News from Eurochild

Upcoming Events

3rd Annual Conference of Eurochild AISBL
14-16 November 2006, Berlin, Germany

The European conference on “Policy and Practice for Social Inclusion of Children and Young People - the Role of Non-formal and Informal Learning”, which will take place on 14-16 November 2006 in Berlin, draws nearer. It is being organised by the Child and Youth Welfare Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ, www.agj.de) in Germany and Eurochild AISBL (www.eurochild.org).

We have received a lot of positive feedback regarding the event programme and the up-to-date registration list counts 130 people (participants and speakers) from all over Europe. Registration is still possible at www.agj.de/registration.

The conference will be followed by the General Assembly of Eurochild, on 16 November, to which all members of Eurochild are warmly invited!

There will be a short report from these events in the next edition of the e-News Bulletin at the end of November as well as in the bi-annual Newsletter, to be published at the end of the year.
News from the European Institutions

Celebrations of 50th anniversary of Rome Treaty to focus on youth

On 24 October the European Institutions gave their green light to several projects and events to be carried out thought the European Union in 2007, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signature of the Rome Treaties. The purpose is twofold: celebrating the freedom, peace and prosperity that the EU has accomplished so far, and looking at the future and at what kind of Europe the citizens, and in particular the young, wish for the future. The youth package was given the highest priority.

A youth summit will be held in March 2007 to coincide with the meeting of the European Council in Berlin (under the upcoming German Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2007). The idea is that young people across Europe will have the opportunity to discuss Europe’s future not only among themselves but also with the Council by means of a live transmission. There will be:

- an event linking schools from all over Europe that will allow children to communicate with one another;
- ‘Spring Day in Europe’ which will strive to raise awareness of Europe’s achievements;
- a project with 50 citizens born in each year to give their views on the European project.

The European Youth Forum has welcomed the focus that will be given to youth during the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaties and thinks that this symbolic moment is an important opportunity to discuss what kind of Europe its citizens, and in particular its youth, wish for the future.


Five ways to defuse the demographic time bomb

The European Commission has published a Communication on “The demographic future of Europe – from challenge to opportunity” on 12 October.

Background

Because Europeans live longer and have fewer children, Europe is facing a challenge of "demographic ageing". This will have serious implications for the economy as less working people will support those who retired. The size of Europe's working population is predicted to decrease by 48 million between now and 2050, according to Commission figures. This would lead to major negative impacts on economic growth and public finances if current policies remained the same.

Priorities

To tackle this challenge, Commissioner Vladimir Špidla presented a Communication, which highlights these issues and sets out five areas for concrete action to help Member States adapt to demographic change in their own national context:

1. Helping people to balance work, family and private life so that potential parents can have the number of children they desire;
2. Improving work opportunities for older people;
3. Increasing potentially productivity and competitiveness by valuing the contributions of both older and younger employees;
4. Harnessing the positive impact of migration for the job market;
5. Ensuring sustainable public finances to help guarantee social protection in the long-term.

Positions

However, the Platform of Social NGOs has expressed itself disappointed with the way the Commission intends to tackle demographic challenges. It stated that “(…) social NGOs feel that the EC sticks to its own narrow position of thinking that the sole answer to the challenge of demographic ageing is to keep people at work for longer.” In the Communication “the issues at stake are limited to pensions and health care expenditure, older worker employment rates and old-age dependency ratios. (…) these are important discussions, but the necessary qualitative changes to the economic, social and political structures of society deserve equal attention.”

Last week, the Social Platform has elected “demographic and social changes” as its annual theme for 2007. Many initiatives and actions will be organised to advance the debate towards the most inclusive and integrated policy mix.

First Forum on Europe’s Demographic Future

Hot on the heels of its Communication on Europe’s demographic challenge, the European Commission
has held an EU-level expert Forum to exchange policy solutions to Europe's ageing crisis on 30-31 October. The 'Forum on Europe's demographic future' brought together 400 representatives from Member States and experts from around Europe to discuss concrete ways of taking on the challenges of a shrinking workforce and ageing population. It examined examples of good practices in the areas of promoting better conditions for demographic renewal, more jobs and longer working lives, higher productivity, the integration of migrant workers and sustainable public finances. Results of a European pilot project on demographic change were also presented.

To keep up the momentum for action on demographic change over the next decade, the European Commission will organise a Forum every two years. The Commission also wants to use the Forum as a catalyst, sparking similar events and debates at national, regional and local level.

Links

To download the Communication:

For the press release of the Social Platform:

For Eurochild’s contribution to the consultation about the European Commission Green Paper on "Confronting democratic change - a new solidarity between the generations", issued in October 2005, and the recent Communication:
http://www.eurochild.org/index.php?id=18&L=0

For a joint Press Release of AGE, the European Youth Forum and the European Women’s Lobby:

First Forum on Europe’s Demographic Future:
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/events/event_en.cfm?id=625

For more information on Commission activities on demographic change:
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_situations/event_en.cfm

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

European Commission concerned at slow progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

Every year the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty highlights figures which conceal an even more tragic reality. Over one billion people live under the extreme poverty line (one dollar a day). Over 800 million people suffer from hunger. Every year six million children under the age of five die of malnutrition. Every thirty seconds an African child dies of malaria. The European Commission is concerned that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a long way from being achieved.

Since the Millennium Summit in 2000, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty has provided an opportunity to take stock of progress made towards the MDGs that countries pledged to reach by 2015. These Objectives include halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger, ensuring that all children, boys and girls alike, are able to complete a full course of primary schooling, halting the spread of AIDS, curbing the spread of malaria and other major diseases and reducing the under five mortality rate by two-thirds.

The EU continues to be the largest provider of official development assistance with a volume of over half of overall development aid.

For more information:

Eurochild urges EU to do everything to eradicate child poverty

Of the 72 Million People still experiencing poverty in the EU many are children! This is the reason why world poverty day, in advance of the Round Table on poverty and social exclusion which took place in Finland on 16-17 October, Eurochild issued a press release urging the EU to do everything possible to eradicate child poverty.

