The European Children’s Network continues to cooperate with EU institutions and partner organizations to ensure that the forthcoming Strategy leads to concrete change for children.

The work of the European Children’s Network contributed to the first-ever reference to children in the EU Treaties: the 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam. However, this does not bind the EU to take children’s rights into account in all of its activities.

EURONET members, together with children, young people and partners across Europe, advocate at both national and European levels for the promotion of children as citizens and rights-holders.

The European Children’s Network is also involved in policy development, campaigning for children’s rights within a number of key areas, including discrimination, social exclusion, and participation, and the development of an EU agenda for children.

Significant progress was made in 2006, with the European Commission’s Communication, “Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child.” EURONET was closely involved in developing the ideas in this document, which drew heavily on the recommendations of children’s rights NGOs.

The activities of the European Children’s Network are founded on a list of principles to which all members subscribe. These principles and objectives represent the core values that underpin the work of the European Children’s Network and are based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989.

- 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, the European Commission, the Council of Ministers and the Council of Europe.
- Children have a RIGHT to be recognised as citizens of the EU; a statement of their fundamental rights should be included in the EU Treaties.
- EU Member States have a DUTY to support, promote and amend legislation to fully reflect and implement the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Politicians, political parties and political groups have a DUTY to give priority to children’s rights in their manifestos and programmes.
- The European Children’s Network members UNDERTAKE to develop inclusive and participatory work with children.
- The European Children’s Network members UNDERTAKE to promote the rights and needs of children through effective campaigning on children’s issues within the context of the developing EU.