving women's role in social cohesion. The in-depth discussions of the three themes of the conference (social and economic rights of women; the labour market and employment of women; women's health and workplace safety) showed the extent to which the concept of gender equality is now part of the language and reality of present-day Russia.

In particular, the conference highlighted the need for the opportunities open to Russian women in politics, social affairs and business to be analysed, both by politicians and by entrepreneurs, researchers, activists and so on. Details were given of a number of legislative improvements, including the decree President Putin recently signed establishing a federal body on equal opportunities for men and women, while attention also focused on what remains to be done to give women full access to social rights. In this connection, the issues of unemployment among highly qualified women and of illiteracy among women in rural areas were raised.

At the invitation of the Council of Europe, the chairs of small-business associations from Venezia and Emilia-Romagna in Italy, the Norwegian Gender Equality Ombudsman, representatives of municipalities and management training bodies for women from Catalonia and the head of a project aimed at networking Swedish businesswomen with their counterparts from the Leningrad region all took part in a fruitful exchange of views, opening up prospects for future co-operation.

The conference was rounded off with an exhibition of products from female entrepreneurs' firms in St Petersburg, which was held in the beautiful venue of the Anichkov Palace.



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### The "Mountains of Europe 2002 Pyrenees – Alps – Caucasus" Project

From 21-26 October 2002, three delegations from mountain regions in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia were invited by the Government of Aragon (Spain) and the Council of Europe in order to study rural development projects in Aragon and work together with experts from Spain, Italy, Portugal and Hungary to develop an appropriate territorial approach to fight poverty in their region. The delegations included representatives from governments, local and regional authorities, municipalities, employers'

*(Continued on page 10)*

### Council of Europe message to the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development (26 August – 4 September 2002)

In its political message to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Committee of Ministers draws attention to the Council of Europe's legal instruments, resources and political institutions, which enable it to make an effective contribution to global sustainable development as defined by the United Nations.

The Council of Europe also stands ready to examine the outcome of the Johannesburg Summit with a view to participating actively in international efforts to promote sustainable development based on human rights and to make the best possible use of its political institutions to foster debate with the citizens of its member states and thereby encourage shared responsibility.

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Director General of Social Cohesion at the Council of Europe, attended the Summit and made a statement on its theme, drawing attention to the price to be paid for failing to respect social rights and deploring the fact that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century sustainable development had passed so many people by. She pointed out that, in the face of rampant globalisation, it was essential to counter the threats and rise to the social and economic challenges facing humankind.

She underlined the Council of Europe's role in seeking to achieve this. Sustainable development could no longer be considered only in terms of the environment. It was also necessary to build *"cohesive societies in which every individual [could] fully enjoy his or her civil, political, social and economic rights"*. Human rights, social justice and sustainable development were inextricably linked and the ultimate aim was to ensure that individuals could live in peace and dignity, *"contributing to balanced and equitable progress in a spirit of intergeneration solidarity"*.

All speeches and political messages can be found on the Council of Europe Web site <http://www.coe.int> under "Events Files".

organisations, trade unions, universities, and NGOs.

During the week, the members of the delegations had the opportunity to study the innovative forms of partnership developed in the Aragon region to promote social and economic development in mountain areas. Ten years ago this region was facing many similar problems to the mountain areas in the South Caucasus (migration flows, ageing population,

lack of income and job opportunities, etc).

At the end of the week the delegations identified a set of development priorities and policy proposals for their mountain region and detailed proposals to promote development cooperation, in particular with the Mountain Community of Cadore (Italy). Moreover, each delegation chose six trainees from their country to be trained in rural development centres in

Aragon during a six-month period with a view to initiating a local development project when they return to their region.

More information about this Project can be found in issues No. 5 and No. 6 of the Newsletter "*Social Cohesion: Developments*".

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## FORUM ON

*"NEW SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A GLOBALISING WORLD: THE ROLE OF THE STATE, THE MARKET AND CIVIL SOCIETY"*  
2-3 October 2002, Strasbourg

On 2 and 3 October, the Council of Europe organised a major forum in Strasbourg on the theme of *New social responsibility in a globalising world: the role of the state, the market and civil society*. Supported by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament and the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Foreign Policy, Foreign Trade and Housing of the Government of the Flemish Community, the forum brought together over a hundred participants from over twenty different countries. Following an opening speech by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe calling for the drafting of a code of ethics for development, the forum provided an opportunity to broaden the debate on the issue of social responsibility.

