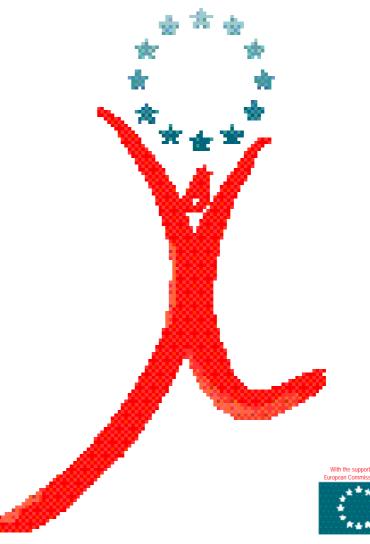


REPORT OF EURONET SYMPOSIUM

27 AND 28 JANUARY 1999 IN BRUSSELS **WORKING AGENDA FOR CHILDREN**

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INTRODUCTION

This report does not try to give the exact text of the speeches delivered at the Euronet Symposium of 27 and 28 January 1999 in Brussels, Belgium. Instead it highlights the main issues that have been brought forward at the Symposium. It also includes action points on what you can do to work and campaign with the report "A Children's Policy for 21st Century Europe: First Steps" and information on how to build National Platforms.

The project was started because children were invisible in most of the policies and legislation of the European Union and they did not have a legal base in the EU Treaty. Euronet highlights it is important to establish an European Agenda for Children in which areas were identified where children should be taken into account in EU policy and legislation. The project also worked towards recommendations on what could be done for children at an EU level. These recommendations were intended to be both general (i.e. how to make children more visible in EU policy making) and specific on different policy areas that the EU is developing. The project was intended for policy makers at EU level, such as the European Commission and the European Parliament, and also for national and transnational children's NGOs to use the report as an Agenda for Action in their national member states.

Euronet's member organisations are asked to use the European Children's Agenda as a tool to campaign for the rights of the child and to raise awareness on European children's issues in member states. This report gives ideas on how to proceed with this by building national coalitions of children's NGOs, through election work and by developing understanding of European issues at national level.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

The project came about with the financial support of the European Commission's DGV and Euronet's member organisations. The consultation process started with a conference in Belfast in May 1998, which was financed under a separate linked piece of work, where more than 150 children and adults from 11 different EU Member States participated. Participants included MEPs, politicians, policy makers, academics and representatives from children's NGOs, fifty per cent of the participants were children and young people. After this conference three regional seminars took place organised by national member organisations of Euronet in Spain, France and Austria. At the seminars European themes on children were discussed by children's NGOs and experts. The themes chosen were children and EU citizenship, children as European consumers, the protection of children and the participation of children. The themes were chosen by national children's organisations, because they found them of importance and they also had a European dimension. Another part of the consultation process was the carrying out of interviews with key decision makers in the European Commission, MEPs, European NGO representatives and national government representatives. The consultation process was guided by an "experts group" including academics and policymakers from across the EU and the management committee of Euronet. The report was written by an independent researcher, Sandy Ruxton.

PRESENTATION OF KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

"A CHILDREN'S POLICY FOR 21ST CENTURY EUROPE: FIRST STEPS" BY SANDY RUXTON.

The first day of the symposium was held in the European Parliament. The meeting was attended by MEPs, Commission officials, Children's NGOs and young people (see annex for participants). One of the presentations in the morning was given by Sandy Ruxton, the author of the Report "A Children's Policy for 21st Century Europe: First Steps".

During the last decade the concept of 'children's policy' has come of age in Europe, reflecting the values and standards of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by all EU states. It is the underlying basis of the Report "A Children's Policy for 21st Century Europe: First Steps".

Despite the increasing attention which is being devoted at local and member state level to the development of children's policy, at EU level there is a lack of political priority and will to tackle children's issues. Children are largely invisible in EU policy-making. There is, however, a need for an EU children's policy, in particular when looking at the likely impact on children of the immense challenges facing the EU as we move into the 21st century. These challenges include:

- Demographic challenges: the next 30 years could see the EU child population fall by 11 per cent, whereas the numbers of over 60s may grow by 50 per cent.
- Economic and political challenges such as the introduction of the single currency, enlargement of the EU with countries from central and eastern Europe and the employment agenda.
- Social challenges: one fifth of children still live in households with an income of below 50 per cent of the average in their country.

