



**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DES DROITS SOCIAUX**

7 March 2017

Case Document No. 2

Central Unit for Child Welfare v. Finland
Complaint No. 139/2016

**OBSERVATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT
ON ADMISSIBILITY**

Registered at the Secretariat on 14 February 2017



14 February 2017

Mr Henrik Kristensen
Deputy Executive Secretary
European Committee of Social Rights

Complaint No. 139/2016
Central Union for Child Welfare (CUCW) v. Finland

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 14 December 2016 concerning the aforementioned complaint, I have the honour, on behalf of the Government of Finland, to submit the following observations on the admissibility of the aforementioned complaint.

The Government observes that the present complaint has been lodged by the Central Union for Child Welfare (later, "CUCW") on 14 November 2016.

The CUCW alleges that Finland has violated Articles 16, 17 and 27 (1c) alone or in conjunction with Article E of the Revised European Social Charter and alleges that Finland has, through the amendment of the Act on Early Childhood Education and Care that entered into force on 1 August 2016, violated the above mentioned provisions.

The Government further observes that the Committee has requested the Government to submit observations only in regard of the admissibility of the complaint.

The Government notes that in accordance with Article 2 § 1 of the Additional Protocol of 1995 providing for a system of collective complaints, any Contracting State may declare that it recognises the right of any other representative national non-governmental organisation than those referred to in Article 2 of the Additional Protocol within its jurisdiction which has particular competence in matters governed by the Charter, to lodge complaints against it with the European Committee of Social Rights.

The Government observes that the Additional Protocol providing for a system of collective complaints took effect in Finland on 1 September 1998 and Finland has made a declaration enabling national non-governmental organisations to submit collective complaints.

Finally, the Government, without taking any stance on the merits of the complaint, submits that the Government has no objections concerning the formal requirements of the admissibility of the present complaint.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Oinonen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Krista Oinonen
Agent of the Government of Finland
before the European Committee of Social Rights
Director, Unit for Human Rights Courts and Conventions