

## ***DCI Expands in Europe***

The European Sections of DCI met in March 1998 and planned a dynamic expansion in Europe in the next few years, targeting France, Italy, Austria and Luxembourg. People in such countries have to be convinced of the usefulness of DCI, as they already have a multitude of organisations working for the benefit of children.

Existing European Sections are, however, very active and innovative. For example, DCI-Spain is working on a violence prevention program for 14-17 year-olds and has invited the participation of five children from each European section for two important events in Tarragone (July 1998) and Toledo (January 1999).

There are currently 12 European sections: Israel, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Holland, Finland, Macedonia, Croatia, Ukraine, Yugoslavia, United Kingdom and the Czech Republic. These Sections are now working collaboratively to create ways of monitoring European compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to generate publicity on International Children's Rights Day, November 20.

Let's hope we can celebrate the establishment of some new European sections on that day too!

**Jacqueline Medvecka**

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## **“Out of the Shadows”**

*“There is now a need to build on young people's experiences to incorporate their insights into national plans and strategies as these are developed”.*

This was the conclusion of Amihan Abueva, ECPAT International representative to a five day International Summit of Sexually-Exploited Youth in British Columbia, Canada.

Dubbed the “Out of the Shadows” conference, 55 young North Americas related their experiences of sexual exploitation as part of their presentation of a Declaration and Agenda for Action to the representatives of governments and international non-governmental organisations.

This Declaration and Agenda for Action emphasised the importance of the voices and experiences of sexually exploited children and youth being heard, and being central to the development and implementation of action to prevent child commercial sexual exploitation.

ECPAT International has urged governments and communities to support young people's participation in tackling the commercial sexual exploitation at a five day International Summit of Sexually-Exploited Youth in British Columbia, Canada.

### ***Come Surfing in Europe!***

*For the latest international children's rights news, visit the new children's rights in Europe web site at*

*<<http://eurochild.gla.ac.uk>>.*

This web site provides documentation on children's rights in Europe, provides access to UNICEF databases and includes the full text of childhood policies and reports of the Council of Europe.