The report's aim is to set out a vision for the future of children's policy in the EU. The report demonstates that the EU's current focus in relation to children is incoherent. It argues that an EU children's policy is needed.

The report mentions the following limitations in and weaknesses of the EU's current approach to children's issues:

- In general children's interests are invisible within the EU policy-making process.
- Children receive only a miniscule percentage of the EU budget.
- Children's interests are often overridden by economic interests.
- There is no focal point within the EU structures for developing overall policy direction and mainstreaming a children's perspective across all policy areas.
- The EU has very limited legal bases for action in relation to children. Article K1 in the Amsterdam Treaty refers for the first time ever to children. However, tackling offences against children remains very limited and it is covered by the third pillar which concerns intergovernmental co-operation.
- Other articles on combating social exclusion and non-discrimination on the grounds of age are helpful too, although they do not specifically target children.

The report sets out a series of recommendations which would form the basis for an EU children's policy and which are based on an analysis of the overall impact on children of the EU's policies at present. Some of the recommendations are for implementation in the short term, such as: the adoption of a legal basis for the Daphne Programme on violence against children, the development of a European Commission 'Communication' on children and the inclusion of children in Eurostat's annual demographic report. Other recommendations are related to specific EU policy areas which are analysed in more depth in the report. These issues are: violence to children, social exclusion, non-discrimination, citizenship and participation, free movement of people, media and internet, consumer policy, education, health, environment, employment, EMU and information on children.

Recommendations:

Even if these recommendations were all to be introduced, they would not amount to a comprehensive children's policy. This would require a broader set of changes, including:

- A new article should be inserted in the EU Treaties so that the Community can contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights and needs of children.
- The establishment of a Children's Unit, which would provide a lead within the Commission and oversee the development of an overall EU children's policy and develop liaison between the EU institutions and children's NGOs.
- The improvement of opportunities for children themselves and the development of mechanisms to involve them more into decision-making processes.
- The improvement of available information on children and more effective monitoring of their circumstances.
- The incorporation of respect for the principles and standards of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into EU law.

The implementation of these recommendations is a longer-term objective and is only achievable if sufficient political momentum can be developed. The Twentieth century has shown what could be achieved with popular support, such as improve-

ments in the living conditions of working people and progress towards equality between the sexes. At the beginning of the new millenium, it is time to put children on the European agenda too: time for a children's policy for twenty-first century Europe. Euronet is therefore seeking to stimulate debate and develop a strong campaign for the implementation of the agenda for action, in conjunction with children's NGOs and other relevant bodies across Europe. The report, which is now available in four languages, English, French, Spanish and German, and the leaflet with the Agenda for Action, available in the 11 EU languages, should be used to promote and campaign for a Europe for children.

KEY RESPONSES TO THE REPORT

During the first day several presentations and reactions were given on the contents of the report. Among them were Soledad Blanco from the European Commission (DGV), Mary Banotti MEP, Daniel Diaz Muñoz (a young person from Spain), Jason Moore (a young person from Ireland) and Purificación Llaquet Baldellou from the Save the Children Spain. After these presentations representatives from European, the European Commission, the European Parliament, UNICEF and the Austrian Institute on Family Studies took part in a question time panel. They gave answers to questions from the delegates on European children's issues. The full text of the speeches can be found in newsletter 5 (February 1999) of Euronet. The following paragraph highlights some of the responses to the report.

