

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 29 September 2016

CAHENF(2016)11

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

List of decisions

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

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

The CAHENF took note of the opening speech by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

The agenda and order of business were adopted.

3. Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

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

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

The CAHENF 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"

The CAHENF

- took note of the report of the High-level launching Conference of the Strategy on 4-5 April 2016 in Sofia, Bulgaria,

- 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

In a Tour de Table, members of the CAHENF 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.

CAHENF members considered this exchange fruitful, suggested to have similar exchanges at the subsequent meetings and agreed to share the submitted information with all participants of the Committee.

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

The CAHENF 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)

The CAHENF took note of a statement by Ms Kirsten Sandberg, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and had an exchange with her on possibilities for co-operation between the CAHENF and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

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

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

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

The CAHENF 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 CAHENF 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

The CAHENF took note of the presentation by Prof. Sonia Livingstone 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 CAHENF 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

The CAHENF took note of the intervention and held an exchange with Ambassador Tomáš Boček, the 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 CAHENF 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, interdisciplinary 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 CAHENF 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

The CAHENF 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 Bolladotir, Iceland, and 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

The CAHENF 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

The CAHENF 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

The CAHENF 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*
2. European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) – *Jean-Marie Bouverat*
3. European Social Cohesion Platform (PECS) – *Alexis Rinckenbach*
4. Ad hoc Committee of experts on Roma and Traveller issues (CAHROM) – *Petra Kalenská, Alexis Rinckenbach*
5. Ad-hoc Committee of experts on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CAH-DPH) – *Pietro Franzina*
6. Gender Equality Commission (GEC) – *Petra Kalenská, Kyrylo Dombrovskiy*
7. Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) – *Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou*
8. European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) – *Ms Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou*
9. Committee of experts on administrative detention of migrants (CJ-DAM) – *Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou*
10. Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP) - *Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou*

17. Calendar of events

The CAHENF took note of the calendar of events.

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

The CAHENF 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 CAHENF 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 CAHENF 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

No other business

20. Closing of the meeting