It highlighted the fact that both as individual citizens and as representatives of governments, trade unions, business, international organisations or civil society, we are all confronted with the question of social responsibility in the face of growing financial insecurity, inequality and poverty. The various workshops produced a number of key points of convergence that can serve as the foundation for a code of ethics for sustainable development, while also providing avenues for future work:

- The need to broaden the debate on social responsibility, going beyond mere corporate social responsibility, although the latter remains essential.
- The need to adopt an integrated approach within which the economic sphere should not be all-powerful and disconnected from other fields

(political, social and cultural) but should be an integral part of a larger whole.

- The need to see things in the long term. Social responsibility must be exercised on a long-term basis, taking account of the effects of our present action on social cohesion, our ecosystems and the living and working conditions of future generations.
- The need to take account of a spatial dimension in addition to this temporal aspect. Social responsibility cannot stop at the company gates or at Europe's borders. It must be expressed at the global level if we are to avoid the risk of intensifying the divides in the world and the tensions they create.
- The dynamic nature of social responsibility, which means that there can be no single fixed framework, but one that constantly changes and adapts to developments in the world and in specific contexts, while some fundamental values, such as democracy and respect for basic human and social rights, must not be challenged under any circumstances.
- Recognition of the fact that the new framework for social responsibility cannot start from nothing: it must be based on a set of existing benchmarks such as national legislation, the basic ILO conventions, the Council of Europe's Social Charter and many more texts besides. It is vital to note here that the authorities cannot remain on the sidelines of the process of redistributing social responsibility. In the new governance structures now emerging, the state still has a vital role

to play in regulating society and business in a manner geared towards public well-being.

- Central to social responsibility is the question of the emergence or reinforcement of new partnerships bringing together the various public and private players - not only traditional players such as governments and management and labour, but also, increasingly, the various organisations representing civil society that are playing a growing role in our communities.
- Social responsibility is only meaningful - or credible - if it involves not only supervisory criteria and tools but also punitive mechanisms. The creation of a certification scheme could greatly help to operationalise the concept of social responsibility.
- Lastly, as far as Europe's social responsibility in the world is concerned, it is important to promote the European social model not because it is universal in character (although its fundamental values are indeed universal) but because it offers proof that retaining strong social regulation is not inconsistent with high economic performance, making it a manifestation of the wide range of approaches possible in a globalised world.

More information about the Forum and the various contributions can be found on the Website:

<http://www.coe.int/events/SocialCohesion>

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## The "European Social Charter and Social Policies" NGO Grouping

The grouping of international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) previously called "*Social Rights, European Social Charter, Work and Social Policy*" has changed its name to "*European Social Charter and Social Policies*" to make it clearer. The decision was taken on 24 September 2002 by around 140 INGOs that make up the grouping. The change in no way affects the grouping's fields of action, as promoting and monitoring social rights and the European Social Charter and taking action in connection with them remain its main concerns, alongside trends in social policies in Europe, including the employment sector dimension in particular.

The "*European Social Charter and Social Policies*" grouping focuses not so much on making sure that social practices have a philosophical basis as on taking action on the ground and lobbying lawmakers so that social rights are actually put into practice in member states' legislation. By way of example, at its September 2002 meeting, the grouping approved a proposed additional protocol to the European Social Charter concerning students, submitted by one of the INGOs, the European Students' Forum (AEGEE). The aim was to include an article in the form of a protocol on the right to higher education, highlighting all of the aspects that make access to high-quality higher education possible.

In the spirit of the *quadrilogue* advocated by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the grouping is going to carry forward and step up its proposals for partnership activities in areas within its remit with the Council of Europe's three other component bodies – the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

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## The "Extreme Poverty and Social Cohesion" NGO Grouping

The "*Extreme Poverty and Social Cohesion*" Grouping is co-operating in the two integrated projects, especially the project on "*Responses to violence in everyday life in a democratic society*". All the NGOs have therefore been asked to supply examples of good practice. Our grouping particularly wants to highlight strategies devised by deprived communities to deal with violence: *life would be impossible on high-rise estates if the inhabitants didn't constantly work out ways of settling disputes!*

The grouping is also stepping up its partnership with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) via the Committee on Social Cohesion. Its Chair, Bernard Suaud, has urged NGOs to send him discussion topics which the committee will work on. The Head of the grouping, Ms Maritchu Rall of the International Association of Charities (AIC), was given a hearing and submitted some practical ideas for the committee's work.

The *ad hoc* Working Group on "*Children and Families: Child Vagrance – Begging and Child Exploitation*" is working in close co-operation with the Forum for Children and Families of the Directorate General of Social Cohesion. Proposals have been made on placement in institutions. Two NGOs – the International Federation for Parent Education (IFPE) and the International Movement ATD Fourth World – are represented as experts on the Working Group on Children at Risk and in Care set up by the Forum for Children and Families.

