



Gezinsbond

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**Intervention of Anne-Mie Driekens,  
Secretary Policy Gezinsbond vzw,  
at the Conference of the WHO in Parma**

The Confederation of Family Organisations in Europe (Coface) and the Gezinsbond as member of the Ecoforum are very pleased to be invited at this important WHO conference.

We are very happy with the achievements of the last years in the field of children's health and environment.

It is crucial that the (final draft of the) Parma declaration takes children's needs first.

Research shows clearly that number of child diseases due to environmental exposure increases.

Our members, parents and children, are concerned of the dangers and are confronted in their daily life with the effect of a changing environment.

Parents and children feel responsible and they want to take their responsibility. They want to be involved.

To improve the quality of life for children we need to pursue the work on indicators *and* we need to remain ambitious.

COFACE and the Gezinsbond therefore urge policy-makers to introduce the child norm.

We need to go a step beyond to ensure that the proposed measures of the final declaration become *effective*.

We ask your support to introduce the child-norm as a principle and we count on the collaboration of all key partners across sectors to develop this child norm.