This manifesto is addressing all candidates for the election to the European Parliament (June 2004)

About 76 million children (every human being up to 18 years) live in the EU 25 member states. Their voices are rarely heard and they are generally not encouraged to participate in matters that affect them. More than 21% of children in the EU are living in relative poverty and many children in the EU are trafficked or sexually exploited. It is time to build a Europe for children and make children’s rights real.

1. Children in Europe have a right to their say: Promote children’s participation in decisions that affect them, and give due weight to their views.

2. More then 21% of children in Europe live in relative poverty in one of the richest regions of the world: Eradicate child poverty in all EU member states.

3. Six hundred million children around the world are living in extreme poverty: Ensure that children's rights and interests are taken into account in EU external-affairs policy and action

4. Children are trafficked and sexually exploited across Europe: Enforce laws that can protect children against traffickers and abusers and offer protection to victims.

5. Child pornography is abhorrent: Take action to extend and continue EU action programmes and make the internet safe from this form of abuse.

6. Many children in the Central and Eastern European region are living in institutions: Take action to ensure that children can live in a family and appropriate environment.

7. Many children grow up in polluted areas and child-unfriendly cities: Guarantee a clean, healthy and child-friendly environment for children to grow up in and ensure access to the highest standards of health care whether in or out of hospital.

8. Children in Europe still face discrimination: Take action to end all forms of discrimination against children.

9. Children are now included in the draft European Constitution: Ensure that children’s rights and interests are no longer ignored in European legislation and policy.

10. Children are invisible in EU policy and programmes: Promote the establishment of an EU Representative on children’s rights to ensure co-ordination of European policies on behalf of children.

11. Children are only targeted by few funds in the EU budget: Ensure that more money is directed at children in the EU budget.

12. Over 2 million children have been killed and more than 6 million injured as a result of conflict since 1990: Promote serious and effective implementation of the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict.

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1 This manifesto, which includes the voices of children in Europe, is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and its Optional Protocols.
WHAT IS EURONET?

EURONET, the European Children’s Network, is a non-profit making non-governmental organisation created to promote children's rights at a European Union level.

EURONET’S member organisations are European and national NGOs campaigning for children and children’s rights. The objective of EURONET is to promote the principles and standards of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child(1989) at EU level and to involve active participation from children and young people.

EURONET’S ACTIVITIES

EURONET campaigns for the interests and rights of children in Europe and the wider world by putting children’s rights and interests on the European Union agenda. Its activities in this respect are policy development, research and children and youth projects.

Examples of work carried out by EURONET include:

- Report on children experiencing Social Exclusion and Poverty;
- Successful campaigns for the inclusion of children’s rights in the draft EU European Constitution and Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Children’s participation project on the Future of Europe, giving input to the draft European Constitution;
- Report on the Discrimination of Children;
- Contributions to EU Human Rights Forums on children’s rights;
- Work with EU Presidencies on Children’s Rights

EURONET PRINCIPLES

These principles represent the core values that underpin the work of EURONET and are based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989. Member organisations of EURONET are expected to subscribe to these principles:

- Children have a right to live without experiencing prejudice, exclusion and discrimination
- Children have a right to be heard within the European institutions including the European Parliament, Commission, Council of Ministers and the Council of Europe
- Children have a right to be recognised as citizens of the European Union with a statement of their fundamental rights included in the Treaty on the European Union or the Constitution of the European Union
- Children have a right for their needs and interests to be given priority in the work of local, regional, national authorities and European and International institutions
- European Union member states have a duty to amend and bring forward legislation which fully reflects and implements the principles contained in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
EURONET's Manifesto for Children

- Politicians, political parties and political groups have a duty to give priority to children's rights in their manifestos and programmes
- EURONET member organisations and associate members undertake to develop inclusive and participatory work with children
- EURONET member organisations and associate members undertake to promote the rights and needs of children including effective campaigning on children's issues within the context of the developing European Union.

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EURONET MEMBER ORGANISATIONS
**EURONET Manifesto for Children**

- **Children in Europe have a right to their say:**
  - More than 21% of children in Europe live in relative poverty in one of the richest regions of the world:
  - Six hundred million children around the world are living in extreme poverty:
  - Children are trafficked and sexually exploited across Europe:
  - Child pornography is abhorrent:
  - Many children in the Central and Eastern European regions are living in institutions:
  - Many children grow up in polluted areas and child-unfriendly cities:

- **Children in Europe still face discrimination:**
  - Children are now included in the draft European Constitution:
  - Children are invisible in EU policy and programmes:
  - Children are only targeted by few funds in the EU budget:
  - Over 2 million children have been killed and more than 6 million injured as a result of conflict since 1990:

- **1. Promote children’s participation in decisions that affect them, and give due weight to their views.**
- **2. Eradicate child poverty in all EU member states**
- **3. Ensure that children’s rights and interests are taken into account in EU external-affairs policy and action**
- **4. Enforce laws that can protect children against traffickers and abusers and offer protection to victims**
- **5. Take action to extend and continue EU action programmes and make the Internet safe from this form of abuse**
- **6. Take action to ensure that children can live in a family and appropriate environment**
- **7. Guarantee a clean, healthy and child-friendly environment for children to grow up in and ensure access to the highest standards of health care whether in or out of hospital**
- **8. Take action to end all forms of discrimination against children!**
- **9. Ensure that children’s rights and interests are no longer ignored in European legislation and policy**
- **10. Promote the establishment of an EU Representative on children’s rights to ensure co-ordination of European policies on behalf of children**
- **11. Ensure that more money is directed at children in the EU budget**
- **12. Promote serious and effective implementation of the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict**