



Euroopa Liitu käsitlev õppematerjal koostanud Kadri Malin

Tunnikava

Õppeaine: inglise keel
Vanuseaste: gümnaasium

Materjalid:

1. Ajalehe *The Daily Telegraph* artikkel aadressil:
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/8816601/Children-to-be-banned-from-blowing-up-balloons-under-EU-safety-rules.html>
2. Samal teemal ajalehe *The Daily Mail* artikkel aadressil:
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2047105/EU-bureaucrats-ban-children-blowing-balloons-crackdown-dangerous-toys.html>
3. Vastus meediakajastustele Euroopa Komisjoni kodulehel:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?displayType=news&tpa_id=0&item_id=5486&tk=

Introductory questions:

- Which changes have you noticed in our everyday lives since Estonia joined the EU?
- Can you think of some cases where European laws and directives have directly influenced our lives?
- What do you think of the recent media coverage of European and EU-related issues? Do you think it has been objective or biased?

Õpilased loevad läbi ülaltoodud ajaleheartiklid (võimalikud variandid – valida ainult üks artikkel kahest, jagada klass pooleks – kumbki grupp loeb erinevat artiklit jne)

Vocabulary tasks

1. Find all EU-related words and expressions in the text. Use a dictionary to explain their meaning.
(Või variant – üks grupp õpetab oma artikli väljendid teisele grupile selgeks)
2. Find legislation-related vocabulary in the text.
3. Compare the style and vocabulary of the articles and the European Commission response. Which key differences can you point out?

Points for discussion:

1. Based on the material that you have read, which side, the media or the EU, has been more successful in getting the message across to the public? Why do you think so?
2. To what extent do you trust the information published in our newspapers and other media? Which type of media do you consider the most reliable/unreliable?
3. Can you think of any other cases where inaccurate or inadequate information has been published in the media? Can anything be done to prevent this from happening?
4. The articles come from two different newspapers – a tabloid and a broadsheet – can you indicate any differences in their approach to the subject? Compare both articles to the EU response. Does either of the articles present more accurate information than the other?

5. Additional points: if the students are reading the materials online, they can also be asked to comment on the photos illustrating the articles as well as read some of the readers' comments.

Additional material:

More on the effect of EU rules and regulations on Britain:

1. *The Guardian* article on banning herbal medicines:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/may/01/new-eu-rules-on-herbal-remedies>

2. *The Daily Mail* article on the effect of EU motorcycle test regulations:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1259968/Government-wasted-71million-comply-bizarre-EU-metric-rule-report-reveals.html>

3. *The Daily Mail* article on the EU regulation to sell eggs by weight (quite humorous):

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1289882/EU-ban-selling-eggs-dozen-Shopkeepers-fury-told-food-weighed-sold-kilo.html>

Children to be banned from blowing up balloons, under EU safety rules

By Bruno Waterfield, Brussels
11:47PM BST 09 Oct 2011

Children are to be banned from taking part in traditional Christmas games, from blowing up balloons to blowing on party whistles, because of new EU safety rules that have just entered into force. The EU toy safety directive, agreed and implemented by Government, states that balloons must not be blown up by unsupervised children under the age of eight, in case they accidentally swallow them and choke.

Despite having been popular favourites for generations of children, party games including whistles and magnetic fishing games are to be banned because their small parts or chemicals used in making them are decreed to be too risky. Apparently harmless toys that children have enjoyed for decades are now regarded by EU regulators as posing an unacceptable safety risk. Whistle blowers, that scroll out into a long coloured paper tongue when sounded – a party favourite at family Christmas meals – are now classed as unsafe for all children under 14.

The new rules are designed to protect children from the chance that a piece of the whistle could be swallowed and cause choking. The EU directive will also force manufacturers and retailers to attach safety warnings to toys hitherto regarded as harmless. Official guidance notes: "For latex balloons there must be a warning that children under eight years must be supervised and broken balloons should be discarded."

Frank Furedi, professor of sociology at the University of Kent, warned that toy safety bans were part of a trend to micro-manage children's lives at the expense of allowing them to explore, learn and have fun through play. "Toys and activities, such as blowing up balloons, are part and parcel of the type of children's play that helps them become independent and self-reliant," he said. "These bans diminish the experience, both of having fun and learning, by turning play into a danger zone with rules that stifle life and adventure for children." Under the EU legislation, Britain will have to ensure that toys are not sold in shops unless they fully comply with the new safety requirements.

As well as new rules for balloons and party whistles, the EU legislation will impose restrictions on how noisy toys, including rattles or musical instruments, are allowed to be. All teddie bears meant for children under the age of three will now have to be fully washable because EU regulators are concerned that dirty cuddly toys could spread disease and infection.

Paul Nuttall, a member of the European Parliament's consumer safety committee, said the "kill joy" world of EU officialdom was being ill-equipped to understand the concept of children having fun. "I would say that this is crackers but I'm sure children are banned from using them too. EU party poopers should not be telling families how to blow up balloons," said the Ukip MEP.

