



STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CDENF)

10th Bureau meeting

Friday, 10 February 2023,

Council of Europe Office, Paris

9.00 am – 12.30 pm / 2.00 pm – 4:30 pm

Meeting report

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair, Ms Rosário Farmhouse (Portugal), opened the meeting and welcomed all Bureau members (Belgium, Italy, Norway and Slovenia). All participants introduced themselves in a tour de table.

2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

The Bureau adopted the agenda as it appears in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.

3. Information by the Secretariat

The Bureau **took note** of information provided by the Secretariat on:

- the Meeting report of the 6th CDENF plenary meeting ([CDENF\(2022\)PV03](#));
- the consideration of preparing an draft opinion by CDENF on the [PACE Recommendation 2244\(2023\)](#) Addressing the issue of Daesh foreign fighters and their families returning from Syria and other countries to the member States of the Council of Europe, to be prepared by the CDENF Secretariat with a view to be submitted for CDENF adoption at the 7th Plenary meeting;
- the [reply](#) of the Committee of Ministers following its examination of the [PACE Recommendation 2227 \(2022\)](#) on Deinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities which CDENF had provided comments earlier. The Bureau members exchanged on modalities how the information on such replies should be shared with CDENF members as a follow-up, and suggested that the Secretariat should share replies on particularly pertinent topics when they arrive, and to compile the remaining replies as an information document for the Plenary meetings.

4. CDENF priorities and workplan

4.1. Implications of the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government on 16-17 May 2023 in Reykjavik, Iceland

The Bureau exchanged about the possible implications of the upcoming 4th Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government (16-17 May 2023, Reykjavik, Iceland) on the future priorities of the Council of Europe and of the CDENF's future mandate, and about the option to contribute to the open call for contribution launched by the Icelandic Presidency, as already shared with CDENF Delegations, with a deadline of 20 February 2023.

The Bureau emphasised the particular relevance, in the present context, notably of the 6th Strategic objective related to children's rights in crisis and emergency situations. The Bureau further recalled the importance attached by the 6th CDENF Plenary meeting that the future priorities of the Council of Europe should be guided by the Strategy for the Rights of the Child.

4.2. Overview of main activities, priorities and meetings

The Bureau was informed of current activities undertaken to deliver on the CDENF Terms of Reference under the first biennium of its mandate (2022-2023).

The Bureau took note of the updated workplan for CDENF and revised timelines of questionnaires, which is subject to modifications in view of strategic decisions taken by the 4th Council of Europe summit by Heads of State and Government, to be submitted to the CDENF at its upcoming plenary meeting.

5. Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027):

The Bureau was informed about the state of progress made by the Secretariat in the following-up of and reporting back on the Strategy in particular:

- The finalisation of the update of the child-friendly version of the Strategy in French and as well as its translation to into three Sami languages, German, Spanish, Ukrainian and Italian.
- The procedure and timeline regarding the first implementation report of the Strategy which is expected to be adopted by the end of 2023.

6. 7th CDENF Plenary meeting (Reykjavik, 28-29 March 2023)

The Bureau **considered the draft agenda** of the 7th Plenary meeting to be held on 28-29 March 2023.

7. CDENF Subordinate bodies and groups: update on current activities

7.1. Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)

The Bureau was informed on the follow-up to the guidance issued by the CDENF and the European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ) at their respective plenaries in November 2022 to proceed the work under the terms of reference of CJ/ENF-ISE by preparing two draft recommendations, notably by preparing a preliminary draft Recommendation on the best interests of the child in parental separation situations, to be presented at the 7th Plenary meeting for a first exchange, followed by a written consultation, in view of its finalisation and approval during a joint session of the two parent committees on 16 November 2023. The second draft Recommendation relating to care proceedings would be developed in parallel in view of its finalisation in 2024.

7.2. Drafting Group on Developing a Guide to good practice concerning the participation of children in the decision-making process on matters regarding their health (BIO/ENF-CP)

Joost van Haelst (Belgium), Co-Chair of the drafting Group, informed the Bureau of the state of play of the drafting process and the upcoming meeting of the BIO/ENF-CP (online, 13-14 February 2023).

The Bureau also took note of the steps towards the finalisation of the draft guide, its presentation to the CDENF at its 7th plenary meeting for a first examination and comments in view of finalisation and adoption, in coordination with the Steering Committee for human rights in the area of biomedicine and health (CD-BIO), at the 8th CDENF Plenary meeting in November 2023.

7.3. Committee of Experts on the Prevention of violence (ENF-VAE)

The Bureau examined the list of candidates received from member States following the call for nominations which was circulated by the Secretariat. Based on the criteria laid down in the terms of reference of ENF-VAE, and in Article 6 of Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods; and notably the periodic rotation of member States with regard to the previous Committee of Experts ENF-GT-VAE, the Bureau agreed to propose the following list of expert members of ENF-VAE, to be submitted for CDENF approval during its 7th Plenary:

(listed in alphabetical order, by country)

- Alina Seel (Austria)
- Marjo Malja (Finland)
- Solenne Donal (France)
- Eftychia Katsigaraki (Greece)
- Viktoria Sebhelyi (Hungary)
- Mária Vargová (Slovak Republic)
- Pepa Horno Goicoechea (Spain)
- Ola Florin (Sweden)

8. Other CDENF main deliverables for 2023

8.1. Mapping study on children's access to quality mental health care (main deliverable 5)

The Bureau examined and revised the questionnaire and instructed the Secretariat to send the Bureau the revised questionnaire for last comments in view of its finalisation, to be circulated with the CDENF Delegations, and to adjust the timeline for questionnaires, as attached to the CDENF workplan, accordingly.

