

Basic information	
2014/2012(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Humanitarian engagement of armed non-state actors in child protection. Recommendation to the Council Subject 4.10.03 Child protection, children's rights 6.10.05 Peace preservation, humanitarian and rescue tasks, crisis management 6.50 Emergency, food, humanitarian aid, aid to refugees, Emergency Aid Reserve	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	DEVE Development		SARGENTINI Judith (Verts /ALE)
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion
	AFET Foreign Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner
	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)		GEORGIEVA Kristalina

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/12/2013	Non-legislative basic document published	B7-0585/2013	Summary
06/02/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/03/2014	Vote in committee		
05/03/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0160/2014	Summary
12/03/2014	Decision by Parliament	T7-0216/2014	Summary
12/03/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/03/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2014/2012(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 134o-p3
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/7/15100

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		B7-0585/2013	19/12/2013	Summary
Committee draft report		PE528.054	28/01/2014	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE529.732	12/02/2014	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0160/2014	05/03/2014	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0216/2014	12/03/2014	Summary
European Commission				
Document type	Reference		Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2014)457		11/08/2014	

Humanitarian engagement of armed non-state actors in child protection. Recommendation to the Council

2014/2012(INI) - 05/03/2014 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Development unanimously adopted the own-initiative report by Judith SARGENTINI (Greens/EFA, NL) with a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on humanitarian engagement of armed non-state actors in child protection.

Members recalled that the Statute of the International Criminal Court **criminalises the act of conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 into armed forces or groups**, or using them to participate actively in hostilities. It is for this reason that the committee called on the Parliament to address a series of recommendations to the Commissioner for Development and the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. They may be summarised as follows:

- encourage the signing of **action plans for the protection of children in armed conflict** with the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict;
- include in political dialogues with third countries, for instance within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement, the **goal of preventing and stopping the recruitment and forced involvement of children under the age of 18** and ensuring their release and reintegration into society;
- reiterate that states and armed non-state actors must comply with international humanitarian law and international humanitarian customary law, and support them in their efforts to take special measures to protect civilians, in particular children, while recalling that such activity with armed non-state actors does not imply support for, or recognition of the legitimacy of, these groups or their activities;
- engage directly, or indirectly through specialised NGOs and humanitarian organisations, with armed non-state actors on the issue of the protection of girls and boys, **with a view to alleviating child suffering in armed conflict** and urging armed non-state actors to sign the Deed of Commitment under the Geneva Call for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict;
- **support humanitarian organisations** that engage in dialogue with armed non-state actors in order to promote respect for international humanitarian norms in armed conflict.

Humanitarian engagement of armed non-state actors in child protection.

Recommendation to the Council

2014/2012(INI) - 12/03/2014 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted, without vote, in accordance with Rules 97(4) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, a resolution with a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on humanitarian engagement of armed non-state actors in child protection.

Parliament recalled that the Statute of the International Criminal Court **criminalises the act of conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 into armed forces or groups**, or using them to participate actively in hostilities. Parliament also recalled that international humanitarian norms apply to and bind all parties in an armed conflict and that **international law prohibits all forms of sexual violence, including against children**.

Parliament addressed a series of recommendations to the Commissioner for Development and the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. They may be summarised as follows:

- encourage the signing of **action plans for the protection of children in armed conflict** with the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict;
- recognise the efforts made by the UN and international and non-governmental organisations to persuade armed non-state actors to **protect children**, while reiterating that this does not imply support for, or recognition of, the legitimacy of the activities of those actors;
- include in political dialogues with third countries, for instance within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement, the **goal of preventing and stopping the recruitment and forced involvement of children under the age of 18** and ensuring their release and reintegration into society;
- reiterate that states and armed non-state actors must comply with international humanitarian law and international humanitarian customary law, and support them in their efforts to take special measures to protect civilians, in particular children, while recalling that such activity with armed non-state actors does not imply support for, or recognition of the legitimacy of, these groups or their activities;
- engage directly, or indirectly through specialised NGOs and humanitarian organisations, with armed non-state actors on the issue of the protection of girls and boys, **with a view to alleviating child suffering in armed conflict** and urging armed non-state actors to sign the Deed of Commitment under the Geneva Call for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict;
- **support humanitarian organisations** that engage in dialogue with armed non-state actors in order to promote respect for international humanitarian norms in armed conflict.

Respect of international law: moreover, Parliament recalled that:

- that states and armed non-state actors must comply with **international humanitarian law** and international humanitarian customary law, and support them in their efforts to take special measures to protect civilians;
- international humanitarian law is a **legal framework which binds** armed non-state groups and that Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and the Second Additional Protocol of 1977 both serve to this end, as do a large number of customary international humanitarian law rules.

Lastly, it called for the examination of whether existing rules governing international humanitarian law are adequate to deal with non-state actors or whether **further regulation is needed**.

Humanitarian engagement of armed non-state actors in child protection.

Recommendation to the Council

2014/2012(INI) - 19/12/2013 - Non-legislative basic document

In a proposal for a recommendation to the Council (tabled pursuant to Rule 121(1) of the Rules of Procedure), Eva JOLY (FR), Catherine GRÈZE (FR), Keith TAYLOR (UK), Judith SARGENTINI (NL), Bart STAES (BE), Isabella LÖVIN (SE) on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group, called on the European Parliament to make a series of recommendations to the Council on humanitarian engagement of armed non-state actors in child protection.

The proposal recalled that most contemporary armed conflicts involve one or more armed non-state actors fighting governments or other armed groups, with civilians and particularly children bearing the brunt of these wars. In order to improve the protection of civilians, and particularly children, **it is necessary that international humanitarian norms apply to and bind all parties in an armed conflict**.

Members recalled that the Statute of the International Criminal Court **criminalises the act of conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 into armed forces or groups**, or using them to participate actively in hostilities. International law prohibits all forms of sexual violence, including against children.

Members also stated that the international community has a moral duty to seek commitments from all parties involved in conflicts, including both states and armed non-state actors, in order to protect children. It is for this reason that they addressed the following recommendations to the Commissioner for Development and the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:

- encourage the signing of action plans for the protection of children in armed conflict with the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict by concerned states and armed non-state actors;
- include in political dialogues with third countries, for instance within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement, the **goal of preventing and stopping the recruitment and forced involvement of children under the age of 18** and ensuring their release and reintegration into society;
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reiterate that states and armed non-state actors must comply with international humanitarian law and international humanitarian customary law, and support them in their efforts to take special measures to protect civilians, particularly children;

- engage directly, or indirectly through specialised NGOs, with armed non-state actors on the issue of protection of girls and boys, with a view to alleviating children's suffering in armed conflict;
- support humanitarian NGOs that engage in dialogue with armed non-state actors in order to promote respect for international humanitarian norms in armed conflict.