



PRESS RELEASE

Economic profits and social responsibility are practicalities of successful businesses in the fight for the elimination of child labour

Edineț, October 30, 2009

„Childhood and adolescence is the period given to the human being for development”. Such statements were made by agri-employers in Edineț, Ocnîța, Briceni and Dondușeni during Code-monitoring visits, conducted by the FNPAIA Code Monitoring Team in the northern Moldova

The visits of the FNPAIA Monitoring Team, conducted to agri-enterprises from several Raions of the northern Moldova, have identified practices and attitudes, which are a translation into practice of the Code of Conduct for Employers on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, approved by the FNPAIA Council in December 2007. „We should comply with the laws which regulate the employment of minors, but this is equally relevant for the employment of adults”, stated Mihai Lupu, director of „Colicăuțanu” Ltd, from village of Colicăuți, Briceni Raion. „It is necessary that employers create decent conditions of work for the employees, so that families would prefer to stay in their country instead of going abroad, and the children would not be pushed into a life alone without parents and fighting for bread-winning”.

Constantin Cojocar, Director of „Agro-Baraboieni” from Baraboi village, Dondușeni mentioned during his discussion with the FNPAIA Monitoring Team that „those children who study well, read a lot of books on their spare-time and do light works, are more successful in their adult life”. Constantin Cojocar mentioned that children need life skills and work skills, however a clear distinction should be made between education through work and exploitation”.

The FNPAIA message that “The place of the child is at school and child’s work is to study” is promoted by member-employers through concrete action, through their commitment to not employ children under circumstances which contravene the provisions of the labour law, and confirmed by their corporate social responsibility. The FNPAIA encourages employers’ communities to follow the good examples of those member-employers who succeed in combining business with social responsibility and do not admit child labour.

The Monitoring Team met agri-employers, who know how to run businesses which bring profits and respect. Tatiana Pavliuc, the Director of „Plaiul Bârlădean” SRL from village of Bârlădeni, Ocnîța was among the first agri-enterprises from Moldova which received GLOBAL G.A.P. certification, confirming that the “apples-business” run by Tatiana Pavliuc guarantees food safety, welfare of employees, environmental protection, etc.

„It is not acceptable when the adults go abroad for work, while children are left to carry out hard or hazardous work. Parents should be offered possibilities to get good salaries here, to build homes, to send their children to school and make sure that their children have all the conditions for development and education. The children should receive quality education and good care, because in future they should bring new technologies and know how to apply them in agriculture”, stated Tatiana Pavliuc. „When employers think of employing minors, they should see what the law and the Code of Conduct for Employers reads, and strictly follow these provisions”, mentioned the Director of „Plaiul Bârlădean” enterprise.

The FNPAIA Monitoring Team finished this round of visits with the meeting in Stolniceni village from Edineț, where it visited the enterprise „Vilora VS” Ltd, run by its Director Victor Bajureanu.

During 2008 and 2009 the FNPAIA conducted many visits to monitor agri-entrepreneurs' compliance with provisions of the Code of Conduct adopted by its members on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in agriculture and the food industry sectors. Such visits started in 2008 in Orhei, Hâncești, Florești, Bălți and Ștefan-Vodă, and continued in 2009 in Soroca, Caușeni, Cahul, Edineț, Ocnîța, Briceni and Dondușeni.

Since 2005 the FNPAIA is implementing a project on Combating Child Labour in the Agricultural Sector in Moldova, with technical assistance of the ILO Bureau for Employers' Activities (ILO-ACT/EMP) and funding from the Government of Norway. The objectives of the project are to create awareness among employers' communities on the issue of child labour, create attitudes against the worst forms of child labour, and to encourage employers to hire minors only in accordance with legal provisions.

The CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYERS on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in agriculture is available online at:
http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/actemp/downloads/projects/code_conduct_en.pdf (in English) and
http://www.fnpaia.org/data/files/library/11/CoddeConduita_ROM.pdf (in Romanian):

FNPAIA
Ștefan cel Mare 162 bd., Chișinău
MD 2004, Republic of Moldova
Tel.: 21.00.85
Fax: 22.82.87
Web: <http://www.fnpaia.org>
E-mail: eganea@uap.md,
munca.copilului.e.cartea@gmail.com