8.2. Report on children as defenders of human rights (main deliverable 6)

The Bureau commented on and approved the draft questionnaire that was presented by the Secretariat and instructed the latter to circulate it among CDENF delegations.

8.3. Implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration (main deliverable 7)

The Bureau was informed that a survey for collecting the relevant data for the implementation review was currently under preparation to be presented to the CDENF for approval at its upcoming plenary meeting.

8.4. Report on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence (main deliverable 16)

The Bureau was updated about the state of play in the preparation of this report, with the recruitment of consultants to support the work under way.

9. CDENF Working methods

No particular issues were discussed under this issue.

10. Upcoming events

The Bureau took note of the following dates of meetings

Meetings of the CDENF Subordinate bodies and groups:

- 5th meeting of BIO/ENF-CP: 13-14 February 2023 (online)
- 7th meeting of CJ/ENF-ISE: 6-8 March 2023 (Strasbourg)
- 1st meeting of ENF-VAE: 16-17 May 2023 (Strasbourg)

CDENF meetings:

- 7th CDENF plenary meeting: 28-29 March 2023 (Reykjavik, Iceland)
- 8th CDENF plenary meeting: 14-16 November 2023, Strasbourg, including a joint session with the European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ) on 16 November 2023

Other:

- Conference “Investing in Children: The key to prosperity” (30 March 2023, Reykjavik, Iceland)
- Online launching event of the Mapping Study on the development of the Barnahus model across Europe, with CDENF Delegations to be invited to attend online: end of May/beginning of June 2023 (tbc)

11. Any other business

Participants did not raise any other issues.

12. Date and place of next meeting

- 11th CDENF Bureau meeting: Wednesday, 29 March 2023 (in the margins of 7th Plenary meeting).
- 12th CDENF Bureau meeting: September 2023 in view of preparing the 8th Plenary meeting (venue and format tbc).

13. Approval of meeting report

The meeting report was circulated shortly after the meeting and approved by all Bureau members via written procedure.

Appendix I - Agenda

1.	Opening of the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome by the Chair - Tour de table
2.	Adoption of the agenda and order of business	CDENF/Bu(2023)OJ1
3.	Information by the Secretariat	<p>CDENF(2022)PV3 Meeting report of the 6th CDENF meeting</p> <p>PACE Recommendation 2244(2023) Addressing the issue of Daesh foreign fighters and their families returning from Syria and other countries to the member States of the Council of Europe</p> <p>“Deinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities” (Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 1 February 2023)</p>
4.	CDENF priorities and workplan	Terms of Reference of the CDENF for 2022-2025
4.1	Implications of the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government on 16-17 May 2023 in Reykjavik, Iceland	<p>4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe - Portal (coe.int)</p> <p>PACE Recommendation 2245 (2023) The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges</p>
4.2	Overview of main activities, priorities and meetings	CDENF(2023)04prov CDENF workplan
5.	Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)	Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)
6.	7th CDENF Plenary meeting (Reykjavik, 28-29 March 2023)	CDENF(2023)OJ1annprov Draft Annotated agenda of the 7 th CDENF Plenary meeting

7.	CDENF Subordinate bodies and groups	
7.1	Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE) (CDENF main deliverable 2)	CJ/ENF-ISE(2023)OJ1 Draft Agenda of the 7th meeting of CJ/ENF-ISE (Strasbourg, 6-8 March 2023) CJ/ENF-ISE(2023)01prov CJ/ENF-ISE Working methods and workplan
7.2	Drafting Group on Developing a Guide to good practice concerning the participation of children in the decision-making process on matters regarding their health (BIO/ENF-CP) (CDENF main deliverable 4)	
7.3	Committee of Experts on the Prevention of violence (ENF-VAE) (CDENF main deliverables 8 -11)	Terms of Reference of ENF/VAE CDENF/Bu(2023)02 (restricted) – List of Experts nominated for ENF-VAE
8.	Other CDENF main deliverables for 2023	
8.1	Mapping study on children’s access to quality mental health care (main deliverable 5)	CDENF(2022)19 Concept note on children’s access to quality mental health care CDENF-Bu(2023)03 Draft questionnaire for the collection of relevant data
8.2	Report on children as defenders of human rights (main deliverable 6)	CDENF(2022)21 Concept note on children as defenders of human rights CDENF-Bu(2023)01 Draft questionnaire for the collection of relevant data
8.3	Implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration (main deliverable 7)	CM/Rec(2019)11 and its Explanatory Memorandum CDENF(2022)27 CDENF methodology to conduct implementation reviews of Committee of Minister’s Recommendations

8.4	Report on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence (main deliverable 16)	CDENF(2022)20rev Concept note on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence
9.	CDENF Working methods	Resolution CM/Res(2021)3
10.	Upcoming events	
11.	Any other business	
12.	Date and place of next meeting	
13.	Approval of the meeting report	

APPENDIX II – List of participants

Bureau Members

Rosário Farmhouse (Chair)
President of the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children
and Young People
Portugal

Ružica Boškić (Vice-Chair)
Secretary
Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Slovenia

Solvor Bäcklund
Senior Advisor
The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs

Alfredo Ferrante
Chief of Service
Department for Family Policies
Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers

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

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

Katrin Uerpmann
Secretary to the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

Zeynep Usal-Kanzler
Co-Secretary to the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

Maria Asensio-Velasco
Assistant Lawyer (online)