

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**Working Documents**

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr SASSANO and Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI  
on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party  
(CD Group)

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on recognizing 6 January as European Children's Day

PE 87.266

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

- A - recognizing that every peaceful human community is built on the balanced and untroubled development of its children,
- B - believing that there is a need to foster in children the certainty that they are all equal and the joys of life cannot be reserved solely for a privileged few,
- C - whereas there is no commemorative day in Europe dedicated exclusively to children, an omission which may result from the fact that children, though European citizens, do not have the right to vote,
- D - convinced that the national traditions concerning children must be preserved and shared,
- E - having regard to the fact that the Mediterranean countries of the Community already celebrate a traditional Christian feast dedicated to children, namely the feast of the Epiphany or the 'Befana'<sup>1</sup> and that with the intermingling of European peoples as a result of emigration, there is also an awareness and perception of this feast, which has been kept alive by minorities, in the northern countries of Europe,
- F - noting that UNICEF too has declared 6 January Universal Children's Day,
- G - whereas this day could be given over to events which will forge bonds of fraternity not only among European children but also with children from all the other countries of the world and especially the Third World,
- H - whereas even if the European Community chose 6 January as the day to be dedicated to children, it would not incur any additional expenditure as a result, since each family and each community would be happy to mark the occasion by giving toys and presents to their own children, as has been the custom for centuries in many cases, and also, on the same day, remember the children from less prosperous countries by initiating appropriate actions in which the children themselves would be involved,

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<sup>1</sup>Legend has it that the Befana is a magical old woman who brings toys to children

1. Requests that 6 January be declared European Children's Day;
2. Hopes that all the Member States, entirely of their own accord, will strive to impress on Europe's youngest citizens the importance of and respect for ancient traditions, to be regarded as part of the common heritage, so that no child ever considers himself or others to be an outsider in any Community country;
3. Proposes that on this day all European families should choose, as presents for their children, not toys which encourage violence, but toys or books depicting if possible a peaceful and industrious Europe;
4. Calls therefore for this day to be devoted, aside from pleasing the children, to reflection by parents and educators on the importance of a tranquil childhood untouched by violence;
5. Asks that, on this occasion, a prize be awarded in each school to the child that has illustrated most aptly, with a piece of its own work (essay, drawing, carving or model, etc.), its concept of the European Community;
6. Requests that prizes should similarly be awarded, in each Member State, to the author and toy manufacturer who in their work have done most to increase knowledge of the European Community among children;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Governments of all the Member States.