



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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CDENF/Bu(2022)PV1  
28 January 2022

**Seventh meeting of the Bureau  
of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)  
19 January 2022**

**Meeting report**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

1. The Bureau of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) held its seventh (online) meeting on 19 January 2022.
2. Ms Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou (Greece), CDENF Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed the other Bureau members. She warmly welcomed Mr Alfredo Ferrante (Italy) as a new, recently elected Bureau member.

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

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

**3. Information by the Secretariat**

4. The Secretariat introduced the new Terms of Reference for the CDENF (2022-2025), as adopted by the Committee of Ministers. The Bureau took note of the main tasks, deliverables, activities and working methods expected for the next for years and, particularly for the first biennium (2022-2023).
5. The Secretariat highlighted that the work on the “report on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence”, foreseen with a deadline of 31/12/2025 in the Terms of Reference, would need to start earlier than initially planned in order to contribute to the work of the new Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), which has been tasked to elaborate a legally binding instrument on artificial intelligence, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law within the next two years.
6. The Secretariat provided additional information as regards the recent discussions by the Committee of Ministers on the terms “age-appropriate and comprehensive sexuality

education” and “children as defenders of human rights”, as compromise terminologies adopted during the negotiations for the Terms of Reference and in the subsequent update of the draft Strategy.

7. The Bureau Members were informed about the new date for the consideration of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) by the Committee of Ministers, starting with the examination by its Rapporteur Group on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC) on 3 February 2022.

#### **4. Review of progress (updated CDENF workplan for the biennium)**

8. The Bureau was informed about the schedule of CDENF activities for the first biennium (2022-2023), as laid down succinctly in document CDENF-Bu(2022)01; by the time of the next meeting, this document would be extended to better reflect the priorities and related workplan. It was confirmed that the meeting in May would be held online.

9. The Bureau agreed to extend the time slot for the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting in May to allow for more time to discuss all items in depth. The Secretariat consequently booked a room and KUDO for two days and a half and updated the workplan accordingly (18-20 May).

10. The Bureau also suggested to slightly advance the dates for the 6<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting to 14 -16 November 2022, in the light of activities organised in some member States for 18 November (European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse). These dates were also retained both in the calendar and for relevant room bookings.

#### **5. CDENF opinion for the Committee of Ministers**

10. The Bureau examined a draft opinion prepared by the Secretariat on PACE Recommendation 2216 (2021) on “Best interests of the child and policies to ensure a work-life balance” and suggested to include a clarification in paragraph 5 of the draft opinion, emphasising the role of CDENF as the organiser of the webinars on “Covid-19 and Children’s Rights” and instructed the Secretariat to circulate it to all CDENF members for their approval at the upcoming Plenary session (1-3 February).

#### **6. Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)**

11. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the advanced state of play of the final report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021). The Bureau agreed to review and approve the draft implementation report by written procedure as soon as it would be available, and also authorised the Secretariat to subsequently circulate it to CDENF members for written comments and approval.

12. The Bureau members further agreed on the idea of presenting the implementation report in more depth during the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting to be held in May 2022 to officially close the previous Strategy with the Committee.

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

13. The Bureau was informed about the state of play and location of the High-level Launching Conference for the new Strategy, to be organised in Rome on 7-8 April 2022 under the auspices of the Italian Presidency to the Committee of Ministers. All Bureau members

expressed their gratitude to Mr Ferrante and his delegation for hosting this event, and to the Secretariat for their progress made towards the organisation of the Conference.

14. The Bureau was further informed about the preliminary draft programme, including the participation of young delegates. It was suggested to give more visibility to the role of the CDENF in the preparation and implementation of the Strategy, and to specify the titles of some of the diving-in sessions. The Secretariat took note of the proposals and agreed to revise the preliminary draft programme accordingly before circulating it among CDENF members in the following week for their consideration and action. CDENF members would in particular be invited to constitute their delegation and to confirm the participation of their Ministries. For member States facing elections over the next months, the Secretariat agreed to renew ministerial invitations at a later stage if need be.

15. During the afternoon session, the Secretariat presented a timeline and a first proposal for the development of follow-up tools for the Strategy, particularly the elaboration of a results chain containing indicators and questionnaires for member States and Council of Europe bodies. The Bureau welcomed this approach aimed at facilitating the reporting process under the Strategy and agreed that the CDENF should examine written proposals for these tools at the May Plenary meeting.

