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CAHENF(2016)PV1

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

Report

1st meeting
Strasbourg 28-29 September 2016
Council of Europe, Agora Building, Room G03

Prepared by the Children's Rights Division
Directorate of Human Dignity and Equality

Table of Contents

1. Opening of the meeting by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe	3
2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business	3
3. Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure	4
4. Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau	4
5. High-level Conference “Reaching the heights for the rights of the child”	4
6. Recent developments in member States	5
7. European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, 18 November 2016.....	6
8. Exchange of views with Ms Kirsten Sandberg, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (video conference).....	7
9. Implementation Plan for the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child	8
10. Review of the implementation of relevant Committee of Ministers recommendations ..	8
11. Policy guidance on empowering, protecting and supporting children in the digital environment	9
12. Protecting the rights of children affected by the refugee crisis.....	11
13. Participation of children in the Council of Europe’s work on children’s rights	12
14. Information on relevant initiatives within the Council of Europe.....	13
15. Information on relevant initiatives and co-operation with other international organisations and NGOs	14
16. Appointments of Gender Equality Rapporteur, Roma Rapporteur and representatives in other Committees	15
17. Calendar of events.....	16
18. Dates and places of the second and third CAHENF meetings	16
19. Other business	16
20. Closing of the meeting.....	16
APPENDIX I.....	17
APPENDIX II.....	20
APPENDIX III.....	22

Introduction

1. The Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as “CAHENF” or “the Committee”) held its first meeting in Strasbourg, from 28 to 29 September 2016, in conformity with its terms of reference adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 March 2016.

2. Ms Regina Jensdottir, Head of the Children’s Rights Division, chaired the meeting pending the election of the Chair of the Committee. Following the elections on the morning of the 2nd meeting day, the meeting was chaired by Ms Ina Verzivolli (Albania). The agenda and order of business (as adopted) and the list of participants appear in appendices I-III.

1. Opening of the meeting by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

[Speech by the Deputy Secretary General](#)

3. The meeting was opened by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Gabriela Battaini-Dragoni. In her speech, Ms Battaini-Dragoni expressed her satisfaction about the Committee of Ministers’ decision to set up the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child. Ms Battaini-Dragoni raised, in particular, the challenges associated with migration and the digital environment, which the CAHENF is entrusted with addressing during its mandate.

4. She congratulated the Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (DECS-ENF) that drafted the new Strategy 2016-2021 on its work. Ms Battaini-Dragoni further thanked the Bulgarian authorities for having placed children’s rights high on the agenda of the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers and for hosting the launch of the Strategy in April 2016 in Sofia. She concluded by confirming her trust in the Committee members’ capacity to continue “Building a Europe for and with Children”.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the opening speech by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni.

2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

[CAHENF\(2016\)OJ1 rev1](#)
[CAHENF\(2016\)OJA1 rev2](#)
[CAHENF\(2016\)OB1](#)

5. The Committee adopted the agenda with minor amendments (see appendices I and II).

6. The new children’s rights website was presented, along with a presentation of the new webpage bringing together all resources in non-official languages. The Secretariat encouraged member States to submit translated versions of documents they may have, in order to continue building the database.

Decision:

The agenda and order of business were adopted.

3. Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

[CM\(2016\)171-final](#)
[CM/Res\(2011\)24](#)
CAHENF(2016)1

7. The Secretariat gave an overview of children's rights mainstreaming approach within the Council of Europe, and the place the CAHENF has within that structure.

8. The terms of reference of the Committee were presented, including its main and specific tasks. The Secretariat explained that these were adopted in March 2016, before the Committee of Ministers' decision to make refugee and migration work a priority within the Council of Europe. The composition and working methods of the Committee in line with Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies were recalled.

9. The Director of Human Dignity and Equality, Ms Marja Ruotanen recalled that the renewal of the Committee's mandate for another two years is subject to decision by the Committee of Ministers. In this context, she stressed the importance of the CAHENF delivering tangible results by the end of its mandate.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure.

4. Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau

[CM/Res\(2011\)24 Appendix 1](#)
CAHENF(2016)2

10. The Committee held elections for the position of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and a Bureau composed of three members.

Decision:

The Committee elected:

- Ms Ina Verzivolli (Albania) as Chair
- Mr Alexis Rinckenbach (France) as Vice-Chair
- Ms Christel de Craim (Belgium), Ms Satu Sistonen (Finland) and Ms Gabriela Coman (Romania) as members of the Bureau

5. High-level Conference "Reaching the heights for the rights of the child"

[CM\(2016\)71](#)
[Video message from young delegates](#)

11. The Secretariat provided an overview of the Conference, which gathered more than 300 participants from 44 member States, including the President of the Republic of Bulgaria and the President of Malta, and 17 Ministers and Deputy Ministers. A video message from the young delegates was shown, documenting their positive experiences, what they would like to see improved, and what they would take home with them.

12. Several representatives of member States as well as the representative of the Parliamentary Assembly thanked the Secretariat and the Bulgarian government for a

successful conference, and underlined especially the full and well integrated participation of children. The Secretariat also thanked Eurochild for enabling this participation. Cyprus and the Parliamentary Assembly provided good practices of child participation. The Committee agreed on the need to involve more children from different backgrounds such as children with disabilities in future events.

