



# The EU approach to combating child labour



# LEGAL FRAMEWORK



1. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols
2. ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and Work
3. ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour

# Policy Framework

- **EU Guidelines on Human Rights**

- EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflicts (2003/2008)
- EU Guidelines on the Rights of the Child (2007)

- **European Commission Communication**

“A Special Place for Children in EU External Action” (2008)

- **Council of the EU Conclusions** on children’s rights in EU development and humanitarian assistance (2008)

- Commission Staff Working Paper “Combating Child Labour” (2010) SEC(2010)137-final

# General Approach

- Addressing root causes:
  - Poverty
  - Education
  - Social protection
- Comprehensive approach:
  - Involvement of all stakeholders
  - Right mix of policies and programmes
- Stepping up global efforts

# Measures to Combat Child Labour

- 1. Development policy/cooperation**
- 2. Human rights dialogues**
- 3. Enlargement policy**
- 4. Trade policy**
- 5. Public procurement**
- 6. Corporate Social Responsibility**

# Examples of EU-funded Programmes

<b>Cooperation with IPEC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ EU is one of major donors to IPEC (\$6.4 mio for 2006-2008)</li><li>■ <i>"Tackling Child Labour through Education" – 11 ACP countries</i> (€15 mio joint project)</li><li>■ <i>"Combating Abusive Forms of Child Labour" – Pakistan</i> (€5 mio joint project)</li></ul>
<b>European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Access to primary education – e.g. in India, Serbia, Armenia, OPT,</li><li>■ Educational inclusion of marginalised children – e.g. in Gaza Strip, Haiti, DRC, Vietnam,</li><li>■ Monitoring of the ILO Conventions related to children's rights – e.g. Indonesia</li><li>■ Awareness-raising campaigns – e.g. in Cambodia, Brazil, Mexico</li><li>■ Training programmes – e.g. in Morocco</li></ul>
<b>Investing in People thematic programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <i>Prevention and rehabilitation measures for children involved in worst forms of child labour in conflict and post-conflict situations" – Global</i> (€1.1 mio)</li><li>■ Future call for proposals for projects on child labour</li></ul>

# Challenges

- Holistic approach – how to improve coordination, cooperation?
- Implementation of development programmes vs. lack of political commitment of countries concerned and involvement of all stakeholders
- Monitoring of trade instruments, restrictive trade measures vs. development objectives
- The role of CSR. Who is responsible for what?



***Thank you***