



Building a Europe  
for and with children

Construire une Europe  
pour et avec les enfants

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 5 December 2024  
CDENF(2024)AR02

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

Abridged report of the 10<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 3-5 December 2024)

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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 10<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in Strasbourg (France) on 3-5 December 2024, with Ružica Boškić (Slovenia) in the Chair. On 3 December 2024, the CDENF held a joint session with the European Committee for Legal Cooperation (CDCJ) in a hybrid format.

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>

### List of items for decision by the Committee of Ministers

At the joint session with the CDCJ, the CDENF:

- **examined and approved**, by consensus, the draft Recommendation on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in care proceedings and examined and adopted its draft explanatory memorandum, and the CDCJ did the same;
- **examined and adopted** the draft implementation tools for policy makers on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings and in care proceedings, and the CDCJ did the same;
- **instructed** the Secretariat to transmit to the Committee of Ministers, for adoption:
  - o the **draft recommendation CM/Rec on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings** that the two steering committees approved in November 2023; and
  - o the **draft recommendation CM/Rec on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in care proceedings**;
- **instructed** the Secretariat to transmit to the Committee of Ministers for information:
  - o the **explanatory Memoranda** to the two above Recommendations;
  - o the **draft implementation tools** for policy makers on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings and in care proceedings.

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

The CDENF:

- examined and adopted **the implementation review reports** of the following Recommendations, subject to last editorial changes, to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for information:
  - o Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration;
  - o Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10 on Council of Europe policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence.

### List of items for information of the Committee of Ministers

The CDENF:

- **held an annual exchange of views to evaluate its activities,**
- **welcomed**
  - o the approval, jointly with the CDCJ, of the draft Recommendation on the Rights of the Child in care proceedings, along with first implementation tools on parental separation and on care proceedings;
  - o the adoption of the implementation review reports on Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration and on Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10 on Council of Europe policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence;
- **agreed** to propose to the Committee of Ministers, as a follow up to the implementation review of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10 on Council of Europe policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence, to consider the update of the policy guidelines in the light of developments during the last fifteen years since the Guidelines were adopted, as well as shortcomings identified in the report. Such a revision could be considered under the CDENF's next terms of reference;
- **considered** that proposals for further action could be formulated based on the outcome of the mid-term review of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027);
- **took note** of and **approved** its updated workplan;
- **took note** of the information provided on the progress of preparations towards the midterm review Conference of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022–2027) to be organised in Strasbourg on 3-4 April 2025 under the auspices of the Presidency of Luxembourg to the Committee of Ministers;
- **examined and reviewed** a Thematic Guidance Note on “Safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content”; expressed its overall satisfaction with the content of the draft, instructed the Secretariat to integrate eventual last comments submitted by 15 January 2025 and to circulate the finalised text for adoption in written proceedings and proceed with the publication of the note;
- **took note** of the information presented by Maria Vargova (Slovakia), Chair of the Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE), on the progress of work of ENF-VAE, and welcomed the progress achieved;
- **instructed** the Secretariat to launch a call among national delegations for the proposal of an expert to fill the vacancy in the Committee of Experts ENF-VAE and entrusted the Bureau to preselect the new member among the candidates for CDENF approval in written proceedings;
- **took note** of a presentation and of an information report on Progress and delay in achieving universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in Council of Europe member States, and held an exchange on the issue;
- **took note** of a presentation of the preliminary elements of a draft Recommendation on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for inter-alia preventing and combating violence against children;
- **took note** of a presentation on the state of play of the child consultations on comprehensive sexuality education;

