Introduction

Welcome to issue 23 of the EURONET -the European Children’s Network- Newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you informed of EURONET’s actions and membership and to brief you on relevant developments in the European Union and member states’ policies on children. The newsletter also aims to be a means of communication between NGOs at national level.

Please note EURONET’s contact details of the Secretary-General Mieke Schuurman, tel. +31 187 481396, fax +31 187 487390, e-mail mieke.schuurman@tiscali.nl (from Mondays to Wednesdays). The office address remains Rue Montoyer 39, 1000 Brussels, tel. +32 (0)2 512 4500, fax. +32 (0)2 513 4903 and the contact person there is Carolina Santrich, e-mail europeanchildrennetwork@skynet.be

This issue of our Newsletter aims to update our readers on all children’s-rights-relevant topics and events that have taken place in Europe for the past two months.

Since our last issue, a new European Constitution has been adopted, including references to children’s rights, the European Parliament elections have taken place, and 10 new member states have acceded to the European Union. EURONET has been involved in the Irish EU Presidency activities and is now gearing up to work with the new Dutch EU Presidency on children’s issues.

If you have questions, ideas, articles or remarks about the newsletter, please contact Mieke Schuurman or Carolina Santrich at the address above.
EURONET Activities

*Children’s Rights within the enlarged European Union*

EURONET has launched a new project to enlarge its network and activities to the New Member States and accession countries with the support of the European Commission Directorate General for Education and Culture (DGEAC).

EURONET is starting contacts with children’s rights organisations within the new member states and accession countries in order to broaden the network, involving them in the work of EURONET. Through this project, EURONET seeks to have new partners to work with in the new member states, and through them establish fresh contacts with their national representatives within the EU institutions. Some of EURONET’s member organisations have already established co-operation with children’s rights organisations within the new member states.

EURONET plans to inform citizens in the new member states about the state-of-play of children’s rights in the European Union, including the impact of the new Constitution, and to build up capacity on the functioning of the EU institutions in general, and its social policies and children-related measures in particular. It is expected that children’s rights organisations within the new member states will gain easier access to information on the issues that the EU is dealing with and which are affecting children in their countries. This project will also help to make children’s rights in the new member states more visible, ensuring that they have the same rights as children in the ‘old’ EU member states. EURONET intends to ensure that there will not be a two-level society for children with a split between the East and the West of Europe.

Within the activities planned in this project, there will be three sub-regional meetings organised during next spring for children’s rights organisations based in the new member states. The aim is to get to know each other and to exchange experiences on the situation of children’s rights in the new member states and accession countries. At the same time, child-rights advocates will look into and discuss in which way children’s lives are affected by enlargement and the new Constitution for Europe. Each meeting will be organised by a national organisation and will involve children’s rights organisations from the neighbouring countries. At the end of the project, a training day and conference will be organised in Brussels for all the participants from the sub-regional meetings and the current members of EURONET. This conference will be finished with the discussion and adoption of a strategy for children’s rights in the EU.
News from the EU Institutions

**Children included in European Union New Constitution**

EURONET would like to celebrate with all European children the excellent news of the adoption of the new European Constitutional Treaty that includes the protection of children’s rights in the internal and external objectives of the Union.

The European Constitution has been adopted on Friday 18 June by all the EU Heads of State on the European Council giving -for the first time in the history of the EU- Europe’s 76 million children their rights and the recognition they deserve in the EU.

The European Constitution includes a clear reference to the “protection of children’s rights” in the internal and external actions of the Union (article 3.3 and 3.4). This will ensure that in the areas in which the EU is permitted to legislate and adopt policies, the rights of children will be taken into consideration. In particular, the reference to the ‘strict observance and development of international law,’ in the external relations of the EU (article 3.4), indicates that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child must also be taken into account.

EURONET also welcomes the references to specific children’s rights in the European Constitution. These are ‘judicial co-operation’ in the area of trafficking in children, and in the area of the sexual exploitation of children.

The inclusion of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Constitution is also a tremendous achievement. The Charter includes a specific article (Article 24) referring to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Through its inclusion in the Constitution, the Charter, which compiles the human and fundamental rights on which the European Union rests, becomes legally binding. In concrete terms, a European citizen who considers that one of their fundamental rights is not respected within community law will have the possibility to turn to the European Court of Justice.

