



EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR
STREET CHILDREN

How can one envision a social Europe if children are living in the streets and heating tubes of European capitals?

Street children have become a growing issue, not only in the mostly concerned New EU Member States in Central and Eastern Europe but also in some Mediterranean Member States following the strong migration flows from outside Europe and throughout major European metropolis. Even though there is a lack of concrete recent data and facts about street children, we can assume following the information of NGOs working in the field that there are approximately 150.000 - 200.000 most of whom are living in the Central and Eastern European new Member States. Meanwhile, the Pan-European nature of this problem is evidenced daily in the increased number of street children (also in particular of Roma origin) who are migrating from Romania and some neighboring countries in particular, to the metropolis of Western European countries. Whether based on their own expectations or lured by false promises, these minors end up becoming victims of drug trafficking, prostitution, vagrancy and other social ills. Thus, what used to be a national level problem has become a European issue. Given this extremely alarming evolution, only a holistic European wide approach in close co-operation of the EU with the Member States and European networks of NGOs can contribute to solve the problem in a sustainable way. At the EU level, a number of initiatives have been taken and commitments made towards tackling this problem but more concerted efforts and actions are needed.

In order to ensure this and thus the improvement of the situation of street children, awareness must be raised among national governments, the EU and general public on this burning issue. This is the purpose of the

Awareness Day: Children in the Streets of Europe which is jointly organized by the **European Federation For Street Children (EFSC)** and the **European Roma Information Office (ERIO)** on

10 December 2008 at the European Parliament (Room ASP 1E1) - Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels

PROGRAMME

- 10.00 **Welcome and Introduction**
MEP Marian Harkin; MEP Christa Prets,
- Street children in Europe – A burning issue: giving visibility to the invisible**
Reinhold Müller - Director of EFSC; Ivan Ivanov, Director of ERIO
- 10.30 **Saving Children from the Streets – Rehabilitation projects in Bulgaria, Finland and Italy**
Mariana Pisarska, Alliance for Children and Youth, Bulgaria
Miranda Vuolasranta (tbc), ERIO, Finland
Sabrina Brutto, Istituto Don Calabria, Italy
- 11.15 **Open discussion: Question and Answer Session**
Conclusions
- 12.00 **Reception**



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