

"Draw me a right!" – European Commission launches the 4th edition of its poster competition for youngsters to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child" is the theme of a poster competition launched today, 20 November 2009, by Vice-President Jacques Barrot. European youngsters aged 10 to 18 are invited to design a poster on one of the rights enshrined in the Convention. The aim of the competition is to ensure that these young Europeans are more aware of their rights and better equipped to defend them.

"Guaranteeing and promoting children's rights is the best way to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, while at the same time asserting a fundamental European value", stated Vice-President Barrot. "Working together on the Convention on the Rights of the Child will make young people better aware of their rights, thus enabling youngsters to invoke them when necessary. Paraphrasing Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, a great dreamer of our time, I therefore invite them to 'Draw me a right!'"

Children and teen-agers wishing to take part in the competition will have to design a poster illustrating one of the rights enshrined in the Convention. Participants will be divided into two age categories (10-14 and 15-18) and will have to work in groups of four members at least (supervised by an adult). The entries will be judged first at the national level and prizes will be awarded to the three best teams in each age category during ceremonies to be held in their home country at the beginning of April 2010.

The winners of the first prize in the national competitions will compete in a second round at European level. The three top teams in each age group will be invited to visit Brussels from 8 to 10 May 2010, for a memorable weekend and a tour of the European institutions, as well as to attend a European award ceremony.

This is the 4th edition of the competition. The first edition, in 2006, focused on the assertion of children's rights in general, the second one, in 2007, put forward the rejection of discrimination. In 2008 the third edition drew attention to the children's right to protection. The participation has been constantly increasing throughout the years: more than 8 000 teams, which means over 40 000 participants from all over the EU took up the challenge in 2008.

The best products will be posted on the websites of the Commission's representations in the Member States and on the Europa getaway. They may also be used for future European campaigns.

Competition website: www.europayouth.eu

http://www.ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/barrot/welcome/default_en.htm

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