



Building a Europe  
for and with children  
Construire une Europe  
pour et avec les enfants



CDENF/Bu(2020)PV3  
21 October 2020

## **Third meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)**

**20 October 2020**

### **Meeting report**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

1. The Bureau of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child held its third meeting on 20 October 2020. The meeting was held via videoconference, as provided for in its terms of reference.
2. The CDENF Chair, Ms Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou (Greece), opened the meeting and welcomed the other Bureau members. The draft agenda was adopted as it appears in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.

#### **2. Statement by the Chair**

3. The Chair informed the Bureau members about the Secretary General letter dated 29 addressed to the chairs of intergovernmental committees seeking input on the Council of Europe's four-year strategic framework main features in the CDENF's field of action and the elements of her response, which were shared with the Committee.

#### **3. Draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)**

4. The Bureau heard an update by the Secretariat on the state of play of the preparatory phase of the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), the actions implemented to date and the processes ahead ([CDENF\(2020\)17rev](#) – Work programme and timetable).
5. Ms. Regína Jensdóttir, Children's Rights Coordinator of the Council of Europe and Head of the Children's Rights Division, informed the Bureau of recent developments at the European Union level, such as the adoption of sectoral strategies and a planned EU strategy for the rights of the child, the contribution of the Council of Europe to the 2020 EU Forum for the Rights of the Child, and areas of synergy and cooperation. The Bureau noted that the

aspects under consideration at the EU level were in convergence with the current priorities of the Council of Europe's Strategy for the rights of the child (2016-2021).

6. The Bureau held a first exchange of views on the strategic focus and possible activities which could be prioritised in the framework of the upcoming Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027). The discussion revolved around the need for further actions in the areas of health (particularly mental health), artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, education (particularly comprehensive sexuality education) and for strengthening the cooperation with the European Court of Human Rights to support the implementation of the convention in the area of the rights of the child, including by considering trends, general principles stemming, from its case law and available tools.

7. The Bureau also discussed how to promote synergies and coordination with the EU in the preparation of their strategic priorities, so that the EU future work could continue building on Council of Europe standards.

#### **4. Second plenary meeting of the CDENF (16-18 November 2020)**

8. The Bureau discussed the aspects which should be prioritised for examination at the upcoming plenary meeting, the organisation of elections to fill in the vacant position of vice-chair and processes for adoption of documents which require preliminary consultations. The Bureau underlined the need for member states to provide written comments in advance, and that discussions of draft texts should focus on the issues and comments communicated prior to the meeting to all delegations.

##### **4.1 Draft Declaration on Privacy and children's rights in the digital environment**

9. The Bureau examined a first draft text of a declaration which could be submitted for joint approval by the CDENF and the Data protection consultative committee (T-PD) and instructed the secretariat to circulate to text to all delegations with an invitation for provision of comments before the plenary meeting.

##### **4.2. Preparation of a draft opinion for the attention of the Committee of Ministers on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2169 (2020) on International obligations concerning the repatriation of children from war and conflict zones**

10. The Bureau examined a draft opinion and instructed the secretariat to circulate it to all member states for approval through a written procedure, so that it can be communicated to the Committee of Ministers in due time.

11. The Bureau was informed that the planned international conference on the roles of women and children in terrorism, initially planned on 3-4 December, had recently been postponed to 2021 and considered that in order for the CDENF to make progress, in line with its mandate, work could be initiated with a first exchanges of views among CDENF members at its next plenary meeting.

#### **5. Work of the subordinate committee of experts and working group**

##### **5.1. CJ/ENF-ISE**

12. The Secretariat informed the bureau that the [report](#) of the meeting held jointly by the CDENF and CDCJ Bureaux was published.

13. The Bureau took note of the postponement of the UNCRC's general day of discussion on "[children's rights and alternative care](#)" and considered that the CDENF should actively contribute, including through the deliverables of the CJ/ENF-ISE. The Bureau instructed the secretariat to prepare a concept paper with options to be explored by the CDENF and priority issues to be addressed, which could serve as a useful reference document both for the UNCRC general discussion and for the next Strategy for the Rights of the Child.

#### **5.2 Working Group on responses to violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE)**

14. The Bureau was informed of the successful organisation of the second online meeting of the Working Group and issues discussed under the four main items (reporting mechanisms, harmful sexual behaviour by children, contribution on priority areas for the new Strategy, and proposals for thematic webinars). The Secretariat informed that the meeting report was being finalised and would be soon publicly available.

#### **6. Expressions of interest to become an observer to CDENF and its subordinate body**

15. The Bureau took note that a hearing by the Chairs of the CDCJ and CDENF and the chair of the CJ/ENF-ISE with Missing Children Europe would be held in the afternoon of 20 October.

16. The Bureau was informed of the European Guardianship Network's interest to contribute to the work of the CDENF as an observer to CDENF or upon invitation on an ad hoc basis and agreed to discuss this upon receipt of additional information with respect to the Network's activities.

#### **7. Upcoming events**

17. The Bureau took note of the upcoming events which may be of interest for CDENF members:

- This year's theme of the European day on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (18 November) focuses on "Preventing risky behaviour by children: child self-generated sexual images and/or videos".
- an online webinar organised in the context of the EndOCSEA@Europe project on "Educational measures to prevent risks associated with child self-generated sexual images/videos" (12 November).

#### **8. Date of the next Bureau meeting**

18. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting by videoconference in January 2021.

#### **9. Any other business**

## **APPENDIX I – Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Update by the Chair
3. Draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)
4. Second plenary meeting of the CDENF (16-18 November 2020)
  - 4.1 Draft Declaration on privacy and children's rights in the digital environment
  - 4.2 Preparation of a draft opinion for the attention of the Committee of Ministers on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2169 (2020) on International obligations concerning the repatriation of children from war and conflict zones
5. Work of the subordinate committee of experts and working group
  - 5.1 CJ/ENF-ISE
  - 5.2 Working Group on responses to violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE)
6. Expressions of interest to become an observer to CDENF and its subordinate body
7. Upcoming events
8. Date of the next Bureau meeting
9. Any other business

## **APPENDIX II - List of participants**

### **BUREAU MEMBERS**

Ms Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou (Chair)  
Attorney at Law, Supreme Court of Greece

Ms Ružica Boškić - (*apologised*)  
Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia

Mr Matthew Vella  
Chief Executive Officer, Social Care Standards Authority, Malta

Ms Hanna Vseviõv  
Head of Department, Children and Families Department Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia

### **DGII – Directorate General of Democracy**

Ms Regina Jensdottir  
Children's Rights Co-ordinator, Head of the Children's Rights Division

Ms Livia Stoica Becht  
Secretary to the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child  
Programme Officer / Responsable de programme

Ms Maren Lambrecht-Feigl  
Co-Secretary to the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child  
Programme Officer / Responsable de programme

Ms María Asensio Velasco  
Policy Officer, Children's Rights Division