It is statistically proved that across the EU families with children under 16 are still more likely to be at risk of poverty than the rest of the population as a whole (20% compared to 16%). As a consequence, at the Spring Summit 2006, heads of state and government concluded that EU member states should take measures to "rapidly and significantly reduce child poverty".

However, although many member states have identified child poverty as a strategic priority in their National Action Plans for Social Inclusion and Social Protection, more needs to be done.

To read the full Press Release:

Communication on reducing alcohol related harm in Europe

The European Commission on 24 October adopted a Communication setting out an EU strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm. The Communication addresses the adverse health effects of harmful and hazardous alcohol consumption in Europe, which is estimated to cause the deaths of 195,000 people a year in the EU.

Priorities
The priorities identified in the Communication are: to protect young people and children; reduce injuries and deaths from alcohol-related road accidents; prevent harm among adults and reduce the negative impact on the economy; raise awareness of the impact on health of harmful alcohol consumption; and help gather reliable statistics. The Commission has identified areas where the EU can support the actions of Member States to reduce alcohol-related harm, such as financing projects through the public health and research programmes, exchanging good practice on issues such as curbing under-age drinking, exploring cooperation on information campaigns or tackling drink-driving and other Community initiatives.

Positions

However, although leading public health agencies and non-governmental organisations in Europe, including the European Public Health Alliance, have called on the European Commission to resist alcohol industry pressure to abandon its alcohol harm reduction strategy, in the document - delayed by several months - Brussels has weakened its calls for alcohol-related measures, as compared to the draft version of the paper circulated among drink industry and public health groups in September. It has left it up to national governments to decide which good examples in the EU to follow, while stating it would consult industry on "responsible" advertising and sales of alcohol.

NGOs such as Eurocare (The European Alcohol Policy Alliance) are criticising that "in the end, the alcohol industry and other parts of the Commission [other than DG SANCO] have ensured that the strategy reflects the undue influence of the alcohol industry (...)". Public health specialist Dr. Peter Anderson, the author of the report "Alcohol in Europe", said that the proposed EU alcohol policy is "much weaker than the first draft and has a much greater focus on education as the answer to solving the problems of alcohol, when the evidence shows that it does not work".

Background

According to the WHO the European region is the region with the highest alcohol intake in the world and a per capita consumption twice as high as the world average. Alcohol-attributable disease, injury and violence also harm the health, welfare, employment and criminal justice sectors across the EU.

Young people are more likely to be susceptible to certain health threats, and, particularly, to the risks posed by alcohol use - with more than 10% of youth female mortality and around 25% of youth male mortality caused by alcohol. In addition to these direct risks, young people are also often the victims of the secondary effects of alcohol abuse - i.e. those caused through the misuse of alcohol by others (e.g. violence, drink-driving, and domestic violence).

Children bear the brunt of alcohol related harm. One in six of child abuse is due to alcohol and more than 7 million children live in families wrecked by alcohol. Over 60,000 underweight births are due to alcohol each year, and drinking during pregnancy is a major cause of birth defects with life long consequences. Two fifths of all domestic violence inflicted on women is due to alcohol which is also a cause of two fifths of all murders.

In addition, many alcohol companies have designed their web sites in a way that appeals to youth. A 2004 study released by the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) at Georgetown University showed that many youth were indeed able to access Web sites supposedly designed to keep out underage visitors.

Links

To download the Communication:

For more information:

Report on alcohol in Europe:

For the European Youth Forum Press Release:

For the Eurocare Press Release:

For more information on alcohol marketing in youth friendly media:
http://www.marininstitute.org/alcohol_industry/boozecyberspace.htm

Commission announces new PROGRESS call

The European Commission has published a new call for proposals (VP/2006/019) for the forthcoming PROGRESS programme for employment and social solidarity. The call is open to non-profit European level networks active in combating discrimination, promoting gender equality and promoting the integration of disabled people in society. These three areas of activity make up the three ‘actions’ of the call. Only networks that have these areas as primary objectives and activities are eligible. The call is also only open to European level organisations made up of national members from at least 15 EU Member States. The deadline for submitting a proposal is 17 November 2006. Through this call, EU financial support is available for a period of 12 months maximum starting from 1 January 2007 at the
Commission work programme for 2007

Prosperity, solidarity, security, and a stronger voice in the world to be basis for action in 2007

The European Commission has adopted its work programme for 2007. As the EU prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, the Commission has mapped out concrete action it will take to meet its strategic objectives for 2007. It has identified a series of 21 initiatives that will be the main focus of its work in 2007. Alongside these initiatives, the main policy actions to be adopted over the next 12-18 months are identified in the programme, consisting of the following list of priorities for communicating with citizens:

- Energy - the first Strategic Energy review of Europe will be issued;
- a Green Paper on climate change and perspectives for co-operation post-2012;
- modernisation of the European economy;
- better management of migration flows;
- a White Paper on health strategy;
- a strategy proposal on social services;
- the annual enlargement strategy paper;
- a renewed market access strategy;
- a reinforcement of the Neighbourhood Policy;
- progress in negotiations with major strategic partners such as Russia, China and Ukraine.

For more information:
http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm

New Commissioners for Bulgaria & Romania nominated

In view of the further enlargement of the EU, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso has nominated Bulgaria’s current Europe Minister Maglena Kuneva and Romania’s EU negotiator Leonard Orban to join his 27-strong team as from 1 January 2007. Ms Kuneva will take over the consumer protection portfolio from Cypriot commissioner Markos Kyprianou, who will keep the responsibility for health issues. Mr Orban will be the new commissioner for multilingualism, taking over this portfolio from the Slovak commissioner Jan Figel, who will continue to take care of education, training and culture.

The European Parliament is set to hold a hearing of the two new members of the college of commissioners in November and vote on their appointment in December 2006.

European Parliament

New Programmes for Young People and Lifelong Learning adopted


The EU Youth Programme 2007-2013 aims to promote young people’s active European citizenship

The EP has adopted the Youth in Action programme for 2007-2013, which aims to foster the idea of belonging to the EU and to promote social cohesion and intercultural dialogue among young people, aged 15-28 (13-30 for some specific actions).

