



Building a Europe  
for and with children

Construire une Europe  
pour et avec les enfants

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Reykjavik, 29 March 2023

CDENF(2023)AR01

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## Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

Abridged report of the 7<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
(Reykjavik, 28-29 March 2023)

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### Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) held its seventh plenary meeting, hosted by the Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, in Reykjavik (Iceland) on 28-29 March 2023, with Rosário Farmhouse (Portugal) in the Chair.

The agenda of the meeting is contained in the Appendix. The full meeting report including the list of participants will be available on the CDENF website.<sup>1</sup>

At its plenary meeting, the CDENF

- **exchanged** on the CDENF workplan and on the proposed future priorities for 2024-2027, and **instructed** the Secretariat to revise the current workplan in view of the strategic decisions to be taken, notably at and following the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Reykjavik, May 16-17, 2023);
- **took note** and **exchanged** on the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the timeline and outline of the first implementation report of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022–2027) and the development of the questionnaire to gather data from member States for such report;
- **reviewed and adopted** its Opinion on PACE Recommendation 2244 (2023) – “Addressing the issue of Daesh foreign fighters and their families returning from Syria and other countries to the member States of the Council of Europe”;
- **re-elected**, by secret ballot, Rosário Farmhouse (Portugal), as its Chair for a second term of office of one year, beginning in July 2023; Ružica Boškić (Slovenia), as its Vice-Chair for a second term of office of one year, beginning in July 2023;
- **took note** of the relevant information and updates provided by the representatives of:

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<sup>1</sup> [www.coe.int/cdenf](http://www.coe.int/cdenf)

- the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division (on co-operation activities);
  - the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE);
  - the Committee of the Parties on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee);
  - the Coordinator for the Rights of the Child of the European Commission;
  - the Child Rights international Network (CRIN);
  - the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC).
- **took note** of the following dates for upcoming meetings:

CDENF

- **31 May/1 June 2023** (date and time tbc, online): Joint plenary session with the CDCJ
- **28 September 2023**: Launching event of the mapping study on Barnahus (online for CDENF members)
- **14-16 November 2023, Strasbourg**: 8<sup>th</sup> CDENF plenary meeting (joint session with CDCJ on 16<sup>th</sup> November)

CDENF Bureau

- 28/29 September 2023, Strasbourg, Bureau meeting

Subordinate bodies

- 16-17 May 2023, Strasbourg, First meeting of ENF-VAE
- 4-6 October 2023, Strasbourg, 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of CJ/ENF-ISE

**Strategic Objective 1: Freedom from violence for all children**

- **approved** the draft Recommendation containing Guidelines on strengthening reporting systems on violence against children;
- **adopted** the draft Explanatory Memorandum to the draft Recommendation;
- **instructed** the Secretariat to submit both texts to the Committee of Ministers for adoption of the draft Recommendation and taking note of its Explanatory Memorandum;
  
- **approved** the list of members proposed by its Bureau for its new subordinate body, the Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE);
  
- **held an exchange** with Najat Maalla M'jid, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children;

**Strategic Objective 2: Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children**

- **took note of** a first outline of a mapping study on children's access to quality mental health care;
- **examined and approved** the draft questionnaire to gather relevant information from member States, subject to last specifications to be inserted by the Secretariat as appropriate;
- **instructed** the Secretariat to circulate the questionnaire among CDENF Delegations for replies **by 2 June 2023**;

**Strategic Objective 3: Access to and safe use of technologies for all children**

- **took note** of the information provided by the Secretariat on progress achieved with regard to the preparation of a Report on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence;
- **instructed** the Secretariat to prepare a questionnaire to gather relevant information from member States, to be revised by its Bureau before being circulated among Delegations;

**Strategic Objective 4: Child-friendly justice for all children**

- **took note** of the information provided by the Secretariat on the follow-up given by the Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE) to the joint guidance issued by the CDENF and the European Committee for Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), notably by developing a draft Recommendation on the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings, in view of its approval by the CDENF and the CDCJ at