13. The thematic sessions of the Conference on children's rights in the refugee crisis, on child budgeting, on children's rights in the digital environment, and on LGBTI children were praised. Italy expressed its willingness to update the Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child developed by the Council of Europe and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) which was presented in one of the side-events to the conference. Portugal stressed the need for a thorough follow-up of the implementation of the new Strategy. The Secretariat replied that this would be covered by agenda item 9 on the implementation plan of the Strategy. Switzerland commented on the thematic session on radicalisation and extremism, stating that a stronger emphasis could have been placed on an approach based on the rule of law.

14. The Secretariat welcomed calls for greater diversity of children in future events and mentioned the possibility of the Council of Europe providing training on meaningful child participation in policy making.

Decision:

The Committee

- took note of the report of the High-level launching Conference of the Strategy on 4-5 April 2016 in Sofia, organised in the framework of the Bulgarian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and hosted by the Bulgarian State Agency for Child Protection and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy;
- thanked the Bulgarian authorities and the Council of Europe for the excellent organisation of the conference;
- welcomed the video statements of young delegates who participated in the Conference. Committee members who were presented at the Conference appreciated the active participation of the young delegates and encouraged the Council of Europe to continue involving children in similar events.

6. Recent developments in member States

CAHENF(2016)3
Presentation Tour de Table

15. In a Tour de Table, representatives of member and observer States informed about recent developments at national level within the framework of the Strategy. Members exchanged information on the promotion of the strategy at the national level, recent achievements within the field, and current challenges. Full submissions by member States and Mexico are compiled in document CAHENF(2016).

16. The Strategy has been disseminated and/or translated in 26 member States. Translation and dissemination is planned in another five States.

17. The following challenges were mentioned most often by member States:
- violence against children;
 - protection of children in vulnerable situations (disability; alternative care; Roma);
 - migration (in particular unaccompanied minors);
 - child poverty;

- digital environment;
 - children in the (criminal) justice system;
 - child participation.
18. Other topics mentioned were, *inter alia*:
- radicalisation and violent extremism;
 - service provision for children in remote areas;
 - protection of child victims of abuse;
 - lack of awareness of children's rights in the population and among professionals;
 - lack of cross-sector co-ordination;
 - health issues;
 - children in street situation.

Decision:

In a *Tour de Table*, members of the Committee exchanged information on the promotion of the Strategy at national level, recent achievements in the framework of the Strategy and the most relevant challenges in the area of the rights of the child. Members agreed to share the written information sent to the Secretariat for this meeting with all participants.

7. European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, 18 November 2016

[European Day leaflet](#)

19. The Secretariat gave an overview of the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, which was set up by the Committee of Ministers on 12th May 2015. Its aims are to raise public awareness of the issue, to eliminate the stigmatisation of victims, and to promote ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention. For the first edition of the European Day in 2015 over 40 initiatives were organised by governments, civil society, and different stakeholders. The video, "Tell Someone You Trust", was released and has by now been translated into 13 languages.

20. For the second edition, the Council of Europe will host the ECPAT Global Forum for adult survivors of childhood sexual exploitation, and a side-event will involve an exhibition of drawings of victims in Strasbourg. An overview of the planned activities can be consulted at <http://www.coe.int/en/web/children/2016-edition>. 17 members informed the Committee of planned initiatives at the occasion of the European Day. Committee members were encouraged to organise initiatives in their own countries and to communicate these to the Secretariat for publication on the website.

21. 12 Committee members volunteered to record video messages in their national language to support the European Day. The messages will soon be available on the website.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the activities prepared for the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse on 18 November 2016 at Secretariat and member States level. 17 member States announced activities to take place at the occasion of the European Day.

8. Exchange of views with Ms Kirsten Sandberg, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (video conference)

22. The Committee held an exchange with Ms Kirsten Sandberg, member and former Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), by way of a video conference. Ms Sandberg noted that this was the first time a regional Committee composed of member States had been set up to follow the progression of children's rights. She said this presented an opportunity for the CRC to further its work within Council of Europe member States. She lauded its inclusive approach, and cited it as a source of inspiration for other regions. The CAHENF could also be a forum for discussing controversial issues and exchange of good practice.

23. In her statement and in the exchange that followed, Ms Sandberg suggested a number of ways to ensure synergies and mutual information, including:

- regular updates by the CRC at CAHENF meetings;
- discussion of draft General Comments of the CRC in the framework of CAHENF;
- exchange of experiences between CAHENF members on CRC review process, involvement of children in reporting and follow-up to concluding observations;
- address "monitoring fatigue" through making Council of Europe monitoring findings accessible to the CRC;
- updates on Council of Europe and CAHENF work during CRC sessions;
- a focal point on Europe to be appointed among the members of the CRC.

24. Ms Sandberg identified a range of common challenges in Europe, including:

- migration issues;
- child poverty, linked to social exclusion, and a rise in homelessness;
- juvenile justice with a tendency in some countries to lower the age of criminal responsibility;
- mental health issues caused by stress and pressure;
- children in the digital environment;
- children's rights and the environment.

25. Ms Sandberg also mentioned that in some countries children's rights are perceived as a threat to the family. She argued that this is not at all the case, but that children need to be protected against violence and abuse, including within the family.

