

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 31 March 2017

CAHENF(2017)LD1

Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF)

List of decisions

2nd meeting

Strasbourg 29-31 March 2017

Council of Europe, Agora Building, Room G03

Prepared by the Children's Rights Division

Directorate of Human Dignity and Equality

1. Opening of the meeting by the Head of Children’s Rights and Sports Values Department

The CAHENF took note of the opening speech by Ms Elda Moreno, Head of Children’s Rights and Sport Values Department.

The CAHENF thanked warmly Ms Agnes von Maravic, for her contribution to the children’s rights agenda and the Committee’s work in her capacity as Secretary to the CAHENF and wished her well in her new position within the Council of Europe.

2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

The agenda and order of business were adopted.

3. Adoption of the report of the 1st meeting (28-29 September 2016)

The report of the 1st meeting was adopted.

4. Update on recent developments and challenges in member States

The CAHENF took note of the recent developments and challenges in member and observer States, including on the implementation of the Strategy priority areas, as well as from participating international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The CAHENF discussed how to conduct a more focused exchange in the future and streamline the information received by focusing on the priorities under the Strategy. It was noted that the agenda should continue to include a short exchange, with interventions focusing on key major developments and challenges.

The CAHENF invited those that have not yet done so to send their completed form to the Secretariat.

5. First Activity Report on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child

The CAHENF:

- took note of the Activity Report on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child prepared by the Secretariat and of the fact that an abridged version would be submitted in due course to the Committee of Ministers;
- entrusted the Secretariat with the task of regularly updating the report and the list of activities.

6. Children’s rights and safeguards in the context of migration

The CAHENF

- took note of the report by the Chair of the CAHENF-Safeguards.

- heard a presentation on the preliminary findings of the study on age assessment;
- welcomed the proposed outline for a Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on guardianship for children in migration who are deprived of parental care, and exchanged views so as to provide general orientations for further elaboration of the draft outline and its content, agreeing that further written comments should be submitted by CAHENF members and observers according to the proposed roadmap;
- took note of the preliminary findings of the report prepared by the consultant on age assessment policies, procedures, and practices respectful of children's rights;
- agreed to encourage States that have not yet responded to the survey on age assessment to do so promptly and no later than the end of April, so that their contributions could be included in the final study;
- instructed the Secretariat to reach out to States for a further nomination to fill in the vacant seat in the CAHENF-Safeguards and reconfirm the engagement of members who did not take part in the first meeting.

7. Thematic exchange on “National strategies to protect children from violence: implementing mechanisms and evaluation of effectiveness”

The CAHENF held its first thematic exchange and exchanged views on implementing mechanisms and the evaluation of the effectiveness of national strategies to protect children from violence.

The CAHENF took note of the experiences at national level shared by France, Italy and Norway, as well as of relevant commitments and issues considered in this area at global level as presented by Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the possible role of the Council of Europe to support member states in this area.

8. Information on other relevant activities and reports of the Council of Europe and possible follow up as necessary

The CAHENF

- took note of the report presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees and related follow-up activities;
- took note of the report adopted by the Lanzarote Committee and of recommendations which were relevant for the work of the CAHENF with respect to the protection of children in the context of migration;
- took note of the activities of the PACE, including recently adopted reports, recommendations and resolutions relevant for its work, and of recommendations made to the CAHENF in this context;
- took note of relevant activities to which CAHENF representatives have participated, as well as other relevant projects and activities on children's rights.

9. Communication on other relevant activities of international organisations and NGOS

The CAHENF took note of relevant initiatives and co-operation with other international organisations and NGOs.

10. Empowering, protecting and supporting children in the digital environment

The CAHENF

- took note of the report by the Chair, as well as of the findings of the desktop study on children's views on their rights in the digital environment;
- welcomed the first text of the proposed draft Recommendations on Guidelines to empower, protect, and support children's rights in the digital environment and held an exchange of views on the proposed scope, structure and content, to provide orientations and comments to the CAHENF-IT;
- decided that written comments would be submitted by CAHENF members and observers for the CAHENF-IT to reflect these in the revised version of the draft Guidelines, in line with the proposed roadmap;
- endorsed the approach proposed to ensure that children participate in the development of the guidelines and invited members to consider carrying out consultations at national level;
- endorsed the proposed roadmap for multi-stakeholder outreach (private sector and other relevant actors) and the updated roadmap of the process.

11. CAHENF thematic focus for the 2018-2019 biennium

The CAHENF heard an update on the priorities for the 2018-2019 biennium and invited the Secretariat to provide regular updates.

12. Calendar of events

The CAHENF took note of staffing and budgetary issues, and of the current open call for a seconded official to the Children's Rights Division.

13. Adoption of decisions

Adopted the list of decisions.

14. Closing of the meeting