- Daniel Diaz Muñoz, one of the young delegates at the Symposium, said that young persons in the EU have a right to be respected and to participate in the development of Europe, they have opinions too and they want to be heard.
- Jason Moore, an Irish young delegate at the Symposium, called upon MEPs and national politicians to make children's policy a political priority.
- Several delegates found that the report is a working tool that will help to get children on the political agenda by lobbying both at EU and at national level.
- Mary Banotti MEP said that a European children's policy should no longer be a soft political issue. Moreover, the
 European Parliament can be an ally in the process of ensuring that children will become an integral part of EU policy-making, but the role of NGOs remains crucial to achieve this.
- Soledad Blanco from the European Commission DGV explained that the European Commission is currently undertaking preparatory measures for programmes on non discrimination and social exclusion which will include children.
- Mme Hermange MEP recommended that the Council of Ministers should meet twice a year to discuss Family and Children's issues and that each year guidelines and national plans should be developed. There should also be a focal point within the institutions like the Observatory on Health or Environment.
- Janet Nelson from UNICEF commented that the violence against women and children is a family issue. The family as a whole needs support and parents need to be helped to be able to better carry out their parental role and to take care of their children.
- Purificación Llaquet Baldellou of Save the Children Spain remarked that this year is the 10th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is good opportunity for the European Commission to publish a communication on children in 1999.

During the second day a key note speech was given on Children and Media by Mme Lhoest from the European Commission DGX. Following this speech, Euronet's Spanish and French contact persons explained what the Spanish and French platforms of children's NGOs are doing for children on an EU level. Euronet's Swedish member organisation talked about its national elections campaign in 1998 and gave tips for the European elections in 1999. In addition, several workshops took place on campaigning and political work on the Agenda for Action, Child Protection and the Participation and Citizenship of Children.

Response on Children and Media

• Ms Lhoest from DGX in the European Commission made some general comments on the Agenda for Action and went into further detail on the subject of children and media.

- Concerning what needs to be done in general to achieve a children's policy at EU level she agreed with Euronet that an EU children's policy needs objectives, means and a strategy to develop successfully.
- On the children and the media, the European Commission is undertaking a lot of action. Currently there are 18 action programmes from which children can benefit. In these action programmes four Directorate Generals should be involved but they do not co-operate. Some of the programmes deal with the promotion of the quality of contents concerning the audio-visual industry, such as the Media programme and the Fame programme. The Media programme allocates one third of its financial resources to children. The Fame programme covers education and multi-media. Some other programmes deal with new technologies such as distance learning and new technologies in day care and primary schools or the 5th Framework Programme for Research which has a budget of 3 billion euros for the promotion of quality contents for children. A third category of programmes deals with education and culture such as 'Towards a Europe of Knowledge' in which there is no distinction between education and culture. All of these programmes focus on children.
- Concerning legislation on protection against harmful contents on the internet, a recommendation was adopted on the protection of minors which proposes a network of information centres and hotlines which enable reporting on illegal contents on the internet. One hundred organisations were consulted on this recommendation.
- For the future, DGX is planning a European TV channel for children, of which the feasibility is currently studied by the European Broadcasting Institute. The idea is based on a German Children's TV channel which has turned out to be very successful and has 10 per cent of the whole market. In the development of Action programmes DGX has not much contact with children's NGOs to ask them for their opinions and advice.

What can we do:

- Children's NGOs should start a dialogue with DGX on children and media issues.
- Children's NGOs need to make use of the existing programmes on media and children and on education, media and children.

NEXT STEPS

Taking forward European Issues at National Level

In some countries national and transnational platforms of children's NGOs have been founded to work and lobby together for children's issues on a national and European level. They co-operate and exchange ideas with other NGOs campaigning for and promoting children's rights and give children's NGOs better opportunities to raise awareness around children's issues in their country and, from there, on a European level. Euronet has contact persons in several EU member states who chair these national and transnational platforms. These exist in Greece, Ireland, Italy, Spain and France. The Spanish and French contact persons of Euronet gave a presentation on their work in the platforms at the Symposium.

Purificación Llaquet Baldellou, Save the Children Spain, on the Role of the Spanish Platform

On 19 November 1997 several organisations working in the field of children, such as Save the Children Spain, UNICEF and the Young Red Cross, founded the Spanish Youth Platform. This was a result of working together for more than two years. During these years experiences and ideas on the achievement of the rights of children were exchanged and campaigns were set up together in Spain.

There was a necessity for co-ordination between the organisations that work for and with children. This was a particular issue, since many new organisations had been founded in Spain during recent years.

