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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 4 August 2023

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Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

**Plenary Session dedicated to the follow-up to the declaration on the
situation of children of Ukraine
Meeting Report**

Online, 20 June 2023

Prepared by the Children's Rights Division

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Draft Meeting Report

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) held a Plenary Session in an online format on 20 June 2023, with Rosário Farmhouse (Portugal) in the Chair.

2. The Chair welcomed all members, participants and observers to the meeting, which was dedicated to the follow-up to the Declaration on the situation of children of Ukraine adopted at the Fourth Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government (Reykjavik, 16-17 May 2023) as Appendix II of the Reykjavik Declaration, and warmly thanked them for their ready availability to join an ad-hoc plenary session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

3. The CDENF adopted its agenda as it appears in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.

3. Statement of the Chair and Secretariat

4. The CDENF took note of the information provided by Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of Anti-Discrimination, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, regarding the proposed steps to follow up on the Declaration on the situation of children of Ukraine, in particular the setting up of a Consultative Group of Children of Ukraine (CGU). The aim of the CGU would be to facilitate the exchange of information and serve as a platform for discussing policies regarding Ukrainian children residing in other Council of Europe member States. Set up as a co-operation project in the framework of the Council of Europe's Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" (2023-2026), and not as a subordinate group of the CDENF, the CGU would however be supported by the CDENF in its work, and it would also allow for the co-operation with other Council of Europe bodies as well as international actors.

5. The CDENF took note of the address by Nazar Tanasyshyn, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine, who welcomed the decision to set up the CGU and informed the Committee on topics which would be important, from the point of view of Ukrainian authorities, to be addressed in the context of the upcoming work, including access to information and practices related to Ukrainian children living in Council of Europe member States, support for caregivers, foster families, and children, ensuring quality reception and care for children from Ukrainian institutions, including children with disabilities, and gaining better understanding of the different child protection approaches in Council of Europe member States.

4. Preparations towards setting up a Consultation Group on Children of Ukraine (CGU)

6. The CDENF took note of the information provided by Leyla Kayacik, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, and welcomed the willingness of the Network of Focal Points on Migration to provide relevant information for the attention of the CGU. In her presentation, the Special Representative referred to the main recurring challenges she had encountered during her fact-finding visits and which had been reported by the Focal Points, including the lack of proper training of guardians, different understandings of the role of a guardian, issues arising in the context of the relocation of large groups of children coming from institutions, access to education and healthcare, as well as providing children with psychological support to overcome trauma.

7. The CDENF took note of the information document "Towards setting up a Consultation Group on Children of Ukraine (CGU)", and agreed with the methods and modalities outlined therein, and confirmed its readiness to follow and to provide support to the work of the CGU.

8. Delegations held an exchange of views and made proposals on topics related to the protection of children of Ukraine where multilateral exchange would be most useful, including existing legal

frameworks, access to services in member States (education, healthcare, etc.), as well as advising on the reform of the Ukrainian child protection and care system. The importance of having other relevant European and International Organisations participating in the CGU, to exchange information and ensure complementarity of actions, was emphasised. Delegations also proposed to involve children of Ukraine in the work of the CGU.

9. The representative of the European Commission welcomed the establishment of the CGU. He highlighted the potential for the Group to serve, in particular, as a forum for coordinated exchange with Ukraine, notably on applicable legal and policy frameworks, to guide, advise and monitor progress of Ukraine's deinstitutionalisation reform, as well as to engage in stocktaking of essential services to children of Ukraine provided in the Member states.

10. The CDENF agreed that its members would facilitate the designation of the national experts to the CGU in respect of their states and that the Secretariat would contact them to this end. Regarding the specific profile of CGU participants, the CDENF agreed that every member State hosting children coming from Ukraine should appoint at least one participant to the CGU, who could be accompanied by other experts depending on the specific topic to be discussed at each meeting. The members should be Government experts, or be nominated on behalf of the Government, have a good overview and understanding of the national child protection and child rights legislation, institutions and services relevant to the children from Ukraine residing within their national jurisdiction, should be in position to consult and coordinate the relevant national institutions, organisations and services on thematic issues that may be discussed in the context of the thematic focus of the CGU, and have a good level of English. The CDENF proposed that Observers to the Council of Europe and civil society organisations could also take part in CGU meetings.

