



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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CDENF/Bu(2021)PV3  
13 September 2021

**Sixth meeting of the Bureau  
of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)  
10 September 2021**

**Meeting report**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

1. The Bureau of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) held its sixth meeting on 10 September 2021 (via videoconference).
2. The CDENF Chair, Ms Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou (Greece), opened the meeting and welcomed the other Bureau members.

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

3. The draft agenda was adopted as it appears in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.

**3. Information by the Secretariat**

4. The Bureau was informed about the examination, by the Committee of Minister's Rapporteur Group on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC), at its meeting on 9 September 2021, of the draft terms of reference for the CDENF (2022-2025) and for its subordinate body, the ENF-VAE (2023-2024), and about the first reactions by Delegations. The GR-SOC would continue the examination of draft terms of reference at its upcoming meeting on 4 November 2021.

**4. Review of progress (updated CDENF working plan for the biennium)**

5. The Bureau took note of the updated schedule of CDENF activities and main priorities until the end of the CDENF mandate, as laid down in document CDENF (2020)21rev4 and as presented by the Secretariat.

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

6. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat of the state of play in the organisation of the launching event for the new Strategy, to be organised in Rome on 6-8 April 2022 under the auspices of the Italian Presidency to the Committee of Ministers.

7. The Bureau was informed about the results of the child consultation towards the Strategy; the Secretariat thanked all delegations involved in this process, including those concerning the Bureau members, for their support. Following consideration of proposals made by the children to the core text of the Strategy, as well as last comments submitted by the European Commission as an Observer, the Bureau approved the revised draft Strategy as amended, subject to last editorial changes to be made by the Secretariat, and was informed that the document would be sent to the CDENF at least three weeks in advance of its fourth plenary meeting for the final consideration and approval of the text.

## **6. Fourth plenary meeting of the CDENF (13-15 October 2021)**

8. The Bureau examined and approved the draft agenda for the fourth plenary meeting, subject to a last change following the decision made under point 8. below. The Bureau members further agreed that the order of business should give priority to the examination of the new Strategy over other items. The item on the new Strategy would also include presentations by children having participated in the consultations; their presentations would be conveyed to the CDENF via sub-titled pre-registered video, and followed by a brief exchange with members (1.5 – 2 hours max. for the whole item).

## **7. Joint work with the Committee on Bioethics.**

9. As instructed by the CDENF at its third plenary meeting, the Bureau selected the following members for the joint drafting Group, to convene for the first time on 29 November 2021:

- Mr Joost van Haelst (Belgium), Chair
- Ms Stefania Chiru (France), Member

10. The Bureau entrusted the Secretariat with identifying a further national or international expert qualified for the work of the drafting group; who could then be confirmed by the Bureau via written procedure.

## **8. Request of Observer Status with the CDENF**

11. The Bureau postponed the consideration of the request for observer status submitted by an NGO to a later meeting.

## **9. CDENF Working methods**

12. The Bureau was informed of the main changes, as compared to the current rules (CM/Res(2011)24) contained in Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, to enter into force on 1 January 2022:

- a consolidation of already existing provisions, notably on transparency/access to documents;

- the adaptation of the cycle for terms of reference to the new programming and budgetary cycle (evolving from a two years' to a four years' cycle);
- the specification that, when taking decisions in written proceedings, "every effort should be made to reach a consensus" (Art. 2b of the Rules of Procedure);
- a new provision on holding, under specific circumstances, plenary meetings by videoconference (Art. 16b of the Rules of Procedure).

13. The Bureau considered that the entry into force of Resolution CMRes(2021)3 would not require any substantial changes in the CDENF's working methods, as the current practice of the CDENF was broadly in line with these provisions. Following a question raised by one Bureau member, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to obtain clarification as to whether the new Article 16b. on plenary meetings by videoconference was also applicable to hybrid meetings.

#### **10. Upcoming events**

14. The Bureau entrusted its member Mr Joost van Haelst to represent the CDENF at the International Conference on the Roles of Women and Children in Terrorism, organised by the Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) in co-operation with the Children's Rights Division on 15 -16 December 2021.

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

15. Participants raised no other business.

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

16. The Bureau agreed on the next meeting to take place in the second half of January 2022, subject to the date of consideration of the Strategy at the level of the Committee of Ministers. Bureau members would be consulted about the possible dates of this next meeting in due time before the end of the year.