The objectives of the Platform are:

- Influencing general and sector politics so as to increase the well-being of children and disadvantaged youth
- Recording and reporting violations of children's rights by public and private institutions
- · Developing dialogue, collaboration and participation within relevant public and private organisations
- Encouraging children to participate in organisations that promote their rights

Activities which the Platform has carried out are the following:

- A working group has been formed on youth participation in both familial and societal education. This working group co-operates with BICE on projects concerning the communication between adults and children and have started to carry out research into good practices of participation.
- The Platform has also written a report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Spain, to inform the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the situation of children in Spain.
- The Platform has taken part in activities organised by EURONET, such as campaigning for the revision of the Maastricht Treaty and organising a regional seminar in May of 1998 to contribute to the report of this Symposium. The Platform also translates Euronet's newsletter into Spanish, translated the report into Spanish, promotes Euronet in Spain and organises events at which Euronet is represented.

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Henry Delaunay-Belleville on the Role of COFRADE in France

COFRADE has recently become the national contact person for Euronet in France. COFRADE stands for Conseil Français des Associations pour les Droits de l'Enfant (French Council of Associations for the Rights of the Child). It was founded in 1990 and consists of 120 associations and organisations members which all fight for the promotion and defence of the rights of the child. COFRADE's main target in France is to monitor the application of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. This is done by raising the public awareness, working in committees and also by lobbying the public authorities.

What is COFRADE going to do to raise awareness on European issues in France?

They are intending to assist Euronet by raising awareness within national NGOs in France on questions of Children's Policy at European level. They will use their network within France and their contacts with national MPs for introducing European items on children at Parliamentary level in France.

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What can you do to pursue European issues through Platforms of Children's NGOs?

There are several possibilities to promote European children's issues by means of national and transnational platforms:

- A platform can meet, for example, twice a year and discuss children's issues, including European issues, that are relevant to all of them and co-ordinate campaigning for children on a national and European level to forward the European Children's Agenda.
- You can integrate European issues into existing meetings and publications such as newsletters.
- You can translate Euronet's newsletter into your own language if this is not yet available and distribute among the network.
- You can co-operate with another national children's network in a European project, possibly financed by the EU.

EU ELECTIONS AND THE PROMOTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The Swedish Example:

Euronet's member organisation in Sweden, Rädda Barnen, ran a campaign for their national elections last year and presented this at the Symposium. To support their election campaign they published their own election manifesto with a list of priorities and concerns they wanted to raise with the public and the politicians. Some of their priorities were:

- To create a secure school environment,
- To strengthen the position of the child in the legal process,
- To ensure citizenship for stateless children
- To ensure the best interests of the child in family reunification matters

Rädda Barnen obtained a lot of publicity with their election manifesto. The manifesto was supported by posters which called on voters to vote for children and asked the public to examine the policies of the different parties affecting children. The election manifesto and posters might be ideas to use in your campaign for the European elections as well.

EU ELECTIONS

On 10 and 13 June of this year the elections for the European Parliament are going to take place. This is a good occasion to work on children's issues on a European level. There are several possibilities for activities to raise awareness for children with MEPs and the general public, which came out of the workshop on campaigning and political work using the agenda for action and the leaflet.

What activities can be planned for the European Elections?

- Ask candidates for the European elections to talk about what they plan to do to promote children's issues. This can
 be done by talking to them or by sending letters from NGOs and children and young people. The replies of the MEPs
 should be followed-up after the MEPs have been elected.
- You can also use the email to contact MEPs, candidates and political parties.
- You can involve the media, give interviews and give them tips to ask politicians questions on European children's issues and their commitments to children.
- You can use the fact that this year is the 10th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as a means to get attention for the rights of children.
- You can make a questionnaire for politicians and candidates and ask them about their commitment to do something for children when they are elected.

In all these activities it is important to identify issues which are important in your country and be sure to have a lot of know-ledge and experience on the children's issues you are going to raise. You should also work on ALL political parties with the same message, so that your organisation will remain impartial and not be linked to one or more political parties.