26. She updated on the following CRC related work:

- [Day of General Discussion](#) on children's rights and the environment on 23 September 2016,
- [General Comment](#) on public budgeting for the realization of children's rights published 21 July 2016,
- [Draft General Comment](#) on the implementation of children's rights during adolescence expected to be adopted during the current session,
- [Draft General Comment](#) on children in street situations expected to be finished in Jan/Feb 2017,
- Work on a [Joint General Comment](#) with the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) on the human rights of children in the context of international migration.

27. Emphasis was placed on the importance of more Council of Europe member States ratifying the Third Optional Protocol on the Communications Procedure.

Decision:

The Committee took note of a statement by Ms Kirsten Sandberg, member and former Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and had an exchange with her on possibilities for co-operation between the CAHENF and the CRC.

9. Implementation Plan for the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child

[CM\(2015\)175-final](#)
CAHENF(2016)4
CAHENF(2016)4 Annex

28. The Secretariat presented the draft Implementation Plan, which was designed to help the CAHENF and the Secretariat follow-up progress in the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child. It was explained that member States will be invited to inform the Secretariat of progress in each of the priority areas. Going through the five priority areas set out in the Plan, the Secretariat shared more details on activities marked in bold, where the CAHENF has a leading role.

29. The Secretariat explained that cooperation activities and cross-cutting objectives such as mainstreaming and communication will be added to the next version of the plan. Work on a risk register is underway within the Secretariat.

30. The Committee generally agreed with the key performance indicators suggested by the Secretariat for the five priority areas of the Strategy. In priority area 2 it was agreed to change the wording to “Evidence of change in legislation, policy and practice to implement children’s right to participation”. Asked what would be the baseline for measuring progress, the Secretariat acknowledged the difficulty of identifying a baseline across all member States and all aspects of the Strategy. While the overarching aim is for every country to move forward within the Strategy’s objectives, the Secretariat is committed to identifying as many measurable indicators as possible.

31. It was agreed that the first subtitle in priority area 3 would be changed to from “integrated strategies” to “integrated and strategic approach to protecting children from violence” and that the work in the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) on female genital mutilation would be added to priority area 3.

Decision:

The Committee took note of and commented on the draft Implementation Plan for the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child. The Committee entrusted the Secretariat to update and share the document with the Committee at regular intervals.

10. Review of the implementation of relevant Committee of Ministers recommendations

CAHENF(2016)5

32. The Committee was invited to decide on relevant themes for thematic exchanges regarding the implementation of relevant Committee of Ministers recommendations at the two subsequent meetings. In the exchange of views, it was suggested that interrelated topics, with clusters of recommendations, could be examined together. It was also mentioned that the Committee needed to be selective and focused in this work. The

following Committee of Ministers recommendations and Guidelines were mentioned as deserving an exchange:

- [CM/Rec\(2007\)9](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on life projects for unaccompanied migrant minors together with [CM/Rec\(2008\)4](#) on strengthening the integration of children of migrants and of immigrant background,
- [Rec\(2006\)19](#) on policy to support positive parenting,
- [Guidelines](#) on child friendly justice,
- [CM/Rec\(2009\)10](#) on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence, possibly together with others such as [Rec\(2005\)5](#) on the rights of children living in residential institutions, [Rec\(2006\)19](#) on policy to support positive parenting and [CM/Rec\(2011\)12](#) on children's rights and social services friendly to children and families,
- [CM/Rec\(2012\)2](#) on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18.

33. It was also seen as beneficial to analyse members' submissions to the tour de table to identify the major problems common for many countries. In conclusion, the Committee agreed that that the Bureau, in co-operation with the Secretariat, would be entrusted with deciding on a theme for the next meeting.

The Committee held an exchange about the relevant Committee of Ministers recommendations in the area of the rights of the child and possible related themes for thematic exchanges at future meetings. The Committee entrusted the Bureau, in co-operation with the Secretariat, to decide on a theme for the next meeting.

11. Policy guidance on empowering, protecting and supporting children in the digital environment

CAHENF(2016)6
CAHENF(2016)6 Annex I, Annex II
CAHENF(2016)7
[CM\(2016\)10-final](#)
Presentation Prof. Livingstone

34. As set out in its mandate, the CAHENF is tasked with developing policy guidance for member states on empowering, protecting and supporting children in the digital environment.

35. The CAHENF heard a presentation by Ms Sonia Livingstone on the findings of the policy guidance report prepared for the Committee under her leadership by a group of experts. In her presentation, she underlined different aspects of children's rights and related challenges of the digital environment, a selection of country and cross-cutting case studies, an analysis of gaps, and suggestions for key elements for the future guidance. The report included an inventory of relevant international, Council of Europe and European Union legal standards, case law of the European Court of Human Rights, the most relevant and recent (since 2013) policy documents on the issue in general and its different aspects, and publications reflecting children's own views on the subject, to guide the future work of the Committee.