EURONET values the new Constitution as a step forward for European citizenship. EURONET hopes that it will have a direct impact on the principle of participatory democracy, involving European citizens more in the decision-making processes. In this respect, EURONET hopes that children, young people, and the organisations that represent them will be able to participate fully in decisions that affect them according to Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
The Constitution incorporates key reforms in an effort to make European institutions and the decision-making process more democratic, more transparent and closer to the citizens.

The European Parliament will see its powers and its relations with national parliaments enhanced. Hence, citizens will have the opportunity to define the contents of community policies via the Members (MEPs) they have just elected.

Citizens, if they manage to collect a million signatures from a significant number of Member States, will have the opportunity to prompt the European Commission to introduce a proposal to the Council of Ministers. The work of the Council of Ministers will become more transparent and when acting as a legislator, will be open to the public. The Constitution also introduces new guidelines on democratic participation and good governance.

EURONET would like to thank all its members for their active contribution in campaigning during the past years for a legal base for children’s rights in EU policy. EURONET’s members, together with children and young people, and other supporting organisations in Europe, have been actively involved in advocating at the national and European level for the inclusion of children’s rights in the EU Constitution.

The official signing of the Constitution will take place on 20 November 2004 in Rome. After the signing Member States will enter a ratification process. The Constitution will be submitted to the people either directly through referenda or indirectly through national parliaments. EU member states will have two years to ratify the Constitution.

EURONET, the European Children's Network, will do a more in-depth analysis of the EU Constitution and its effects on children’s rights.

For more information contact: Mieke Schuurman, mieke.schuurman@tiscali.nl

**European Parliament Elections results**

The European Parliament elections were held between 10-13 June 2004. As a result of the enlargement of the European Union to 25 countries, 732 members of the European Parliament have been chosen.

The 2004 elections have continued the downward trend in voter participation in European elections. In the new Member States, only slightly over a quarter of the electorate took part. Regarding the balance of power in the EP, the EPP-ED group remains the largest political group in the Parliament. A new pro-European centrist group and a new anti-European group are on the cards.
EURONET drafted a **Manifesto including 12 Recommendations and Demands for children’s rights in the new European Union** to be presented to candidates for the new European Parliament. The Manifesto for Children’s Rights in Europe was widely distributed amongst candidates MEPs by EURONET’s member organisations, and it was translated into several languages. Many of our members approached their national candidate MEPs asking them to take a position on children rights protection and promotion. Some of the organisations held meetings with them and others organised working visits to projects for children. Several positive reactions have come in return. EURONET will continue to establish contacts with the new elected MEPs and seek their support for children’s rights in EU policies and legislations.

The text of the Manifesto for Children’s Rights can be found on EURONET’s website.

### Children’s health

#### Healthier environment for European children

Children are often the first to suffer illness caused by poor environmental conditions. What policy measures must be introduced to ensure a healthy environment and future for our children? This was discussed in Budapest on 23-25 June, by the Health and Environment Ministers of the 52 Member States in the European Region of the World Health Organisation. An Action Plan was adopted - the **Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE)** - containing goals on issues relevant for children's health, such as providing safe water and sanitation, preventing accidents and injuries and preventing and reducing respiratory disease from air pollution. Also the reduction of diseases resulting from exposure to other environmental stressors, such as chemicals, was considered.

The European Commission contributed to the Budapest conference with its recently adopted **Environment and Health Action Plan**. It contains 13 actions with the ultimate aim to reduce the disease burden caused by environmental factors in the EU. Margot Wallström, the Commissioner for Environment, and Pavel Telicka, Member of the European Commission were present.
European Commission to stimulate research on medicines for children

More than 50 per cent of the pharmaceuticals used to treat children in the EU have not been tested and are not authorised to use for children.

To deal with this problem, the European Commission is about to adopt a legislative proposal on 7 July to improve the health of the children by stimulating research, development and authorisation of medicines to treat children. In the 25 EU Member States, the paediatric population represents 100 million children, which is over 20 per cent of the total population.

Questions that will be dealt with are: Will the medicine be effective? What dose is appropriate? What side effects may the child suffer? Doctors are confronted with those uncertainties on an everyday basis. This puts children's health in danger. Market forces alone have proved insufficient to stimulate adequate research and authorisation of medicines for children. To make sure that medicinal products for children are fully adapted to the specific needs of children, the Commission has drafted a paediatric regulation.