British toy manufacturers are concerned that the new rules, which include defining colouring books and anything played with by under-14s, could drive up the price of Christmas presents because of the cost of safety tests.

But the European Commission has insisted that the new safety legislation was needed to prevent "horror stories". "These safety standards have been agreed by the UK together with the other EU member states in order to prevent every parent's worst nightmare," said a spokesman. Another EU official admitted that the new regulations could be difficult to understand but insisted that safety experts knew best. "You might say that small children have been blowing up balloons for generations, but not anymore and they will be safer for it," said an official.

Source: *The Daily Telegraph*,

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/8816601/Children-to-be-banned-from-blowing-up-balloons-under-EU-safety-rules.html>

Brussels bans toys: Party blowers and other stocking fillers are barred in EU safety edict (and prices are set to rise for Christmas)

By [Kate Loveys](#)

Last updated at 12:49 PM on 10th October 2011

Christmas stockings look likely to be a little lighter this year because of a new EU edict on toy safety. Many traditional filler toys are being banned because they do not conform to tough regulations imposed by Brussels. Party blowers, magnetic fishing games, toy lipsticks, whistles and recorders are among the favourites deemed too dangerous. And within the next 18 months 'scratch and sniff' toys such as the strawberry-smelling Lots-O'-Hugging' bear, featured in Toy Story 3, will be banned because chemicals are used to create the fragrance.

The stringent regulations form part of the Toy Safety Directive, which has just come into force. Under the rules, children under the age of eight are no longer allowed to blow up balloons, if they are unsupervised. All teddies and soft toys for children under three must be washable to prevent the spread of disease and infection – and limits have been imposed on how noisy toys, including babies' rattles, can be.

Manufacturers are likely to be forced to increase their prices this Christmas to cover the cost of new tests demanded by the directive. Suppliers warn they are already struggling to deal with a mountain of bureaucracy incurred by the directive. Clive Shelton, a toy safety expert, said: 'The new provisions for suppliers to keep detailed technical information about their products are proving to be very challenging.' Although Britain, under Labour, broadly supported the new directive, Government sources said they resisted measures amid fears they would burden industry with extra costs and drive up the price of toys. The revelation comes as the Coalition faces mounting pressure to relieve British businesses from the throttling grip of health and safety legislation from Europe.

Party blowers – which unscroll when blown – are categorised as unsafe for under-14s under rules governing toys that children put in their mouths. EU officials claim bits of blower could come off and cause choking. They can no longer be sold unless they pass strict new tests. Some children's musical instruments, such as recorders and whistles, are also banned because they may come apart and pieces of them could be swallowed. In addition, traditional toys containing magnets, such as fishing games and wooden cranes with magnets, could be deemed unsafe.

This measure follows cases where children have swallowed small magnets which have then disintegrated and pulled intestines together, causing severe injuries. MPs are to debate, before Christmas, whether the Government should give voters a chance to decide, through a referendum, if they want to leave the European Union. Businesses were given until August this year to comply with the Toy Safety Directive, published in June 2009.

It updates the initial Toy Safety Directive of 1990 and covers all toys sold to children aged 14 or younger. In addition, it covers gifts of second hand toys.

Source: *The Daily Mail*,

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2047105/EU-bureaucrats-ban-children-blowing-balloons-crackdown-dangerous-toys.html>



EU does not ban children from blowing up balloons

13/10/2011

A number of recent media reports have made incorrect claims about the new Toy safety Directive, which entered into force on 20 July 2011 (IP/11/908).

Several media have falsely claimed that the Directive would ban children under 8 from inflating balloons without adult supervision, because of the danger that young children could chew or swallow the balloon. Other inaccurate reports have stated that children under 14 would be banned from using. To correct these claims, below is the true scope of the Directive.

Clarification of the case: EU toy safety rules on balloons

- Information reported by the media is not correct.
- In line with EU toy safety rules in place since 1998, balloons made of latex carry a warning aiming to prevent children from choking or suffocating by from inhaling or swallowing uninflated or broken balloons;
- Stronger balloons do not need to carry the warning;
- This warning recommends adult supervision, it does not forbid children under 8 from inflating balloons;
- The reason the warning was introduced and has been maintained in the new Directive is due to several fatal accidents involving balloons. The purpose is to draw parents' attention to the risks of choking or suffocation that exist;
- The new directive 2009/48 and related standards maintain this warning in order to provide the same high level of protection as in the past.

Warning! Children under eight years can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons. Adult supervision required. Keep uninflated balloons from children. Discard broken balloons at once."

Background

The previous toy safety directive 88/378 contained essential safety requirements aiming to prevent children from risk of choking / suffocation:

- Toys for children under 3 must be of such dimensions as to prevent them from being inhaled/ swallowed.
- Toys must not present a risk of suffocation.

These requirements are general, and technical specifications on how to comply with them are described in the standards (namely standard EN 71-1). The standard required for balloons is to bear the above warning.

A balloon manufacturer is deemed to meet the essential safety requirement once he complies with the standard's requirements (affixing the required warning).

Source:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?displayType=news&tpa_id=0&item_id=5486&tk=

