

## Moldova's Voice at the Global Child Labour Conference in The Hague, Netherlands

"The Involvement of Children in Hazardous Work Has More Costs than Profits"

11 May, 2010

Moldova's voice in support of the global effort to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016 was heard today at the Global Child Labour Conference, held in The Hague, Netherlands on 10 and 11 May 2010.

A speech during the Global Conference was made by Eugenia Ganea, who is coordinator of an initiative on combating child labour in agriculture in Moldova, promoted since 2005 by the National Federation of Employers in Agriculture and Food Industry (FNPAIA). Moldova's experience and good practices in combating child labour were showcased in a semi-plenary session focused on tripartite action of employers' and workers' organisations and the government for effective responses to child labour.

"The involvement of children in hazardous work has more costs than profits. Employers and their organisations can play an important role in combating the worst forms of child labour; we know it from our own experience", stated during the Hague Global Child Labour Conference Eugenia Ganea, coordinator of the project on combating child labour in agriculture, which is implemented by the FNPAIA with technical support of the Bureau for Employers' Activities of the International Labour Organisation (ILO ACT/EMP).

While referring to the tripartite action, Eugenia Ganea mentioned: "In the efforts on combating the worst forms of child labour, there is a constructive dialogue between the Agri-employers organisation and the branch trade unions and the Government, who support our initiative".

The Global Child Labour Conference in The Hague, which gathered 380 delegates from 80 countries, including the Republic of Moldova, calls for "re-energized" global action on combating the worst forms of child labour so that countries of the world reach the target of ending the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

The ILO new Global Report was presented at the Conference. The Report's findings are in contrast to the last evaluation in 2006 which found greater cause for optimism. The report mentions that a staggering number of 115 million children are still exposed to hazardous child labour.

On the launching of the Report, Mr.Kari Tapiola, Executive Director of the ILO stated that: "There is no excuse for commitments to fall victims to shifting priorities during the global economic crises".

At the end of the Conference, in front of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and all other participants, several children told their stories as former child labourers.

The outcome of the Conference – the "Roadmap for achieving the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016", states that the governments, social partners and non-governmental organisations and other civil society actors will substantially increase efforts to ensure that the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 is achieved and it urges the international community to increase efforts in this regard.

The web page of the Global Child Labour Conference, 10-11 May 2010, The Hague, Netherlands: <u>http://www.childlabourconference2010.com/</u>

Communications partner: URMA ta <u>urma.ta@gmail.com</u>