36. An exchange of views followed on issues which delegations considered necessary to include in the process of preparation of the policy guidance. Albania stressed the importance of increasing the level of expertise and understanding by policy makers in this field, referring for instance to actions to be taken in respect of harmful or inappropriate content online (including when originating from children themselves) and the balance that needs drawing

between government regulations and auto regulation by internet service providers of specific situations. Marta Santos Pais underlined that this issue is of high priority within the UN agenda. She raised two aspects where there is limited progress, namely the absence of a multi-faceted digital agenda taking into account all relevant dimensions and the lack of clarity of the accountability of states in this context. She deplored the fact that existing digital agenda fora gathering relevant stakeholders rarely address children rights aspects although many issues discussed are relevant and impact on children. Switzerland questioned whether this work should include for instance policy aspects related to violent or sexist games. It was clarified that a scoping exercise would be undertaken, which would clarify which issues will be covered in this process, with the understanding that the policy would address child rights challenges that children meet online. Norway referred to the government's work underway to provide information and promote platforms for participation of children, such as for instance a specific public information (interactive) website for youth (13-20 years), which is being used also for gathering their views on specific issues. The representative of UNICEF indicated being in the process of finalising jointly with the ITU a global guidance document outlining promising practices on protecting children against abuse online, and expressed interest in co-operating with the Council of Europe in the finalisation process. Reference was also made to the Weprotect Global Alliance to end the sexual exploitation of children online. Greece underlined the importance of the existence of a simple and accessible complaint mechanism for children to be able to use and report. Germany suggested looking at specific issues arising from extremist content online or overuse.

37. The Committee took note of the guidance report and its annexes. It was clarified that interested delegations could send to the Secretariat as soon as possible additional examples of case studies that meet the criteria set out in the report, for consideration and possible inclusion in the report, and based on France's request, that a further check will be undertaken to ensure that the hyperlinks are operational.

38. The Secretariat introduced the document CAHENF(2016)7 outlining proposals for initiating the policy preparation work by the CAHENF, involving inter alia the setup of a Drafting Group of Specialists on Children's Rights and the Digital Environment. The delegations welcomed the proposed way forward and calendar of work. A clarification was provided following Switzerland's question regarding the participation of children in the preparation of the guidance. It was agreed that the drafting process should involve extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders, including children, and that specific proposals would be presented clarifying the consultation process of relevant stakeholders. Italy expressed their readiness to contribute to the Drafting Group. The representative of the European Social Cohesion Platform (PECS) expressed interest in co-operating, through their working group, in supporting the consultation process of children. The representative of the Data Protection unit of the Council of Europe assured the CAHENF of their support and readiness to contribute to issues related to children's personal data protection.

39. The Committee adopted the document CAHENF(2016)7 and the proposed calendar of work, and invited the Secretariat to proceed with the implementation of the actions set out therein.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the presentation of a background report on children's rights and the digital environment by Sonia Livingstone and Eva Lievens and held an exchange of views on key issues worthy to take into consideration in the development of Guidelines for member States to empower, protect and support children's safe access to their rights on the Internet. The Committee decided to establish a drafting group (CAHENF-IT) and agreed on a work plan to complete this task by end 2017.

12. Protecting the rights of children affected by the refugee crisis

[SG/Inf\(2016\)9final](#)
[Decisions of the 126th Session of the Committee of Ministers, Item 2c](#)

CAHENF(2016)8
Speech by Ambassador Tomáš Boček
Presentation FRA
Presentation UNICEF

40. The Committee held an exchange of views with Ambassador Tomáš Boček, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, who underlined that the protection of the rights of migrant and refugee children is a priority of the Council of Europe, and provided an overview of the key findings arising from his recent fact finding missions to member states. The Committee was also informed that an action plan on unaccompanied and other children affected by the migrant and refugee crisis will be presented early 2017, and that the elaboration process and implementation will need to draw on the expertise of relevant sectors of the Organisation, in particular the CAHENF. The Ambassador concluded by expressing his appreciation of the excellent co-operation to date with the Children's Rights Division.

41. The Chair opened the floor and contributions were made by Croatia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Ukraine, Italy, the Parliamentary Assembly Rapporteur on Children, DCI-Belgium, Romania, the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates, UNSRSG Marta Santos Pais, Albania, Missing Children Europe, UNHCR, UNICEF, SOS Villages, and Greece. They discussed various key challenges to children's rights in the context of migration and refugees, including the specific situation of unaccompanied or internally displaced children, interventions to address disappearances, trafficking, repatriation, reunification, access to services and healthcare, guardianship and age determination, accommodation conditions and detention. The need for a harmonised and comprehensive approach, involving as many stakeholders as possible was raised by several speakers. Several good practices and initiatives were exchanged. The Chair of the Lanzarote Committee indicated that responses by State parties and civil society to the Lanzarote Committee's focused questionnaire should be available within the coming days. Italy indicated their willingness to support the preparation of the action plan and that the migration topic is expected to be included among the priorities of the Italian presidency of the G7.

42. The Secretariat introduced the document CAHENF(2016)8 outlining the tasks of the CAHENF in the area of migration, and the proposed prioritisation of work, with various options for the working methods, the proposed deliverables and calendar for 2016-2017.