11. The CDENF instructed the Secretariat to consult with the Bureau as needed on the further steps in the setting up and operation of the CGU and to report on progress at its forthcoming meeting, as well as to keep the Committee of Ministers informed of developments regarding the CGU.

5. Opinions requested by the Committee of Ministers

12. The CDENF took note that the CDENF Opinion on PACE Recommendation 2253(2023) on "Deportations and forcible transfers of Ukrainian children and other civilians to Russian Federation or to Ukrainian territories temporarily occupied: create conditions for their safe return, stop these crimes and punish the perpetrators", as adopted by the CDENF in written procedure, had been submitted to the Committee of Ministers.

6. Any other business

13. Marie-Cécile Rouillon, European Commission Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, updated the CDENF about the launch of the EU Children's participation platform and of its website (<https://eu-for-children.europa.eu/>) as well as about the preparations towards a Commission initiative on child protection (open public consultations and call for evidence to be launched in mid-July).

14. The CDENF agreed to carry out targeted child consultations in selected member States in the framework of the implementation review of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on Effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration and instructed the Secretariat to launch a call for expression of interest among national Delegations.

15. The CDENF agreed to an extension of the deadline for the online questionnaire on the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on Effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in migration until 29 September 2023.

16. The CDENF entrusted its Bureau to review the questionnaire on the Rights of the Child and Artificial Intelligence in view of its circulation to the CDENF for replies by the end of August 2023.

7. Date and place of next meeting

17. The CDENF took note of the following dates of the upcoming meetings:
- **28 September 2023, morning:** Launching event of the mapping study on Barnahus (online for CDENF members together with the Lanzarote Committee members);
 - **14-16 November 2023, Strasbourg:** 8th CDENF plenary meeting (joint session with CDCJ on 16th November);

CDENF Bureau

- 28-29 September 2023, Strasbourg: Bureau meeting

Subordinate bodies

- 4-6 October 2023, Strasbourg: 8th meeting of CJ/ENF-ISE
- 11-12 October 2023, Strasbourg: 2nd meeting of ENF-VAE

11. Approval of the abridged meeting report

18. The CDENF adopted the abridged report of the meeting at the end of the meeting.

Appendix I**Agenda**

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| 1. | Opening of the meeting |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda and order of business |
| 3. | Statement of the Chair and Secretariat |
| 4. | Preparations towards setting up a Consultation Group on Children of Ukraine (CGU) |
| 5. | Opinion(s) requested by the Committee of Ministers |
| 6. | Any other business |
| 7. | Date and place of next meeting |
| 8. | Approval of the abridged meeting report |

Appendix II
List of participants

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

ALBANIA / ALBANIE	
ANDORRA / ANDORRE	Ambassadeur Joan Forner Rovira Représentant Permanent de la Principauté d'Andorre auprès du Conseil de l'Europe
ARMENIA / ARMENIE	Anahit Khachatryan Head of Children's Rights Protection Unit Human Rights Defender's office of Armenia
AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE	Alina Seel Head of Department Directorate General VI – Family and Youth Department VI/6 - Family Law and Children's Rights Austrian Federal Chancellery
AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN	
BELGIUM / BELGIQUE	Joost Van Haelst Policy officer for the rights of the child, Flemish Department for Culture, Youth and Media Valérie Gengoux SPF Justice Direction Générale Législation, Droits fondamentaux et Libertés Service de la Politique Criminelle
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE ET HERZÉGOVINE	
BULGARIA / BULGARIE	Teodora Ivanova Chairperson of the State Agency for Child Protection Milena Anastasova Senior expert State agency for Child Protection Dimitar Kolev Senior expert Directorate "Policies and Programs for the Child, Strategic Development and Coordination" State Agency for Child Protection
CROATIA / CROATIE	
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	
CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE	
DENMARK / DANEMARK	Oscar Hermund Olsen Legal and International Relations Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizens Emma Ziegler Steen Legal Officer Permanent Representation of Denmark to the Council of Europe
ESTONIA / ESTONIE	