Second Intergovernmental Conference on Children’s Rights in Europe and Central Asia

European Governments recommit themselves in Sarajevo to make Europe Fit for Children

Three years after the Berlin intergovernmental conference on children in Europe and Central Asia and two years after the United Nations Special Session on Children in New York, government representatives from Europe and Central Asia met again in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina. Children, representatives of international organisations and NGOs also took part in this conference, including EURONET. The aim of the conference was to take stock of the progress made in promoting children's rights since Berlin and New York.

The first part of the conference gave the floor to all the government representatives and EURONET was also given the opportunity to make a statement for children's rights in Europe, which was warmly welcomed by the conference.

The plenary session conclusions welcomed the positive developments for children’s rights within the region, but stressed that there are still a lot of issues negatively affecting children’s
rights such as poverty, trafficking, violence, HIV/AIDS, conflicts, abuse, discrimination, exclusion of disabled children and exclusion of minorities. The plans to combat these violations of children's rights need consulted actions and have to involve children. It was also concluded that a better use should be made of the countries monitoring mechanisms. The National Action Plans should include monitoring instruments for which more data are needed.

The second part of the conference divided the participants into five working groups covering the following subjects: Investing in children; Children moving across borders; Violence against children; Combating discrimination and social exclusion: the role of education; and Cities fit for children. In every working group, children presented their ideas on these subjects by video presentations, which were made by them, and took part in the discussions. The children had prepared themselves some days before the conference started.

At the end of the conference the governments adopted the 'Sarajevo Commitment'. The aim of the commitment was to reinforce the Berlin Commitments and the goals set in 'A World Fit for Children' in New York. Next to the governments, EURONET has also been able to give its comments on the Sarajevo Commitment. Among others, EURONET raised the issue of children's participation in the monitoring and evaluation of the National Action Plans and advised to stimulate children's participation in general; both suggestions were included in the 'Sarajevo Commitment'. EURONET also asked for a better monitoring and implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of the child. The 'Sarajevo Commitment' is available at http://www.mvp.gov.ba of the BiH Foreign Affairs Ministry. The co-organisers of the conference (the Bosnia-Herzegovina and German Government in co-operation with UNICEF) will compile a full report of the conference.

Calls for Proposals

✔ The Commission has published a call for proposal under the INTI preparatory actions for the integration for third country nationals.

The call aims to promote the integration of nationals of non-member countries through specific projects such as language courses and information on the culture, political and social characteristics of the host countries. The budget available for the call is €5.5 million. The deadline for applications is 16 July 2004. For more information contact the European Commission, DG Justice and Home Affairs, Unit B/4 INTI Preparatory Projects, LX46 - 5/166, 1049 Brussels. Fax: +32 2 298 03 06 or e-mail: JAI-INTI@cec.eu.int
New Web Sites for young Europeans

Discover Europe while having fun

EuropaGO [http://europa.eu.int/europago/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/europago/index.htm) is a web site for young people from 10 to 14 and is available in 11 languages. It offers a set of interactive games, which require skill and reflection. These games aim to test young people's knowledge not only in European history and geography, but also in many other fields. EuropaGO takes off with four games: the “Time Machine” (flying a spaceship to connect historic events with dates, names and places); the “Euro Game”; and “Europe Puzzle” (to find the exact location of 40 countries on a blind map. This game also gives information on EU Member States and candidate countries); and “Europe Quiz” (four quizzes on history, geography, life in Europe and a general one).

Internet service on child abuse for CEE region

Polish “Nobody’s Children Foundation” has launched a new version of their Internet service on child abuse in the region of central and south-eastern Europe, [www.canee.net](http://www.canee.net). The project is sponsored by the Open Society Foundation and involves non-governmental organisations from 17 countries. It intends to be a platform for exchanging information and sharing good therapeutic and legal practices in the field of child abuse.

A main feature of this site will be the news presentation, which will be divided into “theme” sections including: sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, commercial exploitation, children in institutions, street children, internet, child refugees.