43. The floor was opened and interventions were made by Italy, Belgium, Greece, the Secretariats of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) and of the Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH), UNSRSG Marta Santos Pais, DCI-Belgium, the Secretary to the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), UNICEF and UNHCR. Contributions offered further insight into challenges identified or faced by children affected by migration as well by member States in meeting their international obligations. The Secretariats of the CDCJ and CDDH updated the Committee on work underway on migration related aspects, namely on codification of existing standards on retention conditions of migrants, and respectively on alternatives to detention. An invitation to take part in activities under the Parliamentary Assembly's campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children was extended to CAHENF members, and in particular to the upcoming seminar on age assessment procedures, held in October 2016. Italy expressed its appreciation of the

prioritisation proposed and calendar ahead and proposed that the Committee could consider, under its review of the implementation of specific recommendations, those related to migration aspects. Reference was also made to the 1996 Hague Convention which includes specific provisions for the protection of children in cross-border situations. Italy expressed its strong interest in contribution to the work of the drafting group. The representative of the FRA provided an update on current related activities and publications. Member States expressed support for the work to be carried out by the Committee in this field, as proposed. They agreed that the guidance work related to statelessness would not be prioritised at this stage, with the understanding that the Committee would revisit the issue at a later stage, once further consultations will have taken place with the European Committee on Legal Co-operation.

44. The Committee adopted the document CAHENF(2016)8 and the proposed calendar of work, and invited the Secretariat to proceed with the implementation of the actions set out therein. The Secretariat was asked to include on the Committee's webpage the presentations of the speakers under this session.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the intervention and held an exchange with Ambassador Tomáš Boček, Secretary General's Special Representative on Migration and Refugees on the Action plan on unaccompanied and other children affected by the migrant and refugee crisis.

The Committee took note of its mandate by the Committee of Ministers to (i) focus on developing European standards to provide appropriate safeguards to refugees and asylum-seeking children, notably in the areas of guardianship and age determination procedures, as well as (ii) facilitate member states to exchange and share good, inter-disciplinary and gender sensitive practices in these areas. It also took note of relevant initiatives in other fora within the Council of Europe and in the EU and other international organisations.

On the basis of this exchange, the Committee decided to set up a drafting group (CAHENF-Safeguards) and agreed on a work plan to complete the prioritised tasks by 2017.

13. Participation of children in the Council of Europe's work on children's rights

Presentation by Mieke Schuurman

45. Ms Mieke Schuurman, Senior Policy Consultant at Eurochild, presented Eurochild's practical experience of children's participation in policy level events and processes. She counted the involvement of the young delegates at the Council of Europe High Level Conference in Sofia as a good practice, as well as the annual [CATS](#) (Children as Actors Transforming Societies) conference and the [Eurochild Conference](#) in July 2016 in Brussels. Ms Schuurman listed issues to take into account when organising an event with children (including child safeguarding policies, informing parents and guardians, having a child protection focal person, quiet room, nurse etc). She strongly recommended involving children from the beginning and in various aspects of organising and preparing events. It is also important, she said, to agree on code of conduct valid for both children and adults, to foresee ample time for interaction, and to make full use of social media. Tools which can support child participation include the [Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool](#), the Vademecum "[The participation of children in public decision making: Why and how to involve children](#)" and many others.

46. In the exchange that followed, contributions were received from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Iceland, Sweden, the Parliamentary Assembly, the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC), and the International Association for Youth and Family Judges. The issues discussed included how to successfully select a diverse range of children, how to overcome language barriers, and good practices already existent in member States for the selection and participation of children. It was also emphasised that child participation should be meaningful, and embedded through training for professionals and local actors.

47. Representatives of Iceland and Bulgaria were appointed as rapporteurs on the issue of child participation.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the presentation by Ms Mieke Schuurman (Eurochild) on meaningful participation of children in policy making and exchanged experiences in this area. Two rapporteurs were nominated (Ms Gudridur Bolladottir, Iceland, Ms Ofeliya Kaneva, Bulgaria) to follow the issue of child participation within the work of the Committee.

14. Information on relevant initiatives within the Council of Europe

48. Presentations were made by the following representatives of other Council of Europe bodies:

49. Ms Sefinij Fataliyeva, Rapporteur on Children of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, informed of the following:

- The Parliamentary Dimension to the ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children will come to an end with the 27th and last meeting of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children. The meeting on 1 December 2016 is organised in co-operation with the Unicef Office of Research Innocenti in Florence (Italy), amongst others on the issue of sexual violence against children in the digital environment.
- The Parliamentary Assembly is also involved in the 2nd European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse on 18 November 2016.
- A major conference in [Wilton Park](#) on 9-11 November 2016 will gather selected experts around the topic "Protecting children from violence: next steps for effective strategies".
- Reports on "Ending child poverty in Europe" adopted in 2014 and report on "Preventing the radicalisation of children by fighting the root causes" adopted in April 2016.
- Debates in the Parliamentary Assembly's autumn session on [children's rights related to surrogacy](#), the [best interest of the child in removal decisions](#), and [children in armed conflicts](#).
- 4th parliamentary capacity-building seminar to promote the European Social Charter with a focus on corporal punishment and the working and employment conditions of minors, Paris, 28 October 2016.

50. Mr François Vandamme, member of the European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR), referred to several provisions within the European Social Charter which cover the rights of children. An overview of the ECSR's monitoring system was provided, as well as the major difficulties found by the Committee in the context of the rights of children in the ECSR's 2015 Conclusions (including difficulties with social services, and Roma and

disabled children's access to social rights). Mr Vandamme encouraged NGOs and other representatives to make use of the collective complaints mechanism, and mentioned a training organised for NGOs in 2015.