16. Equally during the afternoon session, the Bureau pursued the exchange of views with children and facilitators who had been involved in the child consultation process for the Strategy and who did not have the opportunity to present their views during the last Plenary meeting due to time constraints.

17. Further video presentations were shared by the facilitators (from Italy, Portugal and Bulgaria) for different strategic objectives of the draft Strategy. For each delegation, children personally expressed their main concerns: Francesco (Italy) remarked that the internet should be a safe place for children. Vanessa (Portugal) called on Governments to better protect the environment. Diyan and Vayana (Bulgaria) expressed their wish for a national strategy of the rights of the child to be adopted in their country and their concern about the unequal access of children to health services.

18. During the mutual exchange with the Bureau members, all children highlighted how important it is for them to find places where they can express their own views - also in the framework of decision-making processes -, and to have their voices heard no matter how long they would have to wait to see the results of the participatory process.

19. The Bureau and the Secretariat were positively impressed with the responsibility children have taken to speak for themselves and in the name of others. The Bureau agreed to report back on this continued exchange with the children and their facilitators to the CDENF at one of its next Plenary sessions.

## **8. Work of the CJ/ENF-ISE**

20. The Bureau took note of the state of play of the work of the Committee of Experts on the Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Parental Separation and in Care Proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE), particularly on the development of one or two draft recommendation(s).

21. The Secretariat informed the Bureau about a vacancy in the Committee following the retirement of the Austrian CDENF member (Ewald Filler, Vice-Chair of CJ/ENF-ISE). It was noted that the remaining nine members had confirmed their availability to remain on the Committee of Experts during this new mandate.

22. The Bureau confirmed its agreement with the current constitution of the CJ/ENF-ISE as reflected in its lists of members and entrusted the Secretariat with launching a call with Permanent Representations to propose a child rights expert to fill the current vacancy.

Furthermore, it entrusted the Chair together with the Secretariat with preparing a shortlist of candidates based on the criteria laid down in para. 6, sentence to of Recommendation CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, for Bureau approval in written proceedings, who could then be validated by CDCJ Bureau.

## **9. Requests of Observer Status with the CDENF**

23. Based on established practice within the organisation and within the CDENF, the Bureau agreed on the following criteria for the admission of observers from states or organisations to the CDENF and its subordinate bodies:

- a) proven commitment to the values and principles of the Council of Europe
- b) a broad experience in the areas of competence of the CDENF
- c) the ability to make an effective and high-quality contribution to the CDENF or its subordinate body (based on its capacity and related human and material resources)
- d) adequate representation at a Europe-wide, and where relevant a broader, level.

Applying these criteria, the Bureau agreed on the following proposal to submit to the CDENF for decision at their 5<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting (May 2022):

- to grant observer status to “Children Hope for Children CRC policy center”
- having regard, notably to criterium b), not to grant observer status to “Hope and Homes for Children” and to invite them to participate in the work of the CDENF through specific activities to be defined as appropriate.

## **10. CDENF Working methods**

24. The Secretariat introduced to the Bureau a proposal for an approach to follow in the appointment of thematic rapporteurs in the CDENF and their possible responsibilities, as well as for support to children rights rapporteurs in other intergovernmental committees to contribute to the transversal co-operation promoted by the Organisation.

25. The Bureau took note of the possibility to appoint up to four thematic rapporteurs according to CDENF Terms of Reference. The areas of youth, artificial intelligence, children with disabilities and children in the digital environment were suggested as potential themes.

29. The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to conduct further research on possible topics to be covered by rapporteurs in the CDENF, also in light of children’s rights issues covered by other intergovernmental committees, and to further explore the possibility to organise a training session for children rights rapporteurs in other committees in the second half of 2022.

## **11. Upcoming events**

30. The Secretariat provided information about the dates for the second CDENF Plenary session dedicated to the rights of children in migration (1-3 February) and for the High-level Launching Conference for the new Strategy (7-8 April, Rome).

31. The Bureau members agreed to hold an additional Bureau meeting in advance of the May Plenary meeting of the CDENF, and to explore the exact dates via a Doodle request to be sent out after the present meeting.

## **11. Any other business**

32. Being invited by the CDENF Chair, Mr Alfredo Ferrante shared his impressions as moderator of a session on “The impact on and the roles played by children in different terrorist organisations” of the International Conference on the Role of Women and Children in Terrorism (15-16 December 2021).