- a joint plenary session on 16 November 2023, and a second draft Recommendation on care proceedings to be finalised in 2024, subject to extension of the mandate of CJ/ENF-ISE;
- **took note** of the dates of a written consultation of CDENF, CDCJ and selected stakeholders foreseen from May to June 2023;
- **welcomed** that an invitation would be extended to CDENF members to join online the upcoming CDCJ plenary session dedicated to the examination of the draft Recommendation on parental separation proceedings;
- **took note** of and **welcomed** the promotional video of *Barnahus* as a model of child-friendly justice, produced with the support of the Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers;
- **took note** of the information provided by the Secretariat on the finalisation of a mapping study on the implementation and development of *Barnahus* structures in Europe and its planned launch through a hybrid event in Strasbourg on 28 September 2023;

#### **Strategic Objective 5: Giving a voice to every child**

- **appreciated** the progress achieved by the joint drafting group BIO/ENF-CP towards a Guide of good practice concerning the participation of children in the decision-making processes on matters regarding their health;
- **took note** of and **commented on** the draft guide in view of providing guidance towards its finalisation;
- **agreed** to send additional comments on the text, together with relevant examples of promising practices, in writing **by 28 April 2023**;
- **took note** of and **exchanged on** the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the methodology and timeline for the preparation of a Report on children as defenders of human rights and **agreed** to send outstanding replies to the relevant questionnaire **by 11 April 2023**;
- **examined** a first outline of the draft Report;

#### **Strategic Objective 6: Children's rights in crisis and emergency situations**

- **took note** of an intervention by and **exchanged** with Leyla Kayacik, Council of Europe Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees;
- **agreed** on the specific methodology proposed for conducting the review of the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration;
- **examined** the first outline of the report;
- **approved** the draft questionnaire for collecting relevant data from member States subject to last comments accompanied by concrete drafting proposals to be submitted to the Secretariat **by 11 April 2023**;
- **reviewed** and **approved** a **draft Declaration on the Situation of Children of Ukraine affected by the Russian Federation's continued aggression against Ukraine** and **instructed** the Secretariat to submit the finalised draft to the Committee of Ministers;
- **acknowledged** the proposal from the Ukrainian delegation to set up an *ad hoc* co-ordination mechanism of national child protection authorities which was taken into account in the preparation of the above mentioned draft Declaration;
- **adopted** this abridged report at the end of the meeting.

AppendixAgenda

<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Adoption of the agenda and order of business</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Statement of the Chair and Secretariat</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Review of progress</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022–2027)</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Strategic Objective 1: Freedom from violence for all children</b>
5.1.1	Draft Recommendation containing Guidelines on Strengthening reporting systems on violence against children and its draft Explanatory Memorandum (CDENF-GT-VAE)
5.1.2	Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE)
5.1.3	Exchange with Najat Maalla M'jid, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Strategic Objective 2: Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children</b>
	Mapping study on children's access to quality mental health care
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Strategic Objective 3: Access to and safe use of technologies for all children</b>
	Report on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Strategic Objective 4: Child-friendly justice for all children</b>
5.4.1	Draft Recommendations on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (Committee of Experts CJ/ENF-ISE)
5.4.2	Mapping study on the implementation and development of Barnahus structures in Europe
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Strategic Objective 5: Giving a voice to every child</b>
5.5.1	Guide of good practice concerning the participation of children in the decision-making processes on matters regarding their health (drafting group BIO/ENF-CP)
5.5.2	Report on children as defenders of human rights
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Strategic Objective 6: Children's rights in crisis and emergency situations</b>
5.6.1	Implementation review report on Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration
5.6.2	Draft Declaration on the situation of children of Ukraine affected by the Russian Federation's continued aggression against Ukraine

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- 6. Co-operation with relevant Council of Europe bodies and other organisations**

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  - 7. Opinions requested by the Committee of Ministers**

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  - 8. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair**  
*- for terms of office from July 2023 to July 2024 -*

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  - 9. Any other business**

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  - 10. Date and place of next meeting**

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  - 11. Approval of the abridged meeting report**

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*The detailed agenda and order of business is available at: [www.coe.int/cdenf](http://www.coe.int/cdenf)*