51. Mr Frank Schürmann, member of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), presented an overview of the work of the CDDH on forced marriage and female genital mutilation through its drafting group (CDDH-MF), which held its 2nd meeting on 21-23 September 2016.

Decision:

The Committee took note of information from

- Ms Sevinj Fataliyeva, Rapporteur on Children of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
- Mr François Vandamme, European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)
- Mr Frank Schürmann, European Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)

15. Information on relevant initiatives and co-operation with other international organisations and NGOs

Information note on UN Sustainable Development Goals
Speech by Ms Marta Santos Pais
Presentation by Ms Marta Santos Pais
Conclusions of the VI Cross-Regional Meeting

52. Contributions were made by Ms Marta Santos Pais (UNSRSG on Violence against Children), Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio (UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography), SOS Children's Villages, CRIN, DCI-Belgium, ENOC, Eurochild, the Conference of INGOs and IAYFJM, who provided an overview of their work relevant to Committee, and who expressed willingness to support and collaborate with the Committee.

53. Ms Marta Santos Pais provided an overview of the 2030 UN Sustainable Developments Goals, in terms of how they relate to violence against children, and lauded the fact that violence against children is seen as a cross-cutting issue within the new Strategy. She stressed the need for cross-sectoral taskforces or platforms to shape national agendas on the topic, which must take due note of children, and hoped that the current gap in common guidelines to shape this agenda would be filled. She stressed the need for cooperation, and the possibility of CAHENF being used as a platform for the region which can be used to inform review on the global level. Sweden contributed its experience thus far as a pathfinder country.

54. The UN Special Representative on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, presented an overview of her role and work, including cooperative work. In particular, the thematic studies on ICT could be of high importance to the Committee's work. Contributions were made by Italy, the Chair and Portugal.

The Committee took note of statements by Ms Marta Santos-Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and representatives from other international organisations and NGOs. Information was exchanged on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the level of member States.

16. Appointments of Gender Equality Rapporteur, Roma Rapporteur and representatives in other Committees

Information note on Gender Equality Rapporteurs
Guidelines for CAHROM Rapporteurs
Document prepared by the Secretariat

55. The roles of the rapporteurs were outlined and representatives were appointed in accordance with the following:

The Committee appointed

- Ms Petra Kalenská, Czech Republic, and Mr Kyrylo Dombrovskiy, Ukraine, as Gender Equality Rapporteurs;

- Ms Petra Kalenská, Czech Republic, and Mr Alexis Rinckenbach, France, as Rapporteurs on Roma Issues;

- the following representatives to Council of Europe Committees:

1. Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee) – *Claude Janizzi, Luxembourg*
2. European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) – *Jean-Marie Bouverat, Switzerland*
3. European Social Cohesion Platform (PECS) – *Alexis Rinckenbach, France*
4. Ad hoc Committee of experts on Roma and Traveller issues (CAHROM) – *Petra Kalenská, Czech Republic, Alexis Rinckenbach, France*
5. Ad-hoc Committee of experts on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CAH-DPH) – *Pietro Franzina, Italy*
6. Gender Equality Commission (GEC) – *Petra Kalenská, Czech Republic, Kyrylo Dombrovskiy, Ukraine*
7. Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) – *Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, Greece*
8. European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) – *Ms Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, Greece*
9. Committee of experts on administrative detention of migrants (CJ-DAM) – *Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, Greece*
10. Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP) - *Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, Greece*

17. Calendar of events

Calendar of events

The Committee took note of the calendar of events.

18. Dates and places of the second and third CAHENF meetings

The Committee took note that the proposed dates for the 2nd meeting (29-30 March 2017, Strasbourg) might conflict with the Launching Conference of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (27-28 March 2017, Cyprus). The Committee was therefore entrusted the Secretariat to propose a new date and took note of the Secretariat's intention to seek funding to add a 3rd meeting day.

With regard to the 3rd meeting, the Committee would prefer, if this is possible, to hold the 3rd meeting on 23-24 October 2017 in Lanzarote, Spain, back to back with the Conference to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Lanzarote Convention and the meeting of the Lanzarote Committee. Alternatively, the meeting will be held on 22-23 November 2017 in Strasbourg.

19. Other business

56. The Secretariat informed the Committee of their quarterly-issued newsletter, which can provide an opportunity for sharing information on progress, good practices and events on the national level and for civil society.

No other business

20. Closing of the meeting

57. The Chair thanked the interpreters and Secretariat. She commented on the fact that there was much work ahead, but that the Committee had begun with a good start, and will deliver that with which they have been entrusted.

