

# Press Release

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## Real Madrid endorses Council of Europe campaign in favour of children's rights

Madrid, 04.03.2010 – Real Madrid F.C., through all its players, has endorsed the Council of Europe campaign that promotes positive parenting and aims to eradicate corporal punishment of children.

Emilio Butragueño, director of Institutional Relations of Real Madrid, handed over today the players' signatures in support of the campaign to Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General, during an event organised by Real Madrid Foundation, the Luis de Carlos "Sports and Education" Forum. During the event, Emilio Butragueño expressed the club's support to positive education.

"Corporal punishment is the most common way of violence against children and is a violation of human rights. It is ineffective as a disciplinary measure, and gets the wrong message across to children. Players such as Raúl, Ronaldo and Kaká are role models for millions of children. They have the possibility of influencing the attitudes and behavior of millions of adults too, that is why their support to this kind of campaign is particularly important", said Maud de Boer-Buquicchio.

The "Raise your hand against smacking" campaign aims to eliminate corporal punishment of children through changes in legislation, promote positive parenting and raise awareness of children's rights. It is part of the Council of Europe programme "Building a Europe for and with Children".

### [Campaign's website](#)

### Note to editors:

So far, 20 European countries, including Spain, have completely banned corporal punishment of children. The first was Sweden in 1979.

Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Luxemburg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and Ukraine have laws banning corporal punishment of children in all circumstances. Other countries have only banned it in schools or penal institutions at the moment.

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.