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

In the affirmative, specify the purpose and main lines, particularly:
- minimum age for employment
- differences in rights based on age
- special working conditions for children

Article 37, second paragraph, of the Italian Constitution provides that the minimum age must be settled by Statutory Law.

Act no.345/99 implementing the EC Directive no.33/1994 and Act 262/2000, establish the minimum age at which a person may be employed at the end of compulsory schooling, however not less than 15 years of age (ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 no. 138).

The capacity to conclude a labour contract is related to the age of capacity in civil law (settled by Act no.39/1975 at 18 years). But where the minimum age of employment is inferior, the minor can also exercise the rights and actions deriving from a labour relationship (Sect. 2 of Civil Code).

Act no. 977 of 1967 and no.345/1999 introduced a special regulation to protect the work of minors, such as special medical certificates guaranteeing their physical fitness for work, periodical medical check-ups, limits on working hours, prohibition of night work and so on.

Act no.148/2000 is intended to meet the obligations arising out of the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 1999 (no.182), in the fight against the exploitation of minors. It also draws guidance from ILO Recommendation no.190/1999, which supplements the said Convention.

On the April 1998, Italian Government drown up a Paper against children’s work, forecasting many supports for the families in order to improve more scholar education and delay the first working access.
2. What are the sanctions (applied or applicable) in case of breach of children's right at work?

Act n. 645/1999, modified by Act 262/2000, forecasts different sanctions, related to the gravity of breach; sanctions not only for the employer, but also for the parents or persons having vigilance in the minor.

Not compliance of minimum age, overcoming of maximum of permitted hours of working, incompliance to the special disposition concerning dangerous or unsafe work, prohibited night work, are punished with arrest till 6 moth or monetary penalty. For less breaches are forecasted only administrative sanctions.

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

The legislation appoints good protection. Perhaps, it would be necessary to appoint many more inspectors to ensure the enforcement of the above rules in some areas of Italy.

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