APPENDIX I

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

1st meeting

AGENDA

28 September 2016 (9.00 am) - 29 September 2016 (6.00 pm)

Council of Europe, Agora Building, Room G03, Strasbourg

1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business	
– <i>Draft Agenda</i>	<i>CAHENF(2016)OJ1</i>
– <i>Draft Order of Business</i>	<i>CAHENF(2016)OB1</i>
3. Terms of Reference and Rules of procedure	
– <i>Terms of Reference</i>	CM(2015)171-final
– <i>CM Resolution on intergovernmental committees</i>	CM/Res(2011)24
– <i>Graphic overview of the Council of Europe and Secretariat structure</i>	<i>CAHENF(2016)1</i>
4. Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau	
– <i>CM Resolution on intergovernmental committees</i>	CM/Res(2011)24
– <i>Information on elections</i>	<i>CAHENF(2016)2</i>
5. High-level Conference “Reaching the heights for the rights of the child”, Sofia, Bulgaria, 5-6 April 2016: Conference report, message from young delegates, follow-up	
– <i>Conference report</i>	CM(2016)71
Message from young delegates at the conference	Video message
6. Recent developments in member States	
– <i>Compilation document</i>	<i>CAHENF(2016)3</i>

7. European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse on 18 November		
- <i>Update by the Secretariat</i>		<i>European Day leaflet</i>
8. Exchange of views with the Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (video conference, tbc)		
9. Implementation Plan for the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child		
- <i>Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child</i>		CM(2015)175-final
- <i>Implementation Plan</i>		CAHENF(2016)4
10. Review of the implementation of relevant Committee of Ministers recommendations		
- <i>Review of implementation of relevant CM Recommendations</i>		CAHENF(2016)5
11. Policy guidance on empowering, protecting and supporting children in the digital environment		
- <i>Policy guidance report</i>		CAHENF(2016)6 CAHENF(2016)6 Appendix I CAHENF(2016)6 Appendix II
- <i>Background document</i>		CAHENF(2016)7
- <i>Council of Europe Internet Governance Strategy</i>		CM(2016)10-final
12. Protecting the rights of children affected by the refugee crisis: Action to be undertaken by the CAHENF		
- <i>Secretary General's proposals for priority actions</i>		SG/Inf(2016)9final
- <i>CM Decision "Responding to the refugee crisis"</i>		126th Session of the CM, Item 2c
- <i>Reflection document prepared by the Secretariat</i>		CAHENF(2016)8
13. Participation of children in the Council of Europe's work on children's rights		
14. Information on relevant initiatives within the Council of Europe		
15. Information on relevant initiatives and co-operation with other international organisations and NGOs		
- <i>Document prepared by the Secretariat</i>		<i>Information note on SDGs</i>
16. Appointment of a Gender Equality Rapporteur and representatives in other committees		
- <i>Information note on Gender Equality Rapporteurs</i>		<i>Information note</i>
- <i>Document prepared by the Secretariat</i>		CAHENF(2016)9

17. Calendar of events

– *Calendar of events*

CAHENF(2016)10

18. Dates and places of the second and third CAHENF meetings

19. Other Business

20. Closing of the meeting (6.00 pm)

APPENDIX II

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

Order of Business

1st meeting

Strasbourg 28-29 September 2016

Council of Europe, Agora Building, Room G03

Wednesday 28 September

8:00 *Breakfast served outside the meeting room*

9:00 Item 1: Opening of the meeting by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

9:30 Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and order of business

9:45 Item 3: Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

10:15 Item 5: High-level Conference "Reaching the heights for the rights of the child"

10:30 *Coffee break*

11:00 Item 6: Recent developments in member States

11:45 Item 7: European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, 18 November 2016

12:15 Item 9: Implementation Plan for the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child

13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch break*

14:30 Item 8: Exchange of views with Ms Kirsten Sandberg, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (video conference)

15:00 Item 15: Information on relevant initiatives and co-operation with other international organisations and NGOs (Part I)

15:30 Item 10: Review of the implementation of relevant Committee of Ministers recommendations

16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30 Item 11: Policy guidance on empowering, protecting and supporting children in the digital environment

18:00 End of the 1st meeting day

19:30 *Committee Dinner (Restaurant tbd)*

Thursday 29 September

9:00 Item 4: Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau

10:00 Item 12: Protecting the rights of children affected by the refugee crisis

11:00 *Coffee break with “family picture”*

11:30 Item 12 continued

13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch break*

14:30 Item 13: Participation of children in the Council of Europe’s work on children’s rights

15:00 Item 14: Information on relevant initiatives within the Council of Europe

15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00 Item 15: Information on relevant initiatives and co-operation with other international organisations and NGOs (Part II)

17:00 Item 16: Appointments of Gender Equality Rapporteur, Roma Rapporteur and representatives in other committees

17:30 Item 17: Calendar of events

17:45 Item 18: Dates and places of the second and third CAHENF meetings

17:50 Item 19: Other Business

18:00 *End of the meeting*

APPENDIX III

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

List of participants

1st meeting

Strasbourg, 28-29 September 2016

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

ALBANIA/ALBANIE

Ms Ina Verzivolli
Director of the State Agency on Child Protection
Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth

ANDORRA/ANDORRE

Ms Rebeca Armengol
Psychologist
Social Affairs Department
Ministry of Social Affairs, Justice and Interior

ARMENIA/ARMÉNIE

Mr Hrachya Palyan
Deputy Human Rights Defender

Mr Eduard Israyelyan
Head of the Child Rights Protection Unit of the RA Human Rights Defender's Office

Mr Zorhap Yeganyan
Adviser to Defender on Cooperation with Media of the RA Human Rights Defender's Office

