CRCA PRESENTS TO CIVIL SOCIETY THE DRAFT-LAW FOR PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

Friday, 20 March 2009

The experts of civil society in Albania discuss the draft-law prepared by CRCA / DCI Albania and UNICEF Tirana, 17 March 2009 – The Children’s Human Rights Centre of Albania / Defence for Children International – Albanian Section (CRCA / DCI Albania) together with UNICEF hosted today the first consultative meeting on the draft-law “For Protection of Children from Abuse and Exploitation”.

The meeting was attended by representatives of major national NGO’s in Albania, Save the Children, ILO/IPEC and OSCE Office in Albania. The Director of CRCA/DCI Albania presented to all the participants the aims and the contents of the draft-law, while the experts of the working group focused more into specific aspects of the draft-law.

The Consultation comes as continuation of the process that CRCA/DCI Albania and UNICEF have started together that consist in the preparation of the draft-law, in consultation with Government and civil society organisations in Albania, and presentation to the public, before being sent for approval at the Parliament. The work for the preparation of the draft-law started during late 2008 and a working-group was established with representatives from Government and NGO sector. The first draft of the law was presented in mid-2009 to take a general opinion on the draft, before going into a public consultation processes. On 24 March the Draft-law will be presented to the Government and Justice system in Albania, while few days later to a group of selected MP’s that support the CRCA/DCI work in Albania. “We hope that in early April the draft-law will be presented to the Parliament for approval –said Altin Hazizaj, Director of CRCA/DCI Albania - Since NGO’s cannot propose draft-laws, we feel very confident that a group of MP’s that support our work will take the lead and bring the law for approval to the Parliament.