Events / Announcements

- **20 August 2004, Glasgow:** Revisiting the vision services and policies for young children in the European Union. As 10 new countries join the EU and a proposed new constitution for the first time makes reference to children, this ‘Children in Europe special conference’ will take stock of the position for young children in Europe today. It will revisit the vision for Europe’s young children set out in the 1992 Council of Ministers’ Recommendation on Child Care, and ask where are we now? What else can the EU do for children? For more information contact Children in Scotland: Sarah Burton sburton@childreninscotland.org.uk; tel. 0131 222 2411.
17-19 October 2004, Rotterdam: Third European Round Table on Social Exclusion, organised by the Dutch EU Presidency and the European Commission. The Round Table gives the opportunity to tackle some issues, which strongly affect the Social Inclusion Process, particularly enlargement, with its challenges and the chances to share experiences and to find common references and priorities. The Dutch authorities are particularly keen to put in evidence the identification and dissemination of good practices. The workshops will focus specifically on the six key-priorities identified in the Joint Inclusion Report. One of these workshops is on Child Poverty.

20-22 October 2004, London, UK: Child in the City, organised by Child in the City Foundation. For more information contact, Ms Sandra van Beek, tel. +31 306933 489; fax +31 30 6917 394; email svanbeek@europoint-bv.com; web www.europoint-bv.com

28 October 2004, Rotterdam: l'Europe de l'Enfance, EU experts meeting on children organised by the Dutch EU Presidency.

29 October 2004, the Netherlands: Expert meeting on Children's Participation organized by Save the Children, the Netherlands. For more information contact: Kariena Rinsma; email: kariena.rinsma@savethechildren.nl

26 November-3 December 2004 Ghent, Belgium International Interdisciplinary Course on Children’s Rights. Professionals working in the area of child welfare in a context of children’s rights on a national or international level are invited to attend. The course deals with the concept of children’s rights and provides extensive basic information and in-depth knowledge on the origins, motivation, strategies and main trends in the field of children’s rights. The course consists of a mixture of lectures, workshops and informal sessions with plenty of time for questions and discussion. The deadline for applying to attend the course is 15 August 2004 (application form on request only). The course is organised by the Children’s Rights Centre at University of Ghent. For more information contact: Kathy Vlieghe, Children’s Rights Centre, Department of Social Welfare Studies, University of Ghent, Henri Dunantlaan 2, B – 9000 Ghent, Belgium. Telephone: + 32 9 264 62 85, fax: + 32 264 64 93 or E-mail: Kathleen.Vlieghe@UGent.be

11-14 September, 2005, Berlin. European Conference Against Child Abuse and Neglect. The International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), organises conferences against child abuse and neglect every two years. "The conference’s target group and participants are all those who are involved with the topic of child abuse either scientifically or occupationally."

Page 9 of 11
EURONET Member Organisations

**EURONET Secretary General**
Mieke Schuurman  
Tel: +31 187 48 1396  
Fax: +31 187 48 7390  
mieke.schuurman@tiscali.nl

**EURONET Brussels Office**
C/o Save the Children, Rue Montoyer 39, B- 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32.2.5124500  
Fax: +32.2.5134903  
europeanchildrenetwork@skynet.be

**International Save the Children Alliance**
Diana Sutton  
Rue Montoyer 39  
B – 1000 Brussels  
Tel: +32 2 5127851  
Fax: +32 2 5134903  
savechildbru@skynet.be

**BICE, Bureau International Catholique De L’enfance**
Marie-Christine Ashby  
Chaussée de Wavre 205  
1050 Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: +32 (0)2 231.03.88  
Fax: +32 2 2301133  
bice.bruxelles@bice.org

**ENSCW, European Network on Street Children Worldwide**
Reinhold Müller  
Square Vergote, 34  
B - 1030  
Brussels  
Tel: +32 2 347 78 48  
Fax: +32 2 347 79 46  
info@enscw.org

**OMEP, Organisation Mondiale pour l'éducation Préscolaire**
Ulla Grob-Menges  
Glockengasse 4  
CH-8001 Zürich  
Tel: +41 1 212 24 53  
Fax: +41 1 212 24 45  
chkrippen@smile.ch

**European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH)**
Hanne Sieber  
Römerstrasse 11  
CH-4114 Hofstetten  
Tel: +41 61 731 33 23  
Fax: +41 61 733 93 70  
hsieber@kommtextkorr.ch

