Press Statement

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The next 50 years for Children’s Rights in Europe?

The European Children’s Network (EURONET), which brings together children’s rights organisations from across Europe, calls on leaders to mark the EU’s 50th Anniversary this year by committing to putting children’s rights at the heart of the Union’s policies.

After 50 years it is high time to recognise Europe’s 100 million children as EU citizens, especially by ensuring that they are included in any future Treaty text. “Children’s rights are affected by many actions of the European Union and need therefore to be taken into account in these actions. The basis for this is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has been ratified by all EU Member States”, said Simone Ek, President of EURONET.

A growing number of EU activities affect children, for example in the fields of poverty and social inclusion, health and consumer protection, criminal justice and international development. Risks transcending national boundaries, such as threats associated with the internet or child trafficking need cross-border cooperation. “It is crucial to ensure that the EU’s activities contribute wherever possible to enhancing children’s well-being and safeguarding their rights”, said Mieke Schuurman, Secretary-General of EURONET.

“For this reason it is essential that children’s rights remain included in any newly negotiated EU Treaty” she continued.

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Note:
The European Children’s Network (EURONET) is a coalition of networks and organisations campaigning at a European level for the interests and rights of children. Its activities include policy development research, and projects involving children and young people directly.