

Motions adopted by the Dutch parliament on the elimination of child labour and the implementation of other fundamental labour rights between November 2007 and November 2008.

Motion of Member Voordewind cs.

31 700 V, Nr. 51

The Parliament,

Having heard the deliberation,

putting on record that the government does give priority to combating child labour but that a coherent policy of the different ministries is still lacking;

putting on record that in the present Dutch contribution to basic education [in developing countries] a clear strategy is missing to integrate working children into formal education;

requests the government to develop a comprehensive strategy with the Ministries of Economic and Foreign Affairs for combating child labour and realizing the right to education;

requests the government to evaluate the programmes on basic education with regard to their contribution to the fight against all forms of child labour that interfere with the access to regular education;

requests the government to advance that all education programmes funded by The Netherlands are simultaneously aiming to integrate all working children in a form of full-time education, or bridging education that leads to it, at least until they have reached the minimum age for employment,

and returns to the order of the day.

Voordewind [ChristianUnion]

Ferrier [Christian Democrats]

Irrgang [Socialist Party]

Van der Staaij [Political Calvinist Party]

Gill'ard [Social Democrats]

Vendrik [(GreenLeft)]

The motion is adopted on 18 November 2008

Motion of member Ortega-Martijn cs about not violating the fundamental labour rights in the supply chain of companies who receive government support

31700-XIII, nr.37

The Parliament,

having heard de deliberations,

putting on record that research proves that in a variety of supply chains of international companies the four fundamental labour rights of the International Labour Organization – no child labour, no bonded labour and no discrimination and freedom of association and collective bargaining - are being violated,

putting on record that it is not clear at the moment which Dutch companies operating internationally are violating the four fundamental labour rights in their supply chain;

of the opinion that it is undesirable that companies are involved in and benefit from fundamental labour rights in their supply chain and that this is inconsistent with conventions signed by The Netherlands and the policy on human rights;

considering that remedies to the violation of fundamental labour rights and involving the victims therein will cost some time, especially in the supply chain;

requests the government to demand from companies who are receiving government subsidies, receive credits, participate in trade missions or otherwise benefit from government support, to give evidence that they are not involved in violating fundamental labour rights in their supply chain;

requests the government in case companies are not willing to do this or do not have a public time-bound plan to remedy the violation of fundamental labour rights, to stop the government support,

and returns to the order of the day.

Ortega-Martijn (ChristenUnie)

Motion accepted 28 October 2008 by 141 votes for and 9 against

Motion of member Gesthuizen on the procurement of natural stone which is not quarried by children

31700-XIII Nr. 43

The Parliament

Having heard the deliberations,

considering that the Parliament has declared that it wants to stop the import of products made by children;

considering that the government that the public authorities as launching customer can be leading in the procurement of fair and sustainable manufactured products but also has to pay a fair price for it;

considering that natural stone is purchased to a large extent by public authorities and is often mined from quarries by children and under bad labour conditions;

requests the government to take care that the Dutch public authorities from now on:

- are willing to pay a price for natural stone that makes it possible for the suppliers to make sure that no child labour is involved and that also the other three fundamental labour rights of the ILO are respected;
- only to purchase natural stone from companies who can demonstrate that the fundamental labour rights in the supply chain are not violated or have an plan of action to combat the violation of fundamental labour rights in the supply chain;

and returns to the order of the day,

Gesthuizen (Socialist Party)

Motion is adopted on 28 October 2008

Motion of the members Vendrik and Irrgang (25074, nr. 151)

22 May 2008

The Parliament,

Having heard the deliberations,

Considering that the government is of the opinion that that products who are the result of child labour should in the long run disappear;

Supports this approach;

Requests the government from now on:

1. to strongly advocate internationally for a fast and effective import stop for these products;
2. to that end come up with proposals in the discussions on the EU position in the Doha Round, to start with at the coming CGAER (Council General Affairs and External Relations);
3. to make this position part of the Dutch with regard to the EPA's [Economic Partnership Agreements];
4. to accompany this approach with an offer to third countries which will enhance the support for this proposal,

and returns to the order of the day.

Vendrik (GreenLeft)

Irrgang (Socialist Party)

The motion was adopted with all members of the Parliament in favour

Motion Voordewind c.s. (31263, nr. 16):

22 April 2008

The Parliament,

Having heard the deliberations,

noting that it is not clear at the moment which international companies are making use of child labour in their supply chain;

considering that it is undesirable that companies are making use of child labour and that is contrary to Dutch human rights policy;

considering that responsible elimination of child labour while guiding [children] towards education will take some time, especially in the supply chain;

requests the government to ask companies who receive government subsidies, receive credits or otherwise are supported by the government, to make transparent that they are not making use of child labour in their supply chain;

requests the government in case companies are not willing not to do that, ór if they have no time-bound public plan to get children in their supply chain from work to school, to stop the government support.

and returns to the order of the day;

Voordewind (ChristianUnion)

Van Dam (Social Democrats)

Cörüz (Christian Democrats)

The motion is adopted with all members in favour on 22 April 2008

(adopted) Motion by Member of Parliament Voordewind cs.

Proposed 8 November 2007

The Parliament,

Having heard the deliberation,

Stating that there is a discrepancy between the target of Millennium Goal 2 and the ILO standards regarding the minimum age according to which every child should be in school;

Of the opinion, that it would be desirable that MDG 2 and the ILO standards would link up to each other;

Requests the government in to plead in the United Nations for linking Millennium Goal 2 to the ILO standard of 14 year as the age to which every child should go to school.

Voordewind (ChristianUnion)

Gill'ard (Social Democrats)

Ferrier (Christian Democrats)

(adopted) Motion by Member of Parliament Voordewind cs.

Proposed 8 November 2007

The Parliament,

Having heard the deliberation,

Considering that Embassies have an important advisory role for Dutch companies who want to establish themselves abroad;

Considering that in the human rights strategy of this government the ambition is formulated that The Netherlands does not want to import products which are produced with the use of child labour;

Requests the government to ensure that Embassies in their advisory role pay attention to child labour by informing Dutch companies about child labour, the risks of child labour in the supply chain and the possibilities of companies to combat child labour,

Voordewind [ChristenUnion]

Ferrier [Christian Democrats]

Gillárd [Social Democrats]

Van der Staay [Political Calvinist Party]

Irrgang [Socialist Party]