#### **13. Approval of the list of decisions**

17. The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to prepare the meeting report for written approval by the Bureau.

## APPENDIX I – Agenda

1.	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>	
2.	<b>Adoption of the agenda and order of business</b>	<p>CDENF/Bu(2021)OJ3prov</p> <p>Reference document:  <a href="#">CDENF/Bu(2021)PV2</a>            Report of the fifth meeting of the Bureau</p>
3.	<b>Information by the Secretariat</b>	
4.	<b>Review of progress</b> (updated CDENF working plan for the biennium).	<p>Reference document:            CDENF(2020)21 Rev4 – Revised work programme and timetable</p>
5.	<p><b>Draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)</b></p> <p>The Bureau is invited to examine the draft Strategy as revised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• during the Plenary session dedicated to the review of the Draft Strategy for the Rights of the Child (14-15 June 2021) and</li> <li>• based on the results of the child consultations led in 10 member states</li> </ul> <p>with a view to its presentation for approval by the CDENF at its fourth plenary meeting.</p>	<p>Working document:            CDENF(2020)05Rev3            Draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) (revised in light of the child consultation process, restricted)</p> <p>Reference documents:            Meeting Report the Plenary session dedicated to the review of the Draft Strategy for the Rights of the Child (<a href="#">CDENF(2021)PV03</a>)</p>
6.	<p><b>Fourth plenary meeting of the CDENF (13-15 October 2021)</b></p> <p>The Bureau is invited to examine the proposed draft agenda.</p>	<p>Draft agenda of the 4<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting</p>
7.	<p><b>Joint work with the Committee on Bioethics:</b></p> <p>Participation of children in the decision-making process on matters regarding their health: set-up of a drafting group</p> <p>The Bureau is invited to agree on the composition of the drafting group (one Co-Chair and two experts).</p>	<p><a href="#">Concept note</a>            List of proposals for members of the drafting group (restricted)</p>
8.	<p><b>Request of Observer Status with the CDENF</b></p> <p>The Bureau is invited to examine the Request for Observer Status from “Hope and Homes for Children” with a view to making a recommendation for the upcoming CDENF plenary.</p>	<p><a href="#">Request for observer status</a> lodged by <a href="#">Hope and Homes for Children</a></p> <p><a href="#">CDENF/BU(2020)03</a>            Consideration of other observers from states or organisations to CDENF and its subordinate body (CJ/ENF-ISE)</p>

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### **CDENF Working methods**

9. Information by the Secretariat on Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, to enter into force on 1 January 2022, and exchange on possible implications for the working methods of the CDENF.
- [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#)  
[CM/Res\(2011\)24](#)

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### **Upcoming events**

10.
  - 16-17 September 2021: CDENF Plenary Session on Migration (Strasbourg/online)
  - 22 November 2021: CDENF webinar on COVID-19 and Children's rights: challenges related to intrafamily violence and mental health
  - 29 November 2021: 1<sup>st</sup> meeting Joint drafting group CDENF/DH-BIO
  - 15-16 December 2021: International Conference on the Roles of Women and Children in Terrorism, Strasbourg
  - 6-8 April 2022: High Level Launching Conference of the new Strategy, Rome
- ([CDENF\(2021\)OJ2](#))  
Draft Agenda Plenary session on migration

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11. **Any other business**

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### **Date and place of next meetings**

12. The Bureau is invited to agree on the dates of its next meetings.

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13. **Approval of the list of decisions**
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## **APPENDIX II – List of participants**

### **Bureau Members**

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

Ms Rosário Farmhouse (Vice-Chair)

**excused**

President of the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children and Young People, Portugal

Mr Joost van Haelst  
Children's Rights Policy Officer  
Department for Culture, Youth and Media  
Flemish Government

Ms Ružica Boškić  
Secretary,  
Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia

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

**excused** for the afternoon session

### **DGII – Directorate General of Democracy – Children's Rights Division**

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

Ms Katrin Uerpmann  
Secretary to the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child  
Programme Officer

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

Ms Sylvie Bollini  
Policy Adviser (morning only)

Ms Greta Faieta  
Trainee