AUSTRIA/AUTRICHE

Mr Ewald Filler
Ombudsman for Children and Youth
Federal Ministry of Family and Youth
Vienna

AZERBAIJAN/AZERBAÏDJAN

Ms Jeyran Arif Rahmatullayeva
Head of the Department on the Issues of the Regional Family
and Children Support Centers
State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs of Azerbaijan Republic (SCFWCA)

BELGIUM/BELGIQUE

Ms Christel de Craim
Attaché
Service for criminal policy-juvenile affairs
Federal Government - Ministry of Justice

Mr Joost van Haelst
Children's Rights Co-ordinator of the Flemish government
Department for Culture, Youth, Sports and Media
Division for Youth

Apologised / excusé

Mr Pierre-Yves Rosset
Juriste et formateur en droits de l'enfant
Observatoire de l'Enfance, de la Jeunesse et de l'Aide à la Jeunesse
French-speaking Community of Belgium

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA/ BOSNIE ET HERZÉGOVINE

Mr Elmedin Muratbegović
Associate Professor, Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies
University of Sarajevo

BULGARIA/BULGARIE

Ms Ofeliya Kaneva
Chairperson
State Agency for Child Protection

CROATIA/CROATIE

Ms Diana Topčić Rosenberg
Assistant Minister
Directorate for Social Policy, Strategy and Youth
Ministry of Social Policy and Youth of the Republic of Croatia

CYPRUS/CHYPRE

Ms Leda Koursoumba
Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights

CZECH REPUBLIC/RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Ms Petra Kalenská
Human Rights and Protection of Minorities Department
Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

DENMARK/DANEMARK

Ms Maria Schultz
Head of Section
Legal procedure and International affairs
Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior

ESTONIA/ESTONIE

Ms Elise Nikonov
Chief Specialist
Department of Children and Families
Ministry of Social Affairs

FINLAND/FINLANDE

Ms Annika Juurikko (Head of Delegation)
Senior Officer
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Ms Satu Sistonen
Legal Officer
Unit for Human Rights Courts and Conventions
Legal Service
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

FRANCE

Mr Alexis Rinckenbach
Chef du Bureau des affaires européennes et internationales
de la Direction Générale de la Cohésion sociale
Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Santé
Ministère des Droits des Femmes

GEORGIA/GÉORGIE

Ms Maka Peradze
Head of Project Management Division
International Relations Department
Ministry of Internal Affairs

Apologised / excusée

Ms Tamari Mtchedlidze
Chief Specialist
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International Relations Department
Ministry of Internal Affairs

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Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Ms Anna-Christina Seiferth
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Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Ms Jutta Croll
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Ministry of Human Capacities
Department for EU Affairs and International Organisations

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Ms Gudridur Bolladottir
Legal Advisor
Ministry of Welfare

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ITALY/ITALIE

Mr Pietro Franzina
Associate Professor of International Law, Ferra University
Representative of Ms Filomena Albano, Ombudsperson for the Rights of Children of Italy

Ms Cristiana Carletti
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experte sur les droits de l'homme et consultante au Comité interministériel sur les droits de l'homme

Ms Giorgia Dessi
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LATVIA/LETTONIE

Ms Līga Āboliņa,
Director of Children and Family Policy Department
Ministry of Welfare

LIECHTENSTEIN

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Ms Dainora Bernackienė
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Ministry of Social Security and Labour

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Ms Carmen Buttigieg
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Apologised / excusée

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Ministère du Travail, de la Solidarité et de la Sécurité Sociale

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Ms Gabriela Coman
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION/FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

Ms Olga Opanasenko
Expert
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Ms Sylvie Bollini
First Secretary
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Ms Ivana Banković
Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs

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Ms Janka Divincova
Director of Joint Secretariat of Committees
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Apologised / excusée

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Mr Pablo Moreno Martínez
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Ms Hélène Garrigues
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Federal Department of Justice and Police
Federal Office of Justice
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European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR) / Comité européen sur les droits sociaux (ECSR)

Mr François Vandamme
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European Social Cohesion Platform / Plateforme européenne de cohésion sociale (PECS)

Ms Petia Moeva
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Apologised / excusée

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Ms Marta Santos Pais
Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children

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United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography /
Rapporteuse spéciale des Nations Unies sur la vente d'enfants, la prostitution des enfants et la
pornographie mettant en scène des enfants

Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Special Rapporteur / Rapporteuse spéciale

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MOROCCO / MAROC

Mr Khalid Chrfi Alaoui
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Mr Benoît van Keirsbilck
Director / Président

Eurochild

Ms Mieke Schuurman
Expert

European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) / Réseau européen des médiateurs pour les enfants (ENOC)

Ms Polina Atanasova
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Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment Against Children

Ms Sharon Owen
Coordinator

Apologised / Excusé

**International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates / Association
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M. Daniel Pical
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Mr Hallvard GORSETH
Adviser / Conseiller

**Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees / Représentant
spécial du Secrétaire Général sur les migrations et les réfugiés**

Ambassador Tomáš BOČEK, Special Representative / Représentant spécial

Mr Stephanos STAVROS
Office of the Special Representative / Bureau du Représentant spécial

DGII – Directorate General of Democracy / Direction générale de la démocratie

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Children's Rights Division / Division des droits des enfants

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