

# ***European Union Uses International Year of the Family Celebration to Attempt to Change Concept of “Family”***

*by Thomas W. Jacobson (2004)*

The General Assembly of the United Nations held a special session on December 6, 2004, to conclude the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family. By consensus, the GA adopted a short resolution – its first entirely pro-family resolution<sup>1</sup> in decades – that welcomed the Doha International Conference on the Family and other international conferences in support of the family. Solely because the resolution did not contain the phrase “various forms of the family” (some nations use such language to advance a same-sex union agenda), the European Union and several others voiced strong opposition and disassociated their nations from the resolution.

Prior to formal consideration of the resolution, most of the 19 ambassadors or country representatives who spoke made statements affirming the value of family. However, the Netherlands – speaking on behalf of the entire 25-nation European Union, plus Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey (EU candidates); Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro (potential EU countries); and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – used familiar, agreed language on marriage and family, but then twisted the meanings to fit its own family redefinition agendas (i.e., same-sex “marriage”; “sexual rights” disconnected from marriage; children’s rights as opposed to parental rights).

Instead of relying on the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), or declarations supporting the natural family from regional or international conferences held this year, such as the Mexico City or Doha Declarations, the EU relied on other UN international conferences that were anything but pro-family (i.e., Copenhagen, social development, 1994; Cairo, population, 1994; Beijing, women’s rights, 1995; the Conv. on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979; and the Conv. on the Rights of the Child, 1989).

## ***EU attempts to twist UN language to change concept of family***

While the EU mentioned that, at least in 1995 at Copenhagen, “the family” continued to be recognized as “the basic unit of society,” yet now “its concept and composition has changed ... illustrating the fact that a family is a living, dynamic entity” (emphasis added). Then the EU sought to redefine “marriage” and “family”:

“Every individual of full age has the right to found a family. It is not up to the State to impose limitations there to on the basis of ... sexual orientation or any other status. ... (M)arriage should be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.”

The 1948 UDHR proclaimed that “Men and women ... have the right to marry and to found a family” (Art. 16, par. 1), but the EU here tries to transfer those same “rights” to two or more people of any gender – by using “individual” instead of “men and women,” and by attempting to change

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Mr. Jacobson originally wrote this paper in 2004 when he was serving as Representative to the United Nations for Focus on the Family (U.S.A.), from 2001 to 2010.

the historical understanding of “family,” “marriage” and “intending spouses” to include same-sex couples based on the faulty assumption that some people are born with a different so-called “sexual orientation.”

### ***EU believes strong families are result of sexual “rights” and few children***

“(T)he European Union reaffirms its strong support for ... sexual and reproductive health and rights ... [because the] ability to choose when and how often to have children is the basis for creating strong families.”

If this were true, then the families in Europe would be the strongest in the world. But the family as an institution is no longer valued in most of Europe and is dying. This statement also implies that to have a strong family a couple must have few children, and that large families are not strong – both assumptions are false. Also, the term “sexual rights” has never been defined or agreed at UN international conferences.

### ***EU’s feminist agenda: “stable family” requires Mom to work full-time***

“A stable family is based on principles of equity, justice and individual fulfillment for each member. Each partner must therefore have the right to choose a profession or employment ... as provided in [CEDAW, Art. 11(a), (c)].”

[The EU] “reaffirms its strong support for ... gender equality and women’s empowerment.”

These statements reveal the EU’s radical feminist agenda and view of equality (i.e., that both spouses must work full-time and bring home equal pay). To say that a woman must work outside the home in order to create a “stable family” is contrary to reason, experience and a vast accumulation of social research.

### ***EU believes primary purpose of family is to teach children’s rights***

“The role of families in the realization of children’s rights is fundamental and cannot be underestimated. ... The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides the international legal framework for the promotion and protection of children’s rights.”

Perhaps those who drafted such a statement are not themselves parents. The central purpose of the family is not to teach our children someone else’s idea of “child rights.” Rather, one of the greatest challenges of parenting is teaching our children personal responsibility. Most parents do provide a safe, nurturing environment for their children. Only in cases where there is abuse do children need to know about their “rights.”

Europe is dying primarily due to its social policies, and should not seek to impose its destructive policies on the rest of the world. If European nations are to survive, they will have to embrace marriage and the family again as designed by the Creator—a husband, a wife, and their children by birth or adoption—and children as His gift.

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<sup>1</sup> Another brief covers additional aspects: *Historic Pro-Family Resolution Passed by UN General Assembly*.