The new programme will finance projects fostering young people’s mutual understanding, solidarity and their active engagement in civic activities. It will also support youth organisations that are active at EU level to promote the development of exchange, training and information schemes for youth workers and stimulate partnerships with regional and local entities. It will give funding support to projects under five headings:

- Youth for Europe
- European Voluntary Service
- Youth of the world
- Youth workers and support
- Support for policy cooperation in the youth field

For more information about the youth programme 2007-2013:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/newprog/index_en.html

‘Lifelong learning’: a new education and training programme to build the Knowledge Society

The EP also adopted the Commission’s ambitious proposals for a new action programme in the field of education and training, the ‘Lifelong Learning Programme’. For the first time, a single programme will cover learning opportunities from childhood to old age. It will support projects and activities that foster interchange, cooperation & mobility between education and training systems within the EU.

The Lifelong Learning (LLL) Programme will cover the period 2007-2013, and is the successor to the current programmes:

- Socrates – for pre-school and school education
- Erasmus – for higher education
- Leonardo da Vinci – for vocational education and training
- Grundtvig - adult education
- eLearning
These are joined by what will be known as a ‘transversal programme’, which will pursue the following four key activities:

- policy cooperation and innovation in LLL;
- promotion of LLL;
- development of innovative ICT-based content, services, pedagogies and practice for LLL;
- dissemination and exploitation of results of actions supported under the Lifelong Learning Programme and previous related programmes, and exchange of good practice.

These actions will be complemented by the new Jean Monnet programme, which supports institutions and activities in the field of European integration.


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**Presidency of the EU**

**Finnish Round Table puts child poverty high on the agenda**

“We need to break the chain of inherited poverty … more targeted support for families with children, is needed.” This quote from Commissioner Špidla’s concluding speech to the Fifth European Round Table on poverty and social exclusion was one of many references to child poverty during the event.

The Round Tables are key events in the EU social inclusion calendar. This year it was an opportunity to take stock of the recent national reports on strategies for social inclusion 2006-2008 and highlight some of the key emerging issues. Child poverty has been identified as a strategic priority for a majority of Member States. Eva Hansen, Minister for Social Affairs and Gender Equality in Denmark gave an interesting insight into the Danish perspective: “support for children needs to be holistic – we must move away from a fragmented approach”. And while emphasising the need for universal services, she also highlighted the specific needs of particularly vulnerable groups of children including those living in disadvantaged areas, those placed outside the home, those exposed to trafficking or abuse.

In the workshop on mainstreaming social inclusion, Catriona Williams, Eurochild President also reinforced the need for a holistic approach to tackling social exclusion among children and young people – insisting that such a framework already exists in the form of the UN CRC. Using the Convention as a basis for all work with children will help to achieve targets framed within the social inclusion agenda (such as reducing income poverty) but it will also ensure that children are considered as active stakeholders – with a right to be consulted and listened to.

Overall the Tampere Round Table can be considered a success in raising the profile and visibility of children in the EU’s social inclusion agenda. The Portuguese Minister for Labour and Social Solidarity, José Antonio Vieira da Silva, committed to continuing the cycle of Round Tables in 2007 when they take over the EU Presidency. He also indicated that poverty among the younger generations will be one of their main priorities – in particular investing in prevention so as to avoid the reproduction of poverty.

The materials, incl. speeches and presentations at the Round Table, are now available on: [http://www.stm.fi/Resource.phx/eng/subj/inter/ eu2006/round/round1.htm](http://www.stm.fi/Resource.phx/eng/subj/inter/eu2006/round/round1.htm)

For more information on the Round Table: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/conf_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/conf_en.htm)


**Social Platform meets with Presidency before Flexicurity Summit**

The Platform of Social NGOs held a lunch meeting with the Finnish Presidency on 17 October to discuss flexicurity - the term used to describe the policy mix between flexibility and security in the labour market - in advance of the European Council on the issue. The meeting was hosted by Finnish Social Affairs and Health Minister, Tuula Haatainen, with the participation of Commissioner Vladimir Špidla and the Portuguese Labour and Social Solidarity Minister, José Vieira da Silva. A delegation from the Management Committee represented the Social Platform, together with a representative from the Finnish Social Welfare Association.

Following the publication of the Social Platform’s 10 Principles for Flexicurity the previous week ([http://www.socialplatform.org/module/FileLib/ENSocialPlatformprinciplesonFlexicurity.pdf](http://www.socialplatform.org/module/FileLib/ENSocialPlatformprinciplesonFlexicurity.pdf)), the meeting provided the chance for the Platform to press forward its concerns on ‘flexicurity’. The delegation outlined its fears over flexicurity, as well as its more positive vision for a balanced approach to the issue.

Minister Haatainen welcomed the Social Platform’s contribution to the debate, and pledged to ensure that the message was forwarded to the European Council. Commissioner Špidla was challenged over the delay to the publication of the Green Paper on Labour Law which the Platform fears will lessen the chances of a full and balanced debate on the issue (see the Social Platform press release: [http://www.socialplatform.org/code/EN/Pres_rele.asp?id_presse=125](http://www.socialplatform.org/code/EN/Pres_rele.asp?id_presse=125)).

The Portuguese Minister stressed the need to ensure that flexibility reforms are accompanied with reforms to strengthen security – and not that security should follow afterwards. This was agreed by the
Finnish Minister and the Commission – although it may be pointed out that in some Member States this is too late, since flexibility changes have already happened, without accompanying measures to ensure strong security.

The Eurochild position on Flexicurity can be found at: http://www.eurochild.org/index.php?id=18

For more information on labour law in the EU: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/labour_law/documentation_en.htm

Upcoming EU Presidency: Germany

The Presidency of the European Council is held for six months (from January to June, and from July to December) by each member state on a rotating basis. The EU Presidency hosts the meetings of the European Council, the diplomatic seat of the member states, and arranges and chairs all the Council’s meetings.