FINLAND / FINLANDE	
FRANCE	Ombeline Lesselier Chargée de mission Secrétariat d'Etat chargé de l'enfance
GEORGIA / GÉORGIE	
GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE	Alina Koppe Legal advisor Department Rights of the child national and international Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Tanja Florath EU Unit Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
GREECE / GRÈCE	Panagiota Margaroni Official Department of relations with international organisations Directorate of International relations Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
HUNGARY / HONGRIE	
ICELAND / ISLANDE	
IRELAND / IRLANDE	Allayne Cassidy Administrative Officer Department of Children, Equality, Integration and Youth Bridget Wilson Department of Children, Equality, Integration and Youth
ITALY / ITALIE	Alfredo Ferrante Head of Unit Family Policies Department – International Relations Prime Minister's Office
LATVIA / LETTONIE	
LIECHTENSTEIN	
LITHUANIA / LITUANIE	
LUXEMBOURG	Roberta Spoto Attachée juridique Représentation permanente du Luxembourg auprès du Conseil de l'Europe
MALTA / MALTE	Jonathan Silvio Director (Policy Development and Programme Implementation) Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA	
MONACO	

MONTENEGRO	
NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS	<p>Dona Walstra Policy maker Directorate of Ukrainian displaced persons Ministry of Safety and Justice</p> <p>Siobhan Kuin Taskforce Russia-Ukraine Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Laura van Hoof</p>
NORTH MACEDONIA / MACEDOINE DU NORD	
NORWAY / NORVEGE	<p>Solvor Bäcklund Senior Adviser Department of upbringing Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs</p>
POLAND / POLOGNE	<p>Magdalena Witkowska Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Demographic Policy Ministry of Family and Social Policy of Poland</p> <p>Joanne Kocot Bureau of the Government Plenipotentiary for Demographic Policy Ministry of Family and Social Policy of Poland</p>
PORTUGAL	<p>Rosário Farmhouse (CDENF Chair) President of the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children and Young People</p> <p>Célia Chamiça Senior Officer National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children and Young People</p>
ROMANIA / ROUMANIE	
SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN	
SERBIA / SERBIE	
SLOVAK REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE	
SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE	<p>Ružica Boškić Secretary Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities</p>
SPAIN / ESPAGNE	
SWEDEN / SUEDE	
SWITZERLAND / SUISSE	<p>Jean-Marie Bouverat Affaires internationales Secteur Organisations internationales Office fédéral des assurances sociales</p>

	Ulrike Dobretsberger State Secretariat for Migration
TÜRKİYE	Ömur Göktürk Expert on Family and Social Affairs Ministry of Family and Social Services Rumeysa Ceylan Ministry of Family and Social Services
UKRAINE	Nazar Tanasyshyn Deputy Minister of Social Policy Alla Perfetska State Expert of the Expert Group on Support for Vulnerable Populations of the Directorate for Digital Development and Social Services Ministry of Social Policy
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI	Mark Gorey Deputy to the Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

CoE Observers / Observateurs CdE

MEXICO / Mexique	José Alfonso Suarez del Real y Aguilera Observateur Permanent du Mexique auprès du Conseil de l'Europe
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INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS / ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

European Commission / Commission européenne	Marie-Cécile Rouillon Commission Coordinator for the Rights of the Child Isabela Atanasiu Legal Adviser Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG-Home) Ulrike Dobretsberger Policy Officer Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG-Home) Alexander Ivantchev International Relations Officer Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG-Just) Nilde Robotti Vulnerability Officer European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) Virginie Arslan Policy Officer Ukraine Division European External Action Service (EEAS)
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)	Monica Gutierrez Arques Child rights expertp Migration and Asylum Justice, Digital and Migration Unit
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) / Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés (HCR)	Angela Moore Senior Community-Based Protection Coordinator, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe Delphine Leneutre

