



STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CDENF)

11th Bureau meeting

Strasbourg, 28 - 29 September 2023

Meeting report

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair, Rosário Farmhouse (Portugal), opened the meeting and welcomed all Bureau members (Belgium, Italy, Norway and Slovenia). The Bureau members expressed their full satisfaction with the Launching event of the study "[Barnahus: a European journey](#)" which they attended jointly with the members of the Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee) at the first morning of their meeting.

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 the information provided by the Secretariat on the progress in the preparation of the first implementation report on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) in view of its presentation to the CDENF at its 8th plenary meeting.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the new project proposal "Promoting Children's Rights, including through the children's rights strategy 2022-2027" (VC 3556). All activities developed under this multilateral project, will directly support the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child, under its six priority areas (freedom from violence, equal opportunities and social inclusion; access to and safe use of technologies for all children; child-friendly justice for all children, giving a voice to every child and children's rights in crisis and emergency situations) during the upcoming four years. National Delegations interested to support this project through voluntary contributions are kindly invited to contact the CDENF Secretariat for further details.

4. CDENF priorities and workplan

The Bureau took note of the updated workplan for CDENF for the preparation of deliverables in 2024, subject to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of new Terms of Reference for the CDENF and its subordinate bodies for the years 2024-2027.

5. 8th CDENF Plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 14-16 November 2023)

The Bureau considered and approved the draft agenda of the 8th plenary meeting to be held in Strasbourg on 14 – 16 November 2023, together with the concept note and draft programme for a thematic exchange on children’s rights and the environment, and instructed the Secretariat to explore the option of inviting children who had contributed to the UNCRC General Comment No. 26 (2023) on children’s rights and the environment to participate in an online format in the thematic exchange.

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

6.1 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 took note of the update provided by the Secretariat and welcomed the progress made by the CJ/ENF-ISE in finalising the draft recommendation on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings and of its draft explanatory memorandum (EM), whose joint examination and approval (of the draft recommendation) and adoption (of the EM) by the CDCJ and the CDENF is expected to take place on 16th of November in a joint session during the CDENF’s 8th plenary meeting.

The Bureau took note of the information provided on the considerations expressed by the Bureau of the CDCJ at its meeting (13-14 September 2023) and agreed with the CDCJ Bureau that it would appear desirable that the Committee of Ministers adopt the draft recommendation on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings together with the draft recommendation on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in care proceedings at the end of 2024 as one package, given the close and interlinked nature of the two draft recommendations also coinciding with the completion of the implementation tools of both recommendations.

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

(CDENF main deliverables 8-11)

The Bureau took note of the update provided by the Secretariat on the outcomes of the first meeting of ENF-VAE (17-18 May 2023), the preparation towards its 2nd meeting (11-12 October 2023) and on the imminent workplan of the Committee of Experts.

6.3 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)

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the progress achieved towards the finalisation of the guide in the light of the comments made by the CDENF and the Steering Committee for human rights in the area of biomedicine and health (CD-BIO) , in view of its finalisation and adoption, in co-ordination with the (CD-BIO), at the 8th CDENF plenary meeting, and welcomed the prospect that, following adoption, the guide would be made publicly available in an online format.

7. Other CDENF main deliverables

7.1. Mapping study on children's access to quality mental health care

(CDENF main deliverable 5)

The Bureau took note of the update provided by the Secretariat on the progress made towards the preparation of the mapping study, based on the information received from delegations, and of possible delay in the finalisation of the work due to the necessity to grant the consultants an extended deadline for submission of their first draft.

7.2. Report on children as defenders of human rights

(CDENF main deliverable 5)

The Bureau took note of and provided first comments on the draft report prepared by the consultants on the basis of CDENF delegations' replies to the survey.

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

(CDENF main deliverable 7)

The Bureau:

- took note of the information provided by the Secretariat about the state of play of the preparation of the report with first findings to be presented by the consultants at the 8th plenary meeting.
- took note of and welcomed the methodology for child consultations presented by the consultant, exchanged with the consultant, and agreed that it would be very beneficial if two additional member States participated in the child consultation process.
- welcomed the interest expressed by the Mexican delegation to carry out parallel child consultations in their country and suggested that the CDENF should be informed about the outcome of these consultations in an appropriate format.

7.4. Report on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence

(CDENF main deliverable 16)

The Bureau took note of an update on the state of play in the preparation of this report, which is planned to be finalised by the end of 2024.

8. CDENF Working methods

The Bureau took note of the presentation of relevant activities and deliverables of other Committees under their proposed terms of reference and instructed its Secretariat to follow up on relevant activities of other Committees and bodies in view of ensuring CDENF contribution/representation as appropriate.

9. Co-operation activities

a) Update on the setting up of the Consultative Group on Children of Ukraine (CGU)

The Bureau was informed about the preparation towards the first two meeting of the CGU, which would hold its first ("zero") meeting in an online format on 4 October and a further meeting on 30 November/1 December and exchanged with the Secretariat on practical issues.