After the current Finnish Presidency of the EU, this role will be taken over by Germany in January 2007.

Berlin to push for European social model revival

According to an outline of the programme for its EU presidency, Berlin will concentrate on creating more jobs, as this is one of the main concerns of citizens and will also try and make the bloc’s social model more relevant. It plans to host a ministerial conference that makes clear that the economy, employment and social affairs do not contradict one another and wants to make sure that the social effects of European laws are taken more strongly into account.

However, two months before the start of the German EU presidency, there are still many issues over which the grand coalition government has not yet found an agreement.

Establishing a “European Alliance for Families”

Ursula von der Leyen, the German Minister for families, senior citizens, women and youth, and herself a mother of seven, agreed that being able to reconcile family life and work were crucial for bringing Europe’s birth rates up. She saw particular problems for young women still doing their studies and presented a number of projects that her country’s government has launched, such as parental benefits of up to 65% of the last net income, establishing a network of family-friendly enterprises, and so-called multi-generation houses, as a modernised form of the extended family. Von der Leyen also announced a “European Alliance for Families” to be established under the German Presidency during the first half of 2007.

The European Alliance for Families will be one of the central projects of the German Government in the social sector during the presidency. It is supposed to be the platform for an exchange of experience and opinions on all levels (Council and member states, Commission, EP, social partners, civil society) as far as concrete projects and co-operations are concerned. Other aims are the comparison between goals and effects of family policies of the member states of the EU, families and family policy as an independent part of the social- and socio-economic reporting of the EU, and the creation and further development of local and regional alliances/pilot projects for families in and between member states and support of partnerships.

Eurochild is concerned, that this very family-centred approach might fall short of taking into account the rights of the child as enshrined in the UN CRC. We are going to contribute to a meeting of the Social Platform with Minister von der Leyen on 13 November 2006.

Visit to Germany by Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, has made a two-week official visit to Germany during the month of October. The Commissioner was visiting Germany for the first time to draw up a comprehensive human rights report in the country. His final assessment will be made public in spring 2007.

For more information: https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1046029&BackColorInternet=99B5AD&BackColorIntranet=FABF45&BackColorLogged=FFC679

EESC elects new President and Vice-President

On 25 October, Dimitris Dimitriadis was elected President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) for the coming two years. Mr Dimitriadis has been a member of the EESC since 1999. In his first speech to the EESC this week, he touched upon the challenges facing the EU and stressed the role of the Committee in bringing EU closer to its citizens. Dimitris Dimitriadis will replace Anne-Marie Sigmund, elected in 2004.


The Chief Executive of the Children’s Rights Alliance (a member organisation of Eurochild) Jillian van Turnhout has been elected Vice President of the EESC, with special responsibility for the Committee’s Communicating Group. Jillian van Turnhout has been a member of the EESC since 1998 when she was nominated on behalf of the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI). In 2006 she was nominated by the Children’s Rights Alliance. Her work in the EESC to date has comprised, among other things, opinions on the
situation of youth policy, children’s rights, the future of Europe and communicating Europe.

For more information:
http://www.eesc.europa.eu/organisation/bureau/vice
presidents/index_en.asp

General European News

European Week for Safety and Health at Work

The European Week for Safety and Health at Work took place from 23 – 27 October 2006 with the aim of ensuring that young people have a Safe Start to their working lives.

Across Europe, 18 to 24-year-olds are at least 50% more likely to be injured in the workplace than more experienced workers, and over 700,000 young people in this age group suffer serious injuries at work every year. Behind the statistics are harrowing stories, of young people having to live with the consequences of accidents and damaged health for the rest of their lives, or dying when they had so much of their lives ahead of them.

For more information: http://ew2006.osha.europa.eu

News from EU member States

BELGIUM

Belgium convicted by European Court for deporting a child

Belgium has been convicted by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg for maltreating a young Congolese child. The facts date back to 2002. The then 5-year-old Congolese girl Tabitha Kaniki Mitunga was on her way from her native Congo to Canada to visit her mother. She was accompanied by her uncle. The aim was to make a stop in Brussels International Airport in Zaventem before continuing to the Netherlands to take the plane to Canada there. Upon their arrival at Zaventem, the uncle was unable to provide the Belgian authorities with a legal permit to allow Tabitha to enter the country. Tabitha was brought to a detention centre for illegal immigrants, while her uncle traveled to the Netherlands.

Despite the Belgian judicial authorities having decided that Tabitha should be released, she was put back on a plane to Kinshasa in Congo. The 5-year-old was left on her own and there was nobody in Kinshasa to welcome her back upon her arrival. After negotiations between the Belgian and Canadian authorities and the intervention of the Belgian Prime Minister, the little girl was allowed to travel to Canada after all.

Tabitha’s mother lodged an application to the European Court of Human Rights on 16 April 2003. The application was declared admissible on 26 January 2006 following a public hearing at the Human Rights Building in Strasbourg. The Court awarded the mother and her daughter a high recompensation for damage, costs and expenses.

[Source: Flandernews and Council of Europe: http://www.coe.int/t/dc/press/WCD/AllPR_en.asp#]

FRANCE

French teenagers get the taste for binge-drinking

French teenagers are adopting the British habit of binge-drinking, with a craze for Alco-pops among girls and pupils turning up drunk in class, according to a state report and accounts from teachers.

Until recently, France had prided itself on its civilised approach to drinking and viewed with incomprehension the excesses across the Channel and the notorious behaviour of some British tourists in Europe. But the British model was cited by the Inter-ministerial Mission against drugs and dependency when it sounded the alarm in its annual survey of 17-year-olds across France.

French teenagers are drinking on average less than before, but the number who said they had been drunk at least ten times in the last year went up from 6.6% to 9.6%, said the Government agency. French levels are still well below those of Britain and northern Europe, but drunkenness among the young is beginning to become a concern, say educators.

