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Visit to European Parliament September 10-11, 2001

A delegation of C.M.I.P staff, including the Chairman, Andre Marcus and Vice-Chairman, Yohanan Manor, participated in meetings with members of the European Parliament in Brussels on September 10 and 11.

Following recent initiatives taken by a group of EU Parliamentarians, the delegation outlined C.M.I.P policy regarding the right of children to a just education, free of prejudice and incitement to hatred. MEP's from a range of political backgrounds were presented with recent findings, highlighting the relevance of the issue. Those met include Frederique Ries, Armin Laschet, Francois Zimeray, Olivier Dupuis, Therese Villiers and Willy Declercq. MEP Ries drew C.M.I.P.'s attention to an open letter sent to the President of the European Commission, concerning comments made by the Commissioner, Chris PATTEN. [Click here to view translation of letter](#). A response from Mr. Patten in person was received some days later ([Click here to view](#)).

However, MEP Armin Laschet, Member of both the Foreign Affairs and Budget Committees, initiated one of the most significant developments. At his suggestion, three amendments were introduced, and later passed by the Foreign Affairs Committee, concerning accountability for European Union aid, and that it be used to enforce the principles of peace and human rights, values represented by the E.U since its inception. [Click here to view text of amendments](#). Security issues following the tragic events in New York and Washington on Tuesday 11 September shortened C.M.I.P.'s visit, as MEPs joined special hearings.

While C.M.I.P restricts itself to monitoring the content of schoolbooks, and distributing the findings to a variety of recipients, we strongly believe that it is a moral responsibility of all democracies to ensure that children receive a just education, based on the principles of tolerance and human rights.

360 Madison Avenue, 6th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017 U.S.A. (212) 699-8823
4 Rav Ashe Street, Jerusalem 93309, Israel Tel: 972-2-6481660 Fax: 972-2-6482823

e-mail: info@edume.org

<http://www.edume.org>