33. The Secretariat informed about the preparation of a Newsletter by the Children’s Rights Division on relevant recent developments, which would be published soon. Following a proposal made by the Secretariat, the Bureau agreed to once again include in upcoming CDENF Plenary agendas an item for updates on recent developments at European and national levels, as had been the case in previous Committees; this item could also cover relevant ECHR case-law related to children rights.

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

34. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meetings in April/May 2022 (date to be determined) and on 19-20 September 2022.

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

35. The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to prepare the meeting report and to submit it to members for written approval.

## APPENDIX I – Agenda

Morning (9:30 - 12:30): All items 1. to 13. except 6.2 and 6.3.
Afternoon: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm: item 6.2.; 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm: item 6.3.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Adoption of the agenda and order of business</b>	CDENF/Bu(2022)OJ1prov Reference document: <a href="#">CDENF/Bu(2021)PV3</a> Report of the sixth meeting of the Bureau
<b>3.</b>	<b>Information by the Secretariat</b>	<a href="#">CDENF Terms of Reference (2022-2025)</a>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Review of progress</b> CDENF workplan for the upcoming biennium	Reference document: <a href="#">CDENF-Bu(2022)01</a> Schedule of CDENF activities and main priorities
<b>5.</b>	<b>CDENF opinion(s) for the Committee of Ministers</b>	<a href="#">CDENF-Bu(2022)02</a> Draft opinion on <a href="#">PACE Rec 2216 (2021)</a> on “Best interests of the child and policies to ensure a work-life balance”
<b>5.</b>	<b>Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)</b> Implementation report on the outgoing Strategy	CDENF-Bu(2022)03Prov Preliminary Draft Implementation Report
<b>6.</b>	<b>Draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)</b>  6.1. High-level Launching Conference for the new Strategy (7-8 April 2022) 6.2. Development of follow-up tools for the new Strategy 6.3. Continuation of exchange of views with children having participated in the child consultation process	CDENF-Bu(2022)06 (restricted) Preliminary draft programme of the High-level Launching Conference for the new Strategy  CDENF-Bu(2022)04 Continuous exchange with children
<b>7.</b>	<b>Work of the CJ/ENF-ISE</b> Composition of the subordinate body under its new mandate	<a href="#">Terms of Reference of CJ/ENF-ISE for 2022-2023</a> <a href="#">List of members of the CJ/ENF ISE</a>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Request of Observer Status with the CDENF</b>	Requests for observer status submitted by

	Requests from “Hope and Homes for Children”, and “Hope for Children”	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hope and Homes for Children (Letter – restricted) <a href="#">Website Hope and Homes for Children</a></li> <li>2. Hope for Children (Letter – restricted) <a href="#">Website Hope for Children CRC policy center</a></li> </ol>
		<p><u>CDENF-Bu(2022)05</u> (restricted) Procedure for the admission of observers from states or organisations to the CDENF and its subordinate bodies</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>CDENF Working methods</b> Appointment of and support to thematic rapporteurs in the CDENF and other intergovernmental committees</p>	<p><a href="#">Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods</a></p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Upcoming events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1-3 February 2022: Second CDENF plenary session dedicated to the rights of children in migration</li> <li>- 7-8 April 2022: High-level Launching Conference for the new Strategy, Rome</li> </ul>	<p>Draft Agenda <a href="#">CDENF(2022)OJ1</a></p>
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p>	
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b>Date and place of next meetings</b></p>	
<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of the list of decisions</b></p>	

## **APPENDIX II – List of participants**

### **Bureau Members**

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

Ms Rosário Farmhouse (Vice-Chair)  
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 (excused for part of the afternoon session)  
Secretary,  
Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia

Mr Alfredo Ferrante (excused for the afternoon session)  
Chief of Service  
Department for Family Policies  
Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers

### **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 Mireya García de Murcia  
Assistant Lawyer

Ms Audrey Winum  
Policy Assistant (afternoon only)

Ms Greta Faieta  
Trainee



## **Facilitators**

Ms Caterina Parodi  
Child Safeguarding Officer  
Defence for Children International Italia

Mr Pippo Costella  
Director  
Defence for Children International Italia

## **National facilitators and contact persons**

Célia Chamiça (Facilitator, Portugal)  
Francesci Chezzi (Facilitator, Italy)  
Jorge (Child participant, Spain)  
Laura Saarinen (National delegation, Finland)  
Eraide (Child participant, Spain)  
Maria Belichovska (National delegation, Bulgaria)  
Filomena Menna (Facilitator, Italy)

## **Children / young delegates**

Francesco (Italy)

Vanessa (Portugal)

Diyan and Vayana (Bulgaria)