Most of the binge-boozing takes place at weekend parties, but teenagers also point to the ease with
which they can order drinks in cafés and bars. Open
all hours, French establishments are allowed to
serve wine and beer to 16-year-olds and spirits to
18-year-olds.
[Source: http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-
2356806,00.html]

POLAND
Protest against attempts to further restrict
anti-abortion law

The Polish Federation for Women and Family
Planning is collecting signatures to protest against
further restrictions to the Polish anti-abortion law. To
support the protest against total ban of abortion in
Poland, sign the Open Letter on
www.federa.org.pl/signatures. For more information:
www.federa.org.pl/?lang=2

UK
Crisis point reached as number of young
people in custody reaches record high

A crisis is facing children and young people in
custody, as the numbers of under-18s held in
secure accommodation in England and Wales
reaches a record high. During a visit to Feltham
Young Offender Institution in west London, the HM
Chief Inspector of Prisons and the Children’s
Commissioner for England called for an honest
debate into alternative ways to deal with young
offenders who commit low level and less serious
cries. For more information:
http://www.yjb.gov.uk/en-
 gb/News/CrisisinCustody.htm?area=AllNewsEvents

SCOTLAND
Invisible ink to sink underage drink menace

In a bid to trace where underage drinkers buy their
boozes, police has given shopkeepers in West
Lothian, Scotland, special pens to mark their bottles
with invisible ink. The ink shows up with the use of
ultraviolet torches, revealing where the alcohol
was purchased. Police chiefs say the scheme will allow
them to trap adults buying drink for teenagers. CCTV
footage from a shop’s cameras will be examined to
identify who made the purchase. Parents will also
be contacted if their children have been stealing
drink from the family home.

Visit http://www.childpolicy.org.uk for the latest on
child policy matters across the U.K.

United Nations News

Launch of Study on Violence against
Children

The UN Secretary-General’s Study on Violence
against Children was launched on 11 October 2006
at the 61st session of the UN General Assembly in
New York by the Independent Expert leading the
Study, Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro. The report
was officially presented to the Third Committee of
the General Assembly in a three hour session,
during which a number of high level speakers
offered their support to the Study.

Professor Pinheiro talked about the process of the
study and emphasised that it had been a
participatory one, involving governments, UN
agencies, scholars, civil society and children and
young people themselves. He highlighted that
violence took place in all settings, in schools, in the
community, in workplaces, in institutions and in the
family. He asked government representatives to
strongly endorse the overarching recommendations
that are in his report – recommendations that apply
to the five settings. He ended by re-stating that
children were tired of being called the future and
tired of words without actions.

“After the emancipation of the workers in the 19th
century, the emancipation of the women in the 20th
century, I think that this is the moment to recognise
children as being protected by rights, as full citizens,
and not as mini-human beings or the property of
their families,” Mr Pinheiro said.

The second day of events linked to the launch of the
Violence Study (12 October) started with a press
conference with Professor Pinheiro and heads of the
UN agencies. The Crown Prince Haakon of Norway
then met with some of the young people to hear
about their individual experiences and roles in the
process of the Study.

Children and young people took part in a roundtable
discussion with high level guests. Children and
young people were putting questions to the guests
which had been submitted by children and young
people around the world over the last few days.

After the roundtable discussion, UN Secretary
General Kofi Annan made a surprise visit to UNICEF
house to meet the children and young people during
the launch of the child friendly Study materials,
organised by Save the Children Sweden, authors of
the child friendly report.

On 13 October, Professor Paulo Pinheiro went to
Washington DC to present the Violence Study report
to the Organisation of American States (OAS).

The date for the launch of the Violence Study book
has been confirmed for 20 November and will take
place in Geneva.

Members of the NGO Advisory Panel who were
attending the launch of the Study last week met to
discuss the status of advocacy efforts around the
The rights of the child resolution, as well as the next steps. It was decided that the Advisory Panel as it currently stands would cease its activities in its current format. However, depending on the outcome of the resolution and the potential decision for appointing a Special Representative to the Secretary-General (SRSG) on violence against children, NGOs would continue to work together to strengthen their efforts.

For more information: [www.violencestudy.org](http://www.violencestudy.org)


To Read the proposal for a resolution prepared by the NGO Advisory Panel: [http://www.crin.org/violence/search/closeup.asp?infoID=10493](http://www.crin.org/violence/search/closeup.asp?infoID=10493)

More general information is available at: [http://www.childrenandviolence.org](http://www.childrenandviolence.org)

News and reports from around Europe related to the launch of the Study

- **France**: Enfants esclaves, enfants battus, Le Monde, 11 octobre: [http://www.lemonde.fr/web/article/0,1-0,36-821849,0.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/web/article/0,1-0,36-821849,0.html)
- **UK**: Child abuse 'widespread', UN says, BBC, 11 October: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/6039178.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/6039178.stm)
- **UK**: Study reveals global child abuse, BBC, 12 Oct: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/6042112.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/6042112.stm)

**Elections at Committee on the Rights of the Child**

In February 2007, the terms of nine members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child will expire.

The eleventh meeting of State Parties will be held in New York on 21 February 2007 to elect members to replace the nine current members whose terms expire in February 2007. Nominations of candidates for members of the Committee have been submitted by State Parties to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child recommends that national non-governmental organisations and international NGOs play a role in ensuring the creation of a well-balanced, effective and hard-working Committee. The NGO Group for the CRC is therefore requesting an indication of support for the nominated candidates in terms of a list of proposed criteria for potential members of the Committee.

For more information: [http://www.crin.org/NGOGroupforCRC](http://www.crin.org/NGOGroupforCRC)

List of nominees: [http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/SPmeeting.html](http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/SPmeeting.html)

**Strengthening child rights protection at UN level**

Parallel to the Human Rights Council, the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) organised an event aiming to discuss the proposals in favour of strengthening the UN mechanisms for the protection of children's rights. This debate was integrated in the follow up of the UN SG'S Study on Violence against Children, as well as in the context of the Human Rights Council's review of Special Procedures.

A panel discussion took place comprising five high level personalities who gave statements. Two key issues guided the debate: on the one hand, the systems and mechanisms accessible to children themselves, and on the other hand, the complexity of the existing procedures, as there is a need to reach a multi-sectoral and regional approach.


