

Drafting Group of Experts on Children's Rights and Safeguards (CAHENF-Safeguards)

Role

In line with [Resolution CM/Res\(2011\)24](#), the Drafting Group of Experts on Children's Rights and Safeguards in the context of migration (CAHENF- Safeguards) is established to assist the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Rights of the Child (CAHENF) in its mandate related to the development of standards on legal guardianship and age assessment to provide appropriate safeguards to children in the context of migration.

Composition

The **CAHENF – Safeguards** is composed of Committee members from up to 16 member States, having a thorough knowledge of law, policy and practice in the field of children's rights, with established expertise on guardianship, age determination and migration aspects.

The Council of Europe budget will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of up to 8 experts for each working meeting in the period 2018-2019.

Participation is also open to 1 representative from participating organisations and institutions, as set out in the terms of reference of the CAHENF, as well as from selected European civil society organisations with established expertise on guardianship and children in migration policy issues, including the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC), the Platform for international co-operation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), Stichting Nidos (European Network for Guardianship Institutions), and Defence for Children International. Their participation shall be an advisory role and at the charge of their budget.

Specific Tasks

The CAHENF-Safeguards will support the work of the CAHENF and the implementation of the Children's Rights Strategy (2016-2021) by:

- a) Finalising the draft instrument on guardianship of children in the context of migration for approval by the CAHENF (March 2018) and transmission to and consideration by the Committee of Ministers (April-September 2018);
- b) Preparing and finalising the draft instrument on age assessment of children in the context of migration for approval by the CAHENF (October 2018) and transmission to and consideration by the Committee of Ministers (November-December 2018);
- c) Discussing and operationalizing the review of the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)9 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on life projects for unaccompanied migrant minors (by end 2019);
- d) referring any significant issues arising in the context of the drafting process to the CAHENF to consider policy implications, with proposed solutions if possible.

Working methods

The Drafting Group will hold four working meetings in Strasbourg in the period 2018-2019. It will also perform its functions and responsibilities on line between meetings.

It shall be assisted in its work by the Secretariat of the CAHENF, and within the limits of budgetary appropriations, by consultants with specific knowledge and expertise on

guardianship, age determination and migration aspects, at international level and in different member States, as well as on relevant case laws of the European Court of Human Rights.

CAHENF delegations' substantive input and comments would also be sought by electronic means, in between meetings and at appropriate stages, to enable the Drafting Group to deliver by 2018 proposed texts that would reflect the views of the membership. The CAHENF will take the final decisions on any changes of a substantive nature of the draft texts submitted by the Drafting Group.