**FRANCE**
Conseil Français des Associations pour les Droits de l’Enfant (COFRADE)  
Jacqueline Grévy  
8 villa du Parc Montsouris  
F-75014 Paris  
Tel.: + 33 1 45 81 09 09  
Fax:+33 1 45 81 09 50  
cofrade@worldonline.fr

**GERMANY**
Deutscher Kinderschutzbund  
Bundesgeschäftsstelle  
Katharina Abelmann-Vollmer  
Hinueberstr. 8  
D- 3075 Hannover  
Tel: +49 511 30485 25  
Fax: +49 511 30485 49  
info@dksb.de

**GREECE**
Institute of Child Health  
Helen Agathonos  
7 Fokidos  
GR - 11526 Athens  
Tel: +30 1771 57 91  
Fax: +30 1779 36 48  
agatinst@otenet.gr

**IRELAND**
ISPCC, Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children  
Tess Noonan  
12 Mary Street  
Cork  
Tel: +353 21 496 2485  
Fax: +353 21 431 6961  
ispcccrk@indigo.ie
### EURONET Member Organisations

#### ITALY
**Save the Children Italia**  
Arianna Saulini  
Via gaeta 19  
I-00185 Rome  
Tel: +39 347 311 39 19  
Fax: +39 06 478 83 182  
info@savethechildren.it

#### PORTUGAL
**Instituto de Apoio À Criança (IAC)**  
Manuela Enes  
Largo da Memoria 14  
P - 1300 Lisboa  
Tel: +351 218824020  
Fax: +351 218850192  
iacsede@netcabo.pt

#### SPAIN
**Plataforma de Organizaciones de Infancia (POI)**  
Julio del Valle de Iscar  
Pz.Tirso de Molina, 5-5 dcha  
28012 Madrid  
Tel: +34 9 1 3695099  
Fax: +34 9 1 3695028  
poi@plataformadeinfancia.org

#### SWEDEN
**Swedish Ngo Network for the Rights of the Child. c/o Rädda Barnen**  
Simone Ek  
S-10788 Stockholm  
Tel: +46 8 698 90 00  
Fax: +46 8 698 90 13  
simone.ek@rb.se

#### LITHUANIA
**Save the Children Lithuania**  
Loreta Trakinskiene  
Totoriu, 15  
2001 Vilnius  
Tel: +370 2 610 815  
Fax: +370 2 610 837  
gelb.vaik@post.omitel.net

#### LUXEMBOURG
**FICE, the International Federation of Educative Communities**  
Robert Soisson  
17 Rue Mathias Koener  
L - 4174 Esch-sur-Alzette  
Tel: +352 570 368  
Fax: +352 573 37  
soisson.rob@si.lu

#### NETHERLANDS
**DCI/NL, Defence for Children International Section/the Netherlands**  
Stan Meuwese  
PO Box 75297  
NL - 1070 AG Amsterdam  
Tel: +31 20 4203771  
Fax: +31 20 4203832  
info@defenceforchildren.nl

#### UNITED KINGDOM
**SCF/UK, The Save the Children Fund**  
Bill Bell  
1 St. John's Lane  
London EC1M 4AR  
Tel: +44 207 7012 6400  
Fax: +44 207 7012 6963

**NSPCC, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children**  
Tara Hopkins  
42 Curtain Road  
UK - London EC2A 3NH  
Tel: +44 207 825 25 00

### ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

#### Greece
**European Children’s Television Centre (ECTC)**  
Athina Rikaki  
20 Analipseos St  
152 35 Vrilissia – Athens  
Tel: +30 (210) 6851258  
Fax: +30 (210) 3848022  
management@ectc.gr

#### ROUMANIA
**ARSIS, Association for The Social Support of Youth**  
George Moschos  
26 Derigni str,  
104 34 Athens  
Tel: +30 2310 526150  
Fax: +30 2310 526150  
infothes@arsis.gr

#### POLAND
**Polish Forum for Children’s Rights**  
Jerzy Sliwa  
PL-39-506 Kraców  
ul.Brodzińskiego str 1  
Tel/fax 48-12-423-5371

**Save the Children Poland**  
Agnieszka Tracz  
ul. Pawlowicza 4  
05-627 Warsaw  
Tel: +48 22 650 03 10  
Fax: +48 22 650 03 20  
savethechildren@poczta.pl