Euronet is going to publish a special issue of its newsletter on the European elections.

CAMPAIGNING AND POLITICAL WORK ON THE AGENDA FOR ACTION:

The workshop on campaigning and political work on the agenda for action was set up to develop strategies to promote the agenda with decision makers by means of exercises. It is now important that at national and European level, the agenda is taken forward and the report's recommendations are promoted and discussed with decision makers and NGOs Europe wide.

There are a number of key events in the near future where it is important to make sure that the children's agenda is promoted. These include:

- The European elections
- The next revision of the EU Treaty
- The 10th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The participants at the workshop were asked to think of one thing that they would do to take the agenda for action forward in their member state. These did not have to be complex, costly or time consuming.

Examples for NGOs could include:

- a) Convening a meeting with other children's NGOs to discuss European children's issues.
- b) Sending the agenda to national politicians and/or MEPs

- c) Integrating European issues into existing national work
- d) Briefing interested national journalists who cover European issues on the agenda for action.

EXERCISES:

The following exercises and role plays were done in the workshop. These can be used by children's NGOs in national member states or some of the techniques and ideas identified in the workshops can be used to work with the agenda and take it forward.

Group 1 - Presidency

Imagine that you are a group of NGOs whose member state has the Presidency in 6 months time. Devise a plan of action around raising the agenda for action.

- which issues would you prioritise and why (give as support examples of last presidency priorities)?
- How would you brief MEPs, national MPs, and other NGOs, national government Ministers?

Group 2 MEPs

The European elections are being held in June. Devise an action plan to raise awareness and lobby MEPs and political parties most importantly including a structured follow up targeting new MEPs (after the elections).

Group 3 - Raising awareness with other NGOs in your member state.

In your member state there is limited awareness and interest amongst the NGO community about European issues and how they affect children. Devise a strategy for raising awareness and understanding with other NGOs. This should include how you would maintain communication with other NGOs.

Group 4 - Raising awareness amongst Young people

In your member state, how would you devise a small, effective initiative which raises the awareness of the European agenda for action amongst children and young people.

Group 5 - Raising awareness with your member state Government

In your country, although there is a lot of interest for national children's issues there is a reluctance to discuss the implications that Europe has for children. Using the agenda for action devise a strategy for overcoming this with national decision makers (eg government ministers, national politicians, press and other opinion formers).

The following issues were a result of the discussions and are recommended for use in your national campaigning work for children.

RAISE AWARENESS AROUND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AMONGST NGOS IN YOUR NATIONAL MEMBER STATE:

- You can use examples of good and bad practices in your own country and of other EU countries and stress the transnational aspect
- Small NGOs can work in local areas to raise awareness and as part of national structures
- You can use the anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November

→ What can you do:

- You can involve children themselves by means of drama and video
- You can use the Euronet leaflet 'Children are European Citizens too' and distribute it among NGOs in your country
- You can contact young people at schools and in youth organisations and encourage them to participate in a meeting of NGOs and young people together
- You can co-operate with other NGOs on a European level

Raise awareness around European children's issues amongst Young people

Processes which can be used for your activities are:

- · You can use existing networks of NGOs
- You can use the opportunity of the Presidency to raise awareness on European issues affecting children
- You should try to start from the local communities up to a national level

→ What can you do:

- The report of Euronet "A Children's Policy for 21st Century Europe: First Steps" or parts of it can be adapted in a child-friendly version to reach children themselves.
- Children and teachers can be taught about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Children's Agenda. Teachers in Europe should include this in the curriculum, as decided by the Council of Europe.

What activities can be planned when your country has the Presidency of the European Union

You should start preparing 18 months in advance and you can raise the following issues:

- The need for a legal base for children in the EU Treaty.
- Children's participation needs to be promoted following the Austrian Resolution of November 1998 on child participation
- In each Member State a Children's Unit could be established

→ What can you do:

- You can make a briefing on what has been achieved for children during each Presidency and use this as a lobbying tool for the following Presidencies
- You can organise open meetings with MPs and NGOs, and form all party groups and a youth forum

Raise awareness with National Governments on children's issues

You can use already existing channels and networks in the Member States and Euronet should support the setting up of such networks.

