

PRESS-RELEASE

## A team of the Federation of Agriculture Employers visits agri- enterprises to monitor the Child Labour Code of Conduct in Moldova

Hâncești, 19 November 2008

**The National Federation of Employers in Agriculture and the Food Industry (FNPAIA) has set up a team to monitor agri-entrepreneurs' compliance with the Code of Conduct for employers on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in agriculture and the food industry. This monitoring initiative, which is the first of its kind in Moldova, started in Orhei and Hâncești on 11 and 18 November 2008 and will continue from there to Florești, Bălți, Ștefan Vodă and other localities across the country.**

The FNPAIA Monitoring Team consists of representatives of the Federation, actively involved in actions on combating the worst forms of child labour in agriculture and the aim of these visits is to get to know how employers comply with the commitments undertaken under the Code of Conduct. If the monitoring team should come across a child under the minimum age of employment, or hindered from attending school, or involved in harmful or hazardous work, the team will require that steps are taken by the employer to rectify the situation making sure that the best interests of the child are taken into account. Also, the team intervenes if and where required by providing additional information and assistance to employers to comply with the Code of Conduct which includes provisions of the national legislation and international conventions on child labour.

The Code of Conduct on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour was developed by members of the FNPAIA and approved by the Council of the Federation in December 2007. The Code is seen by employers as an important instrument in protecting the rights of the child and preventing the worst forms of child labour in Moldova.

“For FNPAIA promoting the improving access to quality education and training for children and youth is a key concern. Hindering the educational process of children reduces their potential to make productive contributions to society as adults”, mentioned Alexandru Slusari, the Executive Director of the FNPAIA.

During the meetings of the Monitoring Team with agri-entrepreneurs from villages Mălăiești and Chiperceni, from Orhei rayon, and Boghicieni and Bujor, from Hâncești rayon, Eugenia Ganea, the Co-ordinator of the project „Combating Child Labour in Agriculture in Moldova” mentioned that involving of children in hard and hazardous work contravenes children’s interests as well as those of employers and society in general. Employers and the modern economy need a professional, competent and qualified work force”.

In Orhei, the activities on preventing and combating child labour are promoted by the Association “AsproAgro”, and in Hâncești – by the Association „Viitorul”, which are affiliated to the FNPAIA.

The FNPAIA makes a clear distinction between light work, and harmful and hazardous work. Under the Code the term “child work” does not refer to light work. The term “the worst forms of child labour” comprises work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children, abuses and exploits the child and deprives the child of an education. (*ILO Convention No. 182*).

The message promoted by the National Federation of Employers in Agriculture and the Food Industry is that “The place of the child is at school and child’s work is to study”.

The initiatives on combating the worst forms of child labour in agriculture in Moldova are conducted by the FNPAIA since 2005 within the framework of their project on combating child labour supported by the ILO-Bureau for Employers’ Activities (ILO-ACT/EMP).