**Further Reading**

**UNICEF Report on extreme child poverty in Eastern Europe**

Despite widespread economic upturn in South-Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (SEE/CIS) since the late 1990s, one in four children under 15 is still living in extreme income poverty according to a recent UNICEF report. **The Innocenti Social Monitor 2006: Understanding Child Poverty in South-Eastern Europe and the and the Commonwealth of Independent States** finds that while the number of children under 15 living in extreme poverty has decreased from 32 million to 18 million, stark disparities in child well-being and opportunities exist: the share of children now living in extreme poverty ranges from 5% in some SEE countries to a startling 80% in the poorest Central Asia countries. To download the report: [http://www.unicef-icdc.org/cgi-bin/unicef/Lunga.sql?ProductID=419](http://www.unicef-icdc.org/cgi-bin/unicef/Lunga.sql?ProductID=419)

**Preventing child maltreatment: a guide to taking action and generating evidence**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a practical guide to help countries prevent violence against children and demonstrating that violence against children can and must be prevented.
Preventing child maltreatment: a guide to taking action and generating evidence is intended to assist countries to design and deliver programmes for the prevention of child maltreatment by parents and caregivers. The guide is a practical tool that will help governments implement the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence Against Children.

To download the guide:


This publication outlines this global problem and the reasons why child marriage persists, assesses how it contravenes many international human rights standards, and then provides policy and programmatic recommendations.

For more information:
http://www.unfpa.org/publications/detail.cfm?ID=310&filterListType

Ending Legal Violence against Children: Global Report 2006

The first global report on progress towards ending all corporal punishment of children is published on October 12 2006. The report – Ending legalised violence against children – summarises the legality of corporal punishment in each state worldwide, revealing that just 53 million of the world’s 2,187 million children live in countries where the law gives them the same protection as adults from being assaulted. The report details the human rights standards, both international and regional, which require prohibition of all corporal punishment. It quotes from key high-level court judgments in all regions. For more information:
http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/pages/frame.html

General comment by CRC Committee on children and disability

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has published its General Comment number 9 on “The Rights of Children with Disabilities”. The Committee regularly adopts General Comments based on specific articles, provisions and themes of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to assist the States parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention and to stimulate international organisations and specialised agencies in achieving the full realisation of the rights recognised in the Convention.

For more information: http://www.ohchr.ch

Proceedings from Conference "Human Rights - Disability - Children"

The Conference "Human Rights - Disability-Children: towards international instrument for disability rights - the special case of disabled children", organised by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (8-9 November 2004), reviewed current Council of Europe instruments to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities. It focused in particular on the right of children with disabilities to grow up within a family and in a community context. The event clearly showed that strengthening the rights of children with disabilities within a non-discriminatory framework “from patient to citizen” is a pan-European issue.

Council of Europe Publishing: http://book.coe.int. Price: 30 €/ 45 $. To place an order directly:

The reality of child rights in Wales

This study concludes that alcohol industry has compelling financial interest in underage drinking. To download the study:
www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol15/15-33R.pdf

Young people at the heart of Europe - A decade of European Youth Centre Budapest

This book contains the contributions of numerous Europeans. They represent different age groups and a wide spectrum of political, cultural and social life in Europe. All these personalities have at least one thing in common: they have come into contact with the European Youth Centre Budapest of the Council of Europe. Their individual memories, wishes and experiences present the numerous parts of a complex puzzle, which together give a colourful and vivid picture of what made and makes the European Youth Centre Budapest. Council of Europe Publishing: http://book.coe.int. Price: 11€/ 17$. To place an order directly:

Study on under-age drinking

Study on under-age drinking

This study concludes that alcohol industry has compelling financial interest in underage drinking. To download the study:
www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol15/15-33R.pdf

Education for all Global Monitoring Report 2007

Latin America & the Caribbean lead the developing world in the provision of pre-school education, according to UNESCO’s annual Education for all Global Monitoring Report, published on 26 October. However, despite well-documented benefits for child development and well-being, the Report finds that this area remains the forgotten link in the education chain in many regions, and that half the world’s countries have no early childhood care and education policy for children under age three. For more information: http://www.unesco.org
### Conference: Emotion Literacy for children
**3 November, Edinburgh, Scotland**

The conference on ‘Implementing and Embedding Emotional Literacy - 4 Approaches for Success’ will discuss Implementing and Embedding Emotion Literacy in to a variety of settings to help children. It will be a chance to see some of England and Scotland’s good examples of embedding and using Emotional Literacy in a range of settings and schools. During the workshops it will be possible to work with the actual practitioners who have been there and are doing it. The participation cost is £150 + VAT per delegate and it is possible to book online at [www.schoolofemotional-literacy.com](http://www.schoolofemotional-literacy.com).

### Peer Reviews in social inclusion in 2006

The Peer Review Programme is a voluntary mutual learning process involving the scrutiny of specific policies, programmes or institutional arrangements presented as good practice in the various National Action Plans on social protection and social inclusion. It consists of a series of peer review sessions, in which the experience of the host country is confronted with the comments and critical analysis of peer countries and other stakeholders, including NGOs. Upcoming Peer Review sessions:

- **6-7 or 13-14 November:** Netherlands: Amnesty of debts: a legal solution to over indebtedness
- **4-5 December 2006:** Sweden: Financial coordination within the field of rehabilitation

### Conference on advocacy for Children and Young People
**13 November 2006, London, UK**

The Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education (London) is organising a conference on “Advocacy for children and young people”. This conference will launch the findings of Advocacy for children and young people: achievements and challenges, the first national study of advocacy for children and young people in England, funded by the Department of Health. The conference will also showcase other recent research on children’s advocacy to promote discussion about what works in children’s advocacy and to stimulate debate about the future direction for children’s advocacy. For more information: [http://www.ioe.ac.uk/tcru](http://www.ioe.ac.uk/tcru)

### Conference on the Implementation of children’s Rights in Europe
**13-14 November, Florence, Italy**

On 13 and 14 November the European Children’s Network (EURONET) and UNICEF is holding its second joint meeting in Florence, Italy. This time the subject is the implementation of the UN CRC in the European Union and Candidate Countries. Several studies on this will be presented by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, ChildONEurope (a Network of European Observatories on children’s rights), the EU Network of independent experts on fundamental rights and the Council of Europe. At the same time moving forward with the European Commission Communication towards a strategy on children’s rights will be discussed with participants from NGOs, the UN, the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States. A Florence call for Action will be adopted at the end of the first day. The second day of the meeting will focus on *A World Fit for Children +5*, which was adopted five years ago by the United Nations Special Session on Children’s Rights ([http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/wff/index.html](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/wff/index.html)). It will look at European good practices and innovations, but also on issues of concern within Europe. The result of the second day will be fed into the report to the General Assembly of the UN on the World Fit for Children +5. For more information: Mieke Schuurman: mieke.schuurman@tiscali.nl.