The grouping is also represented on the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CDCS), and the NGOs have accordingly prepared a contribution to the Conference on Access to Social Rights, to be held in Malta on 14 and 15 November 2002: they stress that fundamental rights are obviously indivisible, given the kind of lives people on the fringes of society lead, and that it is important to rebuild a social fabric in which everyone has a place. Annelise Oeschger of the Movement ATD Fourth World, who has represented the grouping on the CDCS since the latter was set up, is moving to another job, so the grouping will now be represented by Mr Daniel Zielinski of the United Towns Organisation (UTO).

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## European Union: Round Table on poverty and social exclusion

As 2003 draws near, the Danish Presidency of the European Union has decided to devote the Round Table on 17 and 18 October 2002 in Aarhus (Denmark) to the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The discussions, which involved various experts, politicians, members of European NGOs and representatives of candidate countries as well as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, were based on the fifteen national action plans for combating poverty and social exclusion.

The ministers of social affairs of the European Union, who will meet within the Council in late 2002, will draw on the ideas put forward at the Round Table and include them in their discussions on redefining social integration and poverty eradication objectives. A new generation of national action plans will be produced in 2003. The aim is to take stock of achievements during the first stage of these plans.

On behalf of the Council of Europe, Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, Director General of Social Cohesion, drew attention to the fundamental role of social rights in combating social exclusion and poverty and to the revised version of the European Social Charter, which, in 1996, enshrined protection against poverty and social exclusion as a "new" right.

The first day of the Aarhus Round Table coincided with the "International Day for the Eradication of Poverty". The



### Bosnia - Herzegovina: Futura Plus

*Futura Plus* is a non-governmental organisation based in Teslic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and has been active in this region since July 1997. The main goals are the development of civil society and community progress as well as economic, health, cultural and political integration of people into a modern and democratic community. The main activities today concern community development, especially development of civil initiatives, return of the refugees, income generation, education, health and psychosocial work.

Five experts are currently working in the organisation – a sociologist, a psychologist, a pedagogue, a doctor and an engineer – as well as ten expert volunteers who are specialised in particular fields.

The main donors of *Futura Plus* are: the EU, UNHCR, USAID, IRC, IOCC, MCE/SEA, Canadian Embassy, the Dutch Foundation "Stichting Vluchteling", Soros Foundation, Mama Cash, WB and others. At the moment, *Futura Plus* is carrying out the project "Support to spontaneous return in Gomjenica and Studenci" funded by BHWI (Bosnia & Herzegovina Women's Initiative) and "Social - Economic reintegration of the inhabitants from Podjezera" supported by IOCC. It is also conducting the project "Let's create our future" sustained by the European Commission through its Programme "European initiatives for democracy and human rights". Some other projects are also worthwhile mentioning: "Economic Reintegration of Women Returnees and self-supporting Mothers", funded by "Bosnian Women's Initiative" – UNHCR programme; "Reintegration of returnees and war-affected women in Teslic municipality (Collecting and drying fruits, mushrooms and herbs)", funded by *Stichting Vluchteling* – through MCE/SEA.

After the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, *Futura Plus* was mostly offering psychosocial and material support. But later, it created the projects, which could provide sustainable return for many refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as better conditions for local inhabitants. Today, it works with all people no matter who they are and what ethnical origin they are of. The aim is to create good relationships among the people and build links to pro-

mote the development of community spirit.

Through its projects *Futura Plus* hopes to encourage young people and qualified people who are leaving the country to stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It tries to provide for a dignified life for children and old people and give them the hope that the future in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be much better than today. The fight is very tough, the intentions are very serious and even if the financial means and material support are modest, *Futura Plus* will continue its action because it feels it is needed to support the beneficiaries.

*Futura Plus* is ready to help set up partnerships with other organisations or institutions which would like to help develop the country. "We are aware of the situation and we want to change it. Therefore we are trying to establish as many links as possible between our country and foreign countries seeking to find long-term solutions to our problems" says Koviljka Špiric, main representative of *Futura Plus*. Co-operation is, for her, the only chance for progressing. "We are aware that we have to accept communication at all levels (local, national and global) if we want to reanimate our society and if we want to become part of the modern world".

Lately, the NGO sector has grown in Bosnia-Herzegovina and more and more people are getting involved. Through this phenomenon, politicians and political parties have little by little lost their monopoly in governing the country. "We are happy that more people can express their opinion, that minorities will have the same rights as the majority population, that poor people will get a chance to improve their lives through our income generation projects and that equality will be present among all people here. We have to admit it is not easy but we have to continue". *Futura Plus* is working as best it can for the future of the country.

Koviljka Špiric also declared: "Our results are visible and we are proud of it. Helping the people makes us understand the reason of our existence. One person, one human life, one family are so important for us and if we can help just one of them we did a great job. This is our motto and our reality. At the same time we know that we will not change the world but we will try to make it better."