→ What can you do:

- You can organise a group of MPs to meet representatives of children's NGOs
- When major changes occur, such as the adoption of new laws concerning children, this opportunity can be used to organise demonstrations and to get the media interested
- Children can be involved themselves by means of school projects
- You can send letters to your government and opposition parties
- You can talk to politicians and, when they are not supportive you could go to the press
- You can take the Euronet Children's Agenda for Action forward and give to national and European politicians

WORKSHOP ON CHILD PROTECTION AT EU LEVEL

This workshop was given because of the importance of this subject on an EU level at the moment. In recent years there has been strong political and public support for the EU to respond to the violence against children, especially in the form of sexual exploitation and abuse. At the time of writing the Daphne Programme is hopefully on its way to being adopted.

In the workshop several child protection issues at EU level were discussed and the following conclusions could be drawn at the end:

- A well-functioning child protection system has a child-oriented focus where children's rights and interests are taken seriously and children's voices are heard.
- The term "child protection" is used in Europe as an alternative to "child welfare", especially in the southern countries. When statements are made on child protection, its semantic meaning should be clarified.
- There is a need to adopt a permanent legal base for the Daphne Programme, which deals with violence against women and children in the EU, from 2000 until 2004.
- There is a need for systems to control the free movement of abusers, the STOP Programme can be used to develop these systems.
- There is a need to share best practices between EU member states.
- Physical punishment should be abolished in all EU Member States.
- Further EU action to protect children from TV and damaging advertising is needed.

- There is a need for a better protection of children as consumers and European consumer legislation should therefore take children's best interests into account.
- The internet should be regulated to control its negative aspects and to promote positive aspects of the information revolution.
- There is a need for positive models of participation of children.
- Child-friendly materials need to be developed and information materials have to be translated into practice.

WORKSHOP ON PARTICIPATION AND CITIZENSHIP

One of the aspects which was stressed in the workshop concerned the participation of children at conferences and seminars. The following conclusions were drawn on this aspect:

- One has to be very careful not to exploit the presence of children.
- Methods employed for ensuring child participation should be appropriate to the interest and age of the children.
- One has to prepare the participation of children before a meeting, conference or seminar is taking place.

Nowadays there is much more talk about the need to involve children. Concerning the participation of children in general the workshop made the following conclusions:

- One has to educate adults to listen to children and to give them the opportunity to participate.
- The processes of the participation of children need to be mainstreamed.
- One has to create opportunities for the participation of children.

A development is taking place in the understanding of the concept of the participation of children. For some people participation should be limited to formal aspects such as school councils, community councils, etc. For others it should go beyond this. Therefore it is necessary to start educating on real participation. This means to educate people on the rights of the child, to educate them on values and also to develop a methodology for participation. For this reason it is very important to exchange different experiences between EU countries and children's organisations.

ANNEX I

Evaluation of the Symposium: Some findings and remarks which came back on the evaluation forms after the Symposium:

Overall, participants in general enjoyed the symposium, and they most enjoyed the workshops on the second day and the speech of Ms Lhoest of the European Commission DG X. The question time panel was generally well received but with some reservations. The workshops on campaigning and citizenship and participation were most enjoyed and the one on child protection had mixed reactions, since participants had expected more discussion and interactive participation.

Several participants observed that there were only a few young people participating. However, this was never intended to be a young people's conference, but it is important that when young people are involved it is ensured that young people participate actively. Because of the large amount of interest from the Spanish delegates, it is important to have Spanish interpretation in the future. Some participants would have liked more time for an in depth presentation of the report, since they found it challenging and comprehensive. Another proposal was, for the European Commission to establish a working group around the 10th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which would encourage the development and financing of different programmes.

