

# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES

Fourth Study Commission – Abidjan 28 – 31 October 2002

## NETHERLANDS

### WORKING CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN

1. *Has your country provided for a legislation or protective measures concerning children at work?*

The 'Arbeidstijdenwet' (Law on Times of Labour) prohibits working of children under the age of 16 years. This prohibition is not applicable for non industrial light work for the children of the age of 13 years or more, outside schooltimes. For children of the age of 14 years or more all light work is sustained as long as it is done in connection with their education. The prohibition is also not applicable for children of the age of 12 years or more working as an alternative penal sanction.

These exceptions of the prohibition are subject to strict conditions on labourtime, labourconditions and breaks.

Dispensation of the prohibition is possible for children of all ages for cultural, artistic, scientific or educational performances. This dispensation is also subject to strict conditions depending on the age of the child and the kind of performance.

2. *What are the sanctions in case of breach of children's right at work? And recent cases on violation of children's right at work?*

According to the 'Wet op de Economische Delicten' (Law on Economic Crime) the sanction on violation of children's rights at work is imprisonment for a maximum of two years or a fine of maximum about USD 10,000.-. In addition to imprisonment or a fine the concerning compagny can be closed down or can be put in ward.

There are no significant recent cases concerning violation of children's rights at work.

3. *Specify, if need be, the concrete measures likely to improve the conditions of children at work in your country.*

There seems to be no need for improvements. However there is some debate on 17 year olds joining the army. But that will be deld with within the range of the applicable national and international rules.

Ruurd Koopmans  
Vice-president  
District Court Amsterdam  
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Netherlands, 14th July 2002