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agenda for the meeting mainly comprised a number of workshops on subjects such as tackling the negative social legacy, poverty among children, the roles of voluntary organisations, user involvement and socially excluded people's access to healthcare services. Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, who made one of the opening speeches at the conference, described the European Social Cohesion Strategy as a social-rights approach and a gateway to an inclusive society. Such a strategy, she said, must be based on universal access to social rights.

Access to social rights, in theory and in practice, is the subject of a report to be officially presented at the Conference on "Access to Social Rights" on 14 and 15 November 2002 in Malta. The report lists, among other things, the barriers preventing access to social rights. It also proposes policy guidelines to help remove these barriers.

By way of conclusion, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni pointed out that, in accordance with the "new perception" based on "a new culture of rights", social rights were "not a cost but an investment"; they were "interdependent" and "active citizenship [was] the key to the full enjoyment of social rights"; social rights were "the springboard for sustainable development" and "the "gateway" to inclusive societies".

For further information on the Danish Presidency programme at the European Union's Council please consult the following Web site: <http://www.eu2002.dk/eu2002/presidency>

## ADOPTED TEXTS

**Additional Protocol** to the Convention on Cybercrime concerning the criminalisation of acts of racist or xenophobic nature committed through computer systems (adopted by the Committee of ministers on 7 November 2002)

### Recommendations:

- Rec(2002)12 of the Committee of Ministers on education for democratic citizenship (adopted 16 October 2002)
- Rec(2002)11 of the Committee of Ministers on the hospital's and clinician's role in the optimal use of blood and blood products (adopted on 10 October 2002)
- Rec(2002)10 of the Committee of Ministers on mediation in civil matters (adopted on 18 September 2002)
- Rec(2002)8 of the Committee of Ministers on child day-care (adopted on 18 September 2002)
- Rec 1573 (2002)1 of the Parliamentary Assembly on the ratification of the European Code of Social Security (adopted on 3 September 2002)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Reports:

- *Problems raised by the use / abuse of psychoactive drugs by drivers* - Report on the situation in 24 European countries, Dr Johan de Gier, June 2002

### Publications:

- *Using social benefits to combat poverty and social exclusion: opportunities and problems from a comparative perspective*, Matti Heikkilä et Susan Kuivalainen, Trends in Social Cohesion, Volume No. 3, September 2002, ISBN 92-871-4937-2, 13 €
- *Collection of treaties - Migration, Summaries and texts of treaties*, September 2002, ISBN 92-871-4939-9, 23 €
- *The impact of new technologies on the quality of life of people with disabilities*, August 2002, ISBN 92-871-5007-9, 19 €
- *Prisons, drugs and Society - A consensus statement on principles, policies and practices*, published by the Regional Office for Europe of the WHO in partnership with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, September 2002

## CALENDAR FROM NOVEMBER 2002 TO FEBRUARY 2003

20 November : Children Rights Day

10 December: Human Rights Day

### Conferences:

- End of January: Ministerial Conference on Gender Equality - Skopje (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

### Seminars and other meetings:

- 28-29 November: Seminar on Roma Women and Access to public health care, Vienna (Austria)
- 16-17 December: Meeting of the group of experts on the social integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, Strasbourg (France)
- 21 November: Seminar on Corporal punishment of Children within the family - Strasbourg
- 25-26 November: Regional seminar for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia on the social protection of the self-employed - Strasbourg
- 6-7 February 2003: Seminar on Ethics, professional standards and drug addiction - Strasbourg

### Committee Meetings:

- 21-22 November: 4th meeting of the Forum for Children and Families - Strasbourg
- 26-27 November: Meeting of the European Health Committee - Strasbourg
- 27-29 November: European Population Committee (CAHP) - Strasbourg
- 28-29 November: Working Group on Children, democracy and participation in society - Strasbourg
- 28-29 November: 4th Preparatory meeting to the Conference of the European Health ministers which will take place in Oslo on 12-13 June 2003 - Strasbourg
- 9-11 December: 4th meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials entrusted with the preparation of the 2nd European Conference of Ministers responsible for integration policies for people with disabilities -
- 9-10 December: 5th meeting of the Committee of Experts on the legal status and other rights of immigrants (MG-ST) - Strasbourg
- 10-11 December: 4th meeting of Committee of experts on the implementation of migration management strategy (MG-FL) - Strasbourg
- 12-13 December: 4th meeting of the Mutual Information System on Social Protection of the Council of Europe (MISSCOE) - Bucharest (Romania)
- February 2003: 5th meeting of Committee of experts on the implementation of migration management strategy (MG-FL) - Strasbourg

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