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EURONET SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

"A CHILDREN'S POLICY FOR THE 21st CENTURY" 27 and 28 January 1999, Brussels

Wednesday 27 January 1999:

Location: European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, room L 3 E2, Brussels

10.00-10.30: Press conference: Jason Moore (from Ireland, representing children and young people)

Sandy Ruxton (author of "A Children's Policy for 21st Century Europe: First Steps")

Diana Sutton and Sean Lawless

Chair: Mr Bartho Pronk (Dutch MEP)

11.00-11.05:	Welcome by Mr Bartho Pronk MEP
11.05-11.20:	Opening by Ms Soledad Blanco (European Commission, DGV)
11.20-11.40	Presentation of the European Agenda for Action by Ms. Purificacion Llaquet Balledou and
	Daniel Diaz Muñoz (Save the Children, Spain).
11.40-11.55:	Presentation by Mr Sandy Ruxton (author of "A
	Children's Policy for 21st Century Europe: First Steps").
11.55-12.10:	Speech by Ms Mary Banotti MEP
12.10-12.30:	Explanation of Question Time Panel by Sean Lawless (Focus on Children)
12.30-14.00:	Lunch
11.55-12.10: 12.10-12.30:	Presentation by Mr Sandy Ruxton (author of "A Children's Policy for 21st Century Europe: First Steps"). Speech by Ms Mary Banotti MEP Explanation of Question Time Panel by Sean Lawless (Focus on Children)

Chair: Mr. S. Lawless(Focus on Children).

14.00-16.00: **Question time**:

Responses to the European Children's Agenda.

(5 minutes response on the agenda per person, followed by response to questions).

Panel:

Ms. Marianna Paraskeva (European Commission DGV)

Ms. M.T. Hermange (MEP)

Jason Moore (young person from Ireland)

Dr. Helen Agathonos (Euronet national contact person Greece)

Ms. Janet Nelson (Unicef)

Mr. Helmut Wintersberger (Austrian Institute for Family Studies).

16.00: Closing speech by **Ms U. Schleicher**, MEP, Vice President of the European Parliament.

Thursday 28 January 1999:

Location: Conference room in Swissotel, Rue de Parnasse 19, Brussels

Chair: Mr Bill Bell (the International Save the Children Alliance, UK).

Workshops:

- 1. Child protection Workshop leaders: Ms Helen Agathonos (Euronet contact person Greece), Mr Sandy Ruxton.
- 2. **Citizenship, participation and rights** (workshop leaders: Ms Luisa Maria Aguillar (BICE, Belgium), Ms Purificacion Llaquet Balledou (Save the Children, Spain).
- 3. **Campaigning and political work on the agenda for action** (workshop leaders: Ms Diana Sutton (the International Save the Children Alliance) Mr Sean Lawless (Focus on Children) and Ms Simone Ek (Rädda Barnen).

WORKING AGENDA FOR CHILDREN

Morning: Plenary and workshops: Ballroom 1(plenary) and conference rooms 6 and 7(workshops)

08.45-09.15: Welcome Coffee

09.15-09.30: Opening and introduction on Euronet by **Mr Bill Bell** (the

International Save the Children Alliance, UK).

09.30-09.45:Speech by **Ms Lhoest** (European Commission DGX).

09.45-11.00: Workshop 1

Child Protection: Conference Room 7; English
 Citizenship, Participation and Rights: Conference Room 6; French
 Campaigning and political work: Ballroom 1; English/French

11.00-11.30: Coffee break (break out room).

11.30.-12.45: Workshop 2

• Child Protection: Conference Room 7; English

• Citizenship, Participation and Rights:Ballroom 1; English/French

• Campaigning and political work: Conference 6; English

12.45-13.45: Lunch in restaurant Swisshotel.

Afternoon: Plenary session in Ballroom 1

14.00-14.45: Presentations by national contact people:

14.00-14.15: National Platform in Spain by **Ms Purificacion Llaquet Balledou.**

14.15-14.30: Elections by **Ms Simone Ek** (Rädda Barnen, Sweden). 14.30-14.45: Presentation by **Mr Henry Delaunay-Belleville**,

COFRADE (Conseil Français des Associations pour les Droits de l'Enfant)

14.45-15.30: Questions and Discussion

15.30-16.00: Conclusions and next steps by Mr Bill Bell and Ms Luisa Maria

Aguillar (BICE).

16.00: Tea break and end of the day.