The Bureau proposed that Ružica Boškić (Slovenia) attend the meetings of the CGU in a double capacity as national Delegate and CDENF representative.

b) CP4 Europe

The Bureau expressed its full satisfaction with the quality of the results and outcomes of the CP4 Europe cooperation project and held an exchange of views with the Secretariat on lessons to be drawn for future activities regarding the administrative process. In view of feedback received from participating delegations, the Bureau requested that, for future calls for participation in such activities, the distribution of tasks between the different actors should be clearly defined from the outset, in order to enable delegations to foresee the administrative and financial burden.

The Secretariat ensured that the feedback received was taken due note of and that this was a unique case as the project was the first of its kind both from structure and substance points of view. The Secretariat also explained that the procedural framework of future cooperation would be further adapted in order to facilitate the implementation and follow-up process.

10. Any other business

Joost Van Haelst (Belgium) informed the Bureau about the initiative Belgium took in the framework of the upcoming Belgian EU-presidency (spring 2024) to put the European and international policy agendas on Children, Youth and Children's rights on the agenda of the Council of ministers for youth.

Belgium therefore is updating the state of the art prepared for the Council which is updated biannually (<https://www.vlaanderen.be/publicaties/the-european-and-international-policy-agendas-on-children-youth-and-childrens-rights-state-of-the-art-update-2021>).

Delegations interested to comment on it, especially on the information on the Council of Europe activities, were invited to do so by Friday 13 October 2023 by e-mail to Joost Van Haelst.

The Bureau was further informed that the European and international policy agendas on Children, Youth and Children's Rights will be the subject of an expert seminar on 22 and 23 January 2024 (Leuven, Belgium)

11. Date and place of next meetings

The Bureau took note of the following dates of meetings:

CDEF 12th Bureau meeting: 11-12 April 2024, time and venue tbc.

CDEF plenary meetings:

- 8th CDEF plenary meeting: 14-16 November 2023, Strasbourg, including a joint session with the European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ) on 16 November 2023
- 9th CDEF plenary meeting: 28-30 May 2024 tbc
- 10th CDEF plenary meeting: 5-7 November 2024 tbc

12. 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	
2.	Adoption of the agenda and order of business	CDEFN/Bu(2023)OJ3
3.	Information by the Secretariat	Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)
4.	CDEFN priorities and workplan <i>Required action:</i> - to take note of the revised workplan for CDEFN submission at the 8 th plenary meeting	Terms of Reference of the CDEFN for 2022-2025 CDEFN(2023)04rev2 CDEFN workplan
5.	8th CDEFN Plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 14-16 November 2023) <i>Required action:</i> - to examine the agenda of the 8 th plenary meeting	CDEFN(2023)OJ3prov Draft agenda CDEFN(2023)21 Concept note for a thematic exchange on children's rights and the environment
6.	CDEFN Subordinate bodies and groups	
6.1	Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE) (CDEFN main deliverables 2, 3) - Oral update on the state of play -	Terms of Reference of CJ/ENF-ISE CJ/ENF-ISE(2023)01rev Working methods and workplan CJ/ENF-ISE(2023)OJ2 Draft Agenda of the 8th meeting
6.2	Committee of Experts on the Prevention of violence (ENF-VAE) (CDEFN main deliverables 8-11) - Oral update on the state of play -	Terms of Reference of ENF-VAE ENF-VAE(2023)01 Working methods and workplan ENF-VAE(2023)PV01 Report of the 1 st meeting
6.3	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) (CDEFN main deliverable 4) <i>Required action:</i> - to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the progress achieved towards the joint adoption of the	CDEFN(2023)14rev Draft Guide to children's participation in decisions about their health

guide by CDENF and CD-BIO at their upcoming plenary meetings.

7.	Other CDENF main deliverables	
7.1	Report on children's access to mental health care (main deliverable 5) - <i>Oral update on the state of play</i>	CDENF(2023)10Rev Outline and methodology of the report
7.2	Report on children as defenders of human rights (main deliverable 6) <i>Required action:</i> - <i>to take note of and provide first comments on the draft report prepared on the basis of Delegations' replies to the survey.</i>	CDENF(2023)22 Draft report on children as defenders of human rights
7.3	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) <i>Required action: to take note of</i> - <i>the information provided by the Secretariat</i> - <i>the methodology developed for the targeted child consultation.</i>	CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration Methodology for child consultations (summary)
7.4	Report on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence (main deliverable 16) - <i>Oral update on the state of play -</i>	CDENF(2023)20 Outline and questionnaire for mapping study
8.	CDENF Working methods <i>Required action:</i> - <i>Based on information provided by the Secretariat, to identify Council of Europe Committees and bodies where CDENF representation would be particularly relevant in the upcoming biennium.</i>	Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods CDENF(2022)12 CDENF working methods: Thematic mainstreaming and co-operation
9.	Co-operation activities a) <i>Update on the setting up of the Consultative Group on Children of Ukraine (CGU)</i> b) <i>CP4 Europe (joint EU-COE Project)</i>	CDENF(2023)PV2 CDENF(2023)19 (restricted) Towards setting up CGU - Information Document CP4 Europe website
10.	Any other business	
11.	Date and place of next meeting	
12.	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 of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

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

Maria Asensio-Velasco
Assistant Lawyer