

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 26 June 2014

DECS-ENF (2014) 1

**Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe Strategy
for the Rights of the Child (2016-2019)
(DECS-ENF)**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of reference of the Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe strategy for the rights of the child (2016-2019) (DECS-ENF)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods

Type of committee: Subordinate body

Terms of Reference valid from: **1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015**

Main tasks

Under the supervision of the European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS), the Committee on the Council of Europe strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2019 is entrusted with:

- (i) the preparation of a report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child 2012-2015;
- (ii) the draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child 2016-2019 to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption by 31 December 2015.
- (iii) building on the knowledge and experience of the Council of Europe Network of National Focal Points on the Rights of the Child;
- (iv) conducting a consultation with the Council of Europe member States, international organisations and partners, experts and NGOs working in the area of the rights of the child with the view of fostering synergies and complementarity.

Pillar/Sector/Programme

Pillar: Human Rights

Sector: Promoting Human Rights

Programme: Children's Rights

Expected results

- (i) Take stock of the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2012-2015).
- (ii) Undertake consultation to assess needs and opportunities in the field of children's rights and advise on action to be taken by the Council of Europe in this area.
- (iii) Agree on a draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2019) to be presented to the Committee of Ministers for adoption by 31 December 2015.

Composition

Members:

Governments of member States are invited to designate one or more representative of the highest possible rank, with wide expertise and high responsibilities in the field of children's rights.

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

The CDDECS will decide, according to a method that it will determine as the most appropriate, on 16 representatives whose travel and subsistence expenses will be borne by the Council of Europe. When deciding, the CDDECS will take account of the equitable geographic distribution amongst the member States and the gender equality dimension.

Participants :

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- European Committee of Social Rights;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- relevant Council of Europe intergovernmental committees;
- Conference of INGOs.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- European Union: one or more representatives, including the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), European Working Group on Children;
- Other international organisations including: United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR); World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (UN SRSG VAC), International Organisation of the Francophonie's (OIF), Council of the Baltic States (CBSS).

Observers:

The following (non-exhaustive list) may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- Belarus;
- Countries concerned with the Council of Europe policy towards neighbourhood regions;
- Eurochild;
- European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC);
- Children's Rights Information Network (CRIN);
- Inter-agency Panel on Juvenile justice (IPJJ);
- End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT international);
- Save the Children;
- SOS Children's Villages;
- Missing Children Europe;
- Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE);
- International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates;
- Other civil society and representatives of professional communities (to be determined).

Working methods

Meetings:

47 members of which 16 members' travel and subsistence expenses will be borne by the Council of Europe, 1 meeting in 2014, 2 days

47 members of which 16 members' travel and subsistence expenses will be borne by the Council of Europe, 2 meetings in 2015, 2 days

The Committee is an integral part of the Council of Europe Transversal Programme "Building a Europe for and with Children". With a view to fulfilling its main tasks, the Committee will maintain close links with other elements of the Transversal Programme, notably with the Network of National Focal Points on the Rights of the Child;

The Committee will also appoint a Gender Equality Rapporteur from amongst its members.

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.