### Conference on “Policy and Practice for Social Inclusion of Children and Young People - the Role of Non-formal and Informal Learning”
**14-16 November, Berlin, Germany**

The European conference on “Policy and Practice for Social Inclusion of Children and Young People - the Role of Non-formal and Informal Learning” will take place on 14-16 November 2006 in Berlin. It is being organised by the Child and Youth Welfare Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ, [www.agj.de](http://www.agj.de)) in Germany and Eurochild ([www.eurochild.org](http://www.eurochild.org)).

We have received a lot of positive feedback regarding the event programme and the up-to-date registration list counts 130 people (participants and speakers) from all over Europe. Registration is still possible at [www.agj.de/registration](http://www.agj.de/registration).

The conference will be followed by the General Assembly of Eurochild, on 16 November, to which all members of Eurochild are warmly invited!

### Work, Weans & Worries - Lone Parents’ employment and children’s lives
**17 November 2006, Glasgow, UK**

This year’s debate will concentrate on the policies being pursued that encourage lone parents in to employment and if the interests of children are considered in these. Speakers include Robert Brown MSP, Deputy Minister for Education and Young People at the Scottish Parliament, Natalie Branosky of the Centre for Economic & Social Inclusion a UK based, independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting social justice and a Panel of Young people living in one parent families. For more information: [www.oneplus.org](http://www.oneplus.org) or [margaret.austins@oneplus.org](mailto:margaret.austins@oneplus.org).
Conference on Challenges for Children's Rights
18 November 2006, Sion, Switzerland

The conference ‘Challenges for Children’s Right’ will be a forum for sharing ideas between researchers, professionals, staff and students from diverse children’s rights programmes on the future directions and challenges in the interdisciplinary study of children’s rights, as well as on recent developments in the international legal and social arenas pertaining to children’s rights. The Conference is meant for professionals, researchers and students involved in children’s rights. For more information: www.iukb.ch

Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse
19 November 2006

Alerting Governments and civil society organisations to play a more active role in the promotion of and respect for the rights of the child and contribute to the prevention of child abuse, the Women’s World Summit Foundation (WWSF) launched in 2000 the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse, a Day to be commemorated every 19 November in synergy with the anniversary of the International Day for the rights of the child (20 November) which has as its objective to be a rallying point around the issue of child abuse and the need for urgent effective prevention programmes. For more information: www.woman.ch

Children join Commissioner Wallström in a debate on the future of Europe

On Monday 20 November at 16.00 CET, the European Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström, with responsibility for Institutional Relations and Communication, and children from all over Europe will participate in a live debate on the future of the European Union and how its youngest citizens can be involved in decision-making relevant to them. Young people from five European countries and Margot Wallström will debate children’s ideas, concerns and hopes for the future of Europe in a panel discussion broadcasted “live” in 20 languages over the Internet. Children and young people are invited to join the debate by sending their comments and questions to the panel and follow the discussion via Internet in their respective home countries, using their own language.

Questions to the panel can also be submitted in advance by e-mail: Olivia-savechildbru@skynet.be, or post to Save the Children, Att. Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Rue Montoyer 39, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. Please mark your email/letter “Question for Web-chat 20 Nov”. Questions can be submitted in all official EU languages. Deadline: 17 November.

Participation in the web-chat is open to everyone up to 18 years old. The web-chat and the involvement of children is organised in a way that reflects Save the Children’s commitment to protect children from abuse. Please check http://www.savechilddren.net/alliance/where_we_work/europegrp_who.html or contact Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Olivia-savechildbru@skynet.be if you would like to receive more information or if you would like organise participation of children and/or participate yourself in the debate.

Borders of the EU - open or closed?
Child sexual exploitation, trafficking and the Internet
22 November 2006, Helsinki, Finland

Save the Children Finland is hosting an Inter-agency conference about Internet related crimes against children entitled “Borders of the European Union-OPEN OR CLOSED? Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking and the Internet” on 22nd November 2006. This conference will be about Internet related crimes against children, industry focus to the future of the new media technology and International co-operation to protect our children. For more information: http://www.pelastakaalapset.fi/nettivihje/english/Inter_agency_conference.php

Europe’s Demographic Challenge
23 November 2006, Brussels, Belgium

The demographic challenge of Europe’s shrinking and rapidly ageing population is currently one of the foremost policy debates in the EU. Europe’s economy needs a well-educated, youthful labour force if it is to expand and hold its own against increasingly fierce competition from around the world. The European Commissioner for Social Affairs, Vladimir Špidla, will give the keynote address outlining the issues facing the European labour market and social infrastructure. Anne-Sophie Parent, President of the Social Platform and Director of the European Older People’s Platform (AGE), will provide a valuable perspective from the NGO social sector. For more information: www.friendsofeurope.org or siona.breathnach@friendsofeurope.org.

