



P R E S S R E L E A S E

International Women's Day: The EU calls on children in Moldova to participate in drawing competition on gender equality

Chisinau, 10 March 2009

"Once upon a time there was a girl and a boy, without both of them, the world would no longer be..."

For the third year in a row, the European Commission launches an international drawing competition on gender equality on the International Women's Day the 8th of March 2009, under the patronage of the Belgian Princess Mathilde. The competition calls on children all over the world to express their vision of gender equality. Two drawings per region will be selected by a jury of European children, and a prize equivalent to €1.000 for each region will be awarded to the winners.

"Protecting women's rights and empowering them as decision-makers are fundamental principles of the European Union's work across the globe. Wherever we work we take women's rights into account. Our objective is women's rights to be respected and protected throughout the world and involving the children in the process is investing in the future" Mrs Benita FERRERO WALDNER, European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, says.

Up until the 15th of May children in the age of 8 to 10 can submit their drawings illustrating their perception of gender equality. The two winning drawings by region will be selected by a jury composed of children from all over Europe. A prize equivalent to €1.000 for each region will be awarded to the winners. The winning drawings will be included in a booklet which will be distributed in the schools of the participating countries. In November 2009 the exhibition of the winning drawings will be inaugurated in Morocco.

To promote gender equality and empower women is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals which is a fundamental part of the EU's development aid policy. On the occasion of the International Women's Day in 2007, the EU launched the first edition of the Drawing Competition on gender equality to increase the awareness of gender issues among children all over the world. Since then almost 60 000 children from all corners of the globe, aged 8 to 10, have participated in the competition.

Key dates:

8 th March 2009:	Launch of the Competition, world wide
15 th May 2009:	Closure of Competition
23 rd June 2009:	Selection of the winning drawings by a jury composed of European children, in the presence of Princess Mathilde from Belgium
25 th November 2009:	Inauguration of the exhibition in Morocco, in the presence of Princess Mathilde from Belgium, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of the Violence against Women

How to submit the drawings: Kogalniceanu Street nr. 12, MD 2001 Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, For Drawing Competition

More information on the competition: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/gender/drawing-competition_en.htm

More information on the EU's policies on gender equality: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/gender/>

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