- **took note** of the update of the study on the Prevention of sexual violence and harmful or risky behaviour by children and of its publication.
- **took note** of a presentation of the new methodology for the risk and impact assessment of artificial intelligence systems from the point of view of Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (HUDERIA) adopted by the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI);
- **took note** of a presentation on relevant initiatives in the area of Digital transformation carried out by the Education Department of the Council of Europe;
- **examined and approved** a concept note for future action in view of the feasibility, timeliness and pertinence of elaborating a Child rights impact assessment tool on artificial intelligence;
- **agreed** that such tool should take the form of a (non-binding) tool (“CRIA +”) as described in the concept note, and contain the main elements described therein;
- **instructed** the Secretariat to take steps, with the support of consultants, towards the preparation of such tool, to be presented to the CDENF for adoption by the end of 2025;
- **confirmed** the list of eight expert members proposed by national Delegations to constitute its subordinate body, the Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency services (ENF-JUS) and instructed the Secretariat to take the next steps to initiate the work of ENF-JUS, in accordance with its terms of reference;
- **took note of** the information provided by the Secretariat on first steps undertaken towards the Thematic review of the Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly justice, notably in the form of the preparation of a report covering international and European law developments and case-law analysis with regard to child-friendly justice, to be presented to the CDENF in April 2025;
- **endorsed the proposals** contained in the discussion paper on children’s rights and the environment prepared by its Bureau;
- **examined** the preliminary draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment, welcomed the child-rights perspective contained in the text, and proposed some textual additions and amendments to further strengthen the text in this respect;
- **instructed** the Secretariat to share the proposals with the Ad hoc multidisciplinary group on the environment (GME) in view of the finalisation of this important document;
- **instructed** the Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Bureau, to follow up on relevant transversal activities in the Council of Europe, notably in the areas of technologies and the environment, and considered designating reference persons from among its members for specific areas at one of its upcoming meetings;
- **took note** of the information and updates provided by other Council of Europe sectors, participants and observers;
- **took note** of the following dates of upcoming meetings:
  - CDENF Plenary meeting
    - o 11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting: Strasbourg, 1-2 April 2025;
    - o Mid-term review Conference: Strasbourg, 3-4 April 2025;
    - o 12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting: Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2025 (tbc).
  - CDENF Bureau meeting
    - o Strasbourg 4-5 February 2025 (*online*);
- **adopted** this abridged report at the end of the meeting.

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**Resource implications**

The financing of the activities in this report are assured. The CDENF expressed thanks to national delegations that have provided extra budgetary resources to the Programme “Building a Europe for and with Children” and expressed their thanks to the Luxembourgish delegation for their support and the hosting of the mid-term review Conference (3-4 April 2025).

## Appendix

### Agenda

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1. **Opening of the meeting**

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  2. **Adoption of the agenda and order of business**

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  3. **Statement of the Chair and Secretariat**

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  4. **Review of progress** (updated workplan)

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  5. **Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022 – 2027)**  
*Main deliverable 8 and main task (iii)*

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

##### **5.1.1 Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE)**

- a. Implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10 on Council of Europe policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence  
*Main deliverable 5 and main task (ix)*
- b. Progress and delay in achieving universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in Council of Europe member states (information report prepared by WHO End Corporal Punishment)
- c. Recommendation on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for inter-alia preventing and combating violence against children  
*Main deliverable 9*
- d. Guidance on the Prevention of sexual violence and harmful or risky behaviour by children  
*Main deliverable 14*

##### **5.1.2 Thematic guidance note: Safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content**

*Main deliverable 17 and main task (v)*

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

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

- 5.3.1 Draft Concept note for future CDENF action in view of the feasibility, timeliness and pertinence of elaborating a Child rights impact assessment tool on artificial intelligence  
*Main deliverable 7*

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

- 5.4.1 **Committee of Experts on the rights and best interests of the child in the context of parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE, jointly with the European Committee for legal cooperation (CDCJ)**

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- a. Draft Recommendation on the protection of the rights and the best interests of the child in care proceedings and its draft Explanatory Memorandum
  - b. Implementation tool(s) on the protection of the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings  
*Main deliverables 1 and 2 and main task (xi)*
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#### **5.4.2 Thematic review of the Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly justice**

*Main deliverable 13*

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#### **5.4.3 Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and Interagency services (ENF-JUS)**

*Main deliverable 12*

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

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- a. Implementation review of Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)2 on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18  
*Main deliverable 10*
  - b. Guidelines for developing a national children's participation Strategy  
*Main deliverable 11*
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### **5.6 Strategic Objective 6: Children's rights in crisis and emergency situations**

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#### **5.6.1 Implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration**

*Main deliverable 3 and main task (ix)*

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#### **5.6.2 Children's Rights and the Environment**

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#### **6. Transversal issues:**

- a. Mainstreaming of gender, youth, rights of persons with disabilities and of Roma and Traveller issues  
*main task (xvii)*
  - b. Contribution to the UNSDGs  
*main task(xx)*
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#### **7. Opinions requested by the Committee of Ministers**

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#### **8. Co-operation with other relevant Council of Europe bodies and committees and other institutions and observers**

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#### **9. Evaluation of completed activities / Annual exchange of views to evaluate its activities and to advise the Committee of Ministers on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued (main task xvi)**

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#### **10. Appointments**

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#### **11. Any other business**

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#### **12. Date and place of next meeting**

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#### **13. Approval of the abridged meeting report**

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