Symposium on Juvenile Justice and Conference on Compliance Programmes with Legal Measures
Cordoba, 27-28 & Seville, 29-30 November 2006

The Department of Justice and Public Administration of the Regional Government of Andalusia and the non-ludicrous organization Meridianos (which manages programmes for young people regarding abidance with legal measures adopted) are organizing these scientific/technical conferences aimed at promoting a deeper knowledge on legal frameworks concerning juvenile conflicts and a search for professional, psychosocial, educational, working and environmental solutions to mitigate the impact of this problem stemming from modern societies. For more information: www.meridianos.org

ECOC Conference
“Exchange Today, Include Tomorrow”
29 November 2006, Brussels, Belgium
This conference by Europe’s Children – Our Concern (ECOC) will address the challenges of diversity, giving school administrators the chance to clarify the goals they have for their schools and parents and teachers the opportunity to explore techniques for fostering the potential of children who learn differently. Among the speakers are Matthieu Kleinschmager, who recently led a most successful ECOC session on mind-mapping; Gordon Pope, who advises London teachers on gifted and talented children and developing thinking skills, and Julian Still, a consultant on organisational learning. Other workshops will present strategies for differentiation in the classroom, ways of communicating effectively with children and “brain-friendly” teaching. For more information: ecoc@ecoc.be.

NSPCC 2006 European Parliament Reception and Roundtable
29 November 2006, Brussels, Belgium

Exploited, vulnerable, alone: Learning from experiences of trafficked children and young people, A contribution to improving protection of child victims of trafficking in Europe

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is the UK’s leading NGO specialising in child protection and the prevention of cruelty to children. It works closely with children and young people in the UK who have been trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation. Powerful messages to policy makers have emerged from these children and young people about their experiences, and about the support they need to rebuild their lives. Bringing together MEPs and others, this is an exciting chance to hear from a unique NSPCC project working with trafficked children, and to explore how to take forward the EU’s recent commitments to protect child victims of trafficking. Based on input from young people themselves, the project will also add to the new European strategy for children’s rights. The roundtable will be followed by a cocktail reception. For more information: events@nspcc.org.uk, or www.nspcc.org.uk.

Social Platform Conference on “Social Values and Democracy”
5-6 December 2006, Brussels, Belgium

The conference Social Values and Democracy: Renewing the guiding principles of the European Union will explore the European social model and address two key questions: Social values in EU politics: Are we moving forwards or backwards? and Would the EU be more social if it were more democratic? The plenary sessions will give an overview of this debate and a series of workshops will be organised by Social Platform members on specific themes of relevance to the debate around the European social model. The diversity of Social Platform’s member organisations will spur a highly informed debate from different perspectives. For more information:

http://socialplatform.org/code/EN/about.asp?Page=772

Seminar on the right to education for all
8 December, Brussels, Belgium

Today, 12 years after the signing of the Salamanca Declaration by more than 300 participants representing 92 countries, not a lot of the ideas have been put into practice yet. Therefore, 3 years before the 15th anniversary of the agreement of this important document we want to make a first state of play and gather ideas on how we could come closer to putting the principles into practice. On 8th December the European Association of Service Providers for People with Disabilities (EASPD) would like to invite you to our seminar on the right to education for all in order to examine the state of play of implementation of the Salamanca declaration and to discuss the proceedings with all stakeholders. For more information: http://www.easpd.org/pdf/EntitlementtoEducationProgramme.pdf

HeadsUpScotland 2nd annual conference
12 December, Falkirk, Scotland

This conference is about helping to share and find out about some of the work underway in this area. It will among others: raise awareness of political and practical ideas, projects and programmes which promote mental health and well being, provide a platform to inspire those working in the field to embed and sustain this work, enable the voice of young people to be heard about issues affecting their mental health, re-invigorate commitment and enthusiasm for this work. It will give the legates the opportunity to: enhance knowledge & understanding of mental health in policy and practice, explore ideas, projects and programmes that can be replicated, listen to and enter into dialogue with a delegation of young people about mental health, network with other practitioners.

On-line booking: www.childreninscotland.org.uk/iii.

Conference on Quality in the lives of young children
8-10 February 2007, Dublin, Ireland

The second International Conference of the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education (CECDE) will be hosted by the Irish Department of Education and Science on 8-10 February 2007. This conference will look at policies and practices as agents for change and their impact on the lives of young children. It is aimed at practitioners, policy makers, parents, academics, students and anyone with interest in early childhood care and education. Its aim is to share information and experiences of practice, discuss and debate current research findings, exchange innovative policy approaches and network with others who are committed to making a positive contribution to provision of quality early childhood experiences for all children. For more information: www.cecde.ie
Job openings

SOS-Kinderdorf International is looking for a Director for its Liaison and Advocacy Office in Vienna

SOS-Kinderdorf International is the umbrella organisation for more than 130 affiliated national SOS Children's Village associations worldwide. SOS Children's Villages is an independent NGO that provides family-based child care and strengthens vulnerable children and their families through educational, social and medical programmes. The organisation operates in the spirit of the UN CRC and holds a consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council.

SOS-Kinderdorf International is recruiting a committed Director for its Vienna-based Liaison and Advocacy Office. The postholder's main responsibilities will be:

- coordination of and responsibility for the organisation's representation, networking and advocacy in the institutions of the UN and EU, as well as international and European NGO networks on children's rights, child care and child development;
- guiding the planning and implementation of the organisation's advocacy strategies and activities on an international level, predominantly in the field of children without parental care;
- steering the field of work "co-operation and advocacy" in the organisation's current strategic plan (until 2008), including conceptual development, anchoring in organisational structures and systems, monitoring the development of supportive tools and measures, progress evaluation and reporting;
- leading the Liaison and Advocacy Office team and the organisation's international advocacy network.

Application deadline: 15 November 2006

For more information, contact:
SOS-Kinderdorf International
Hermann-Gmeiner-Str. 51
A - 6021 Innsbruck, Austria
e-mail: personal@sos-childrensvillages.org
Website: http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org

Sharing Information

Do you wish to share information, announce something or make a contribution to the e-News Bulletin? Please send it to: info@eurochild.org.

Eurochild

Eurochild AISBL is a network of organisations and individuals, who are working in and across Europe to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of children and young people. Our work is based on the principles enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. At the heart of our activities lies the Child Poverty Programme.

If you would like to become a member of Eurochild AISBL, please visit our website www.eurochild.org.

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