**Final comments from the Finnish Presidency, March 2007**

In an evaluation by the Finnish Presidency of their work in relation to children’s rights, the Finns welcomed the communication as important for the wellbeing of children. The communication was discussed in several working groups as well as in the l’Europe de l’Enfance meeting in Helsinki last November. The evaluation outlined the following points:

- Clarity is needed on the role, actions and participants of the forthcoming European Forum
- Further information on timetables and details of proposed actions by the Commission is needed
- The role of EU actors, particularly the Council is not clear; despite the lack of a Treaty base for legislation, the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament are discussing their opinions on the Communication
- The “umbrella policy” described in the Communication is not new, discussions and actions have already been placed in several sectoral policy fields, e.g. trafficking in human beings, public health (the Budapest process), education and violence (the Daphne III programme), and in this way the Council and/or especially the Member States have room for manoeuvre
- Further discussion is needed on the relationship between the European Forum and L’Europe de l’Enfance
- The role of NGOs is important, yet remains unclear in EU level discussions, while it has been recognized that ChildOnEurope and EURONET have been active in this field. EURONET enjoyed a high level of cooperation with the Finnish Permanent Representation in Brussels.