	<p>Legal Associate / <i>Associée juridique</i> UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg</p> <p>Nabil Benbekhti Senior Legal Officer UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe</p> <p>Valentin Mengus Legal Intern – UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg</p>
UNICEF	<p>Ina Verzivoli Child Protection Specialist Europe and Central Asia Regional Office</p>

OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS

EUROCHILD	<p>Mieke Schuurman Director Child Rights & Capacity Building</p>
Missing Children Europe	<p>Alyona Samar Project Officer</p>
Hope for Children – CRC Policy Center	<p>Katerina Melissari Coordinator of the Child Protection Department</p>

ORGANS AND COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ORGANES ET COMITES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

<p>Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and refugees / <i>Représentante spéciale de la Secrétaire Générale sur les migrations et les réfugiés</i></p>	<p>Leyla Kayacik Special Representative / <i>Représentante Spéciale</i></p>
<p>Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) / <i>Comité d'experts sur les questions relatives aux Roms et aux Gens du voyage (ADI-ROM)</i></p>	<p>Malgorzata Milewska ADI-ROM Rapporteur on Children</p>

SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT

<p>Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / <i>Secrétariat de l'Assemblée parlementaire</i></p>	<p>Jannick Devaux Secretary of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development / <i>Secrétaire à la Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable</i></p>
<p>Secretariat of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities / <i>Secrétariat du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux</i></p>	<p>Maren Lambrecht-Feigl Secretary of the Current Affairs Committee / <i>Secrétaire de la Commission des questions d'actualité</i></p>
<p>Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights / <i>Bureau de la Commissaire aux droits de l'homme</i></p>	<p>Charlotte Altenhoener-Dion Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i></p>
<p>DGI – Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law / <i>Direction General droits humains et Etat de droit</i></p>	<p>Olga Kostenko Justice and Human Rights Training / <i>Justice et formation droits humains</i></p>

	<p>Nelea Bugaevski Cooperation and Communication / <i>Coopération et Communication</i></p> <p>Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and refugees / <i>Bureau de la Représentante spéciale de la Secrétaire Générale sur les migrations et les réfugiés</i></p> <p>Sylvie Bollini Senior Adviser / <i>Conseillère principale</i></p> <p>Anne Kayser Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i></p>
DGII – Directorate General of Democracy / <i>Direction générale de la Démocratie</i>	<p>Directorate of Anti-Discrimination / <i>Direction de l'anti-discrimination</i></p> <p>Jeroen Schokkenbroek Director / <i>Directeur</i></p> <p>Gisella Gori Advisor on Strategy and Work Co-ordination / <i>Conseillère en stratégie et coordination des activités</i></p> <p>Children's Rights and Sport Values Department / <i>Service des droits des enfants et des valeurs du sport</i></p> <p>Irena Guidikova Head of Department / <i>Cheffe de service</i></p> <p>Secretariat to the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child / <i>Secrétariat du Comité Directeur pour les droits de l'enfant</i></p> <p>Regina Jensdottir Children's Rights Co-ordinator, Head of the Children's Rights Division / <i>Coordinatrice des droits des enfants, Cheffe de la Division des droits des enfants</i></p> <p>Katrin Uerpmann Secretary to the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child / <i>Secrétaire du Comité Directeur pour les droits de l'enfant</i></p> <p>Gioia Scappucci Executive Secretary to the Lanzarote Committee / <i>Secrétaire exécutive du Comité de Lanzarote</i></p> <p>Zeynep Usal-Kanzler Co-Secretary to the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child / <i>Co-secrétaire du Comité Directeur pour les droits de l'enfant</i> Programme Officer / <i>Responsable de programme</i></p> <p>Naomi Trewinnard Legal Adviser / <i>Conseillère juridique</i></p> <p>Zarahi Gasparyan Head of Cooperation Unit a.i. / <i>Cheffe de l'unité coopération a.i.</i></p>

	Maria Asensio-Velasco Assistant Lawyer / <i>Juriste assistante</i> Valérie Giret-Lerch Assistant / <i>Assistante</i>
Interpreters / Interprètes	Katia Di Stefano Clarissa Worsdale