



Building a Europe
for and with children

Construire une Europe
pour et avec les enfants



CDENF/Bu(2024)PV03
9 October 2024

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CDENF)

13th Bureau meeting

Strasbourg, 2 - 3 October 2024

Meeting report

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The Chair, Ružica Boškić (Slovenia), opened the meeting and welcomed all Bureau members (Finland, Italy, Norway and Romania) to the meeting.

2. The Chair welcomed Rareș Petru Achiriloaie (Romania) to his first meeting as a Bureau member and informed the participants that the two days of the meeting would be primarily devoted to preparing the 10th Plenary Session of the Steering Committee for the right of the child (CDENF).

2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

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

3. Information by the Secretariat

4. The Bureau took note of the information provided by Regina Jensdottir, Head of the Children's Rights Division, on preparation towards the Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children (Bogota, 7-8 November 2024) and notably on a regional consultation (preparatory meeting) organised by the WHO and UNICEF ECARO held online at the end of September 2024.

5. The Bureau took note of the information provided by Agnes von Maravić, Executive Secretary of the Lanzarote Committee on relevant activities. The day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse will be held on 18 November 2024 under the theme "[Emerging technologies: threats and opportunities for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#)". Delegations are warmly invited to share their related activities with the Secretariat of the Lanzarote Committee via an [online form](#).

6. The Bureau was further informed on the [opinion](#) on the requirements of the provision of statutes of limitations and recommendations on implementation adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 11 June 2024, as well as the focus made for the [3rd monitoring round on sexual abuse in the circle of trust](#). [Country factsheets](#) on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs) and especially focusing on child self-generated sexual images and/or videos are available online.

4. CDENF workplan: Overview of main activities, priorities and follow-up to the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)

7. The Bureau took note of the updated workplan for CDENF for the preparation of deliverables until the end of 2025.

8. The Bureau reviewed and approved the questionnaire for national follow-up and reporting on progress made under the Strategy for the Right of the Child (2022-2027) and instructed the Secretariat to disseminate it to the CDENF for replies.

9. The Bureau took note of the state of play of the mid-term evaluation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) which will take place in the form of a conference in Strasbourg on 3-4 April 2025, under the auspices of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, with the aim of taking stock of what has been achieved and paving the way for further action under the Strategy. The Bureau suggested to explore further avenues to strengthen children's participation in the activities during the mid-term review.

5. 10th CDENF Plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 3 – 5 December 2024)

10. The Bureau considered and approved the revised draft agenda of the 10th plenary meeting to be held in Strasbourg on 3 – 5 December 2024.

6. CDENF 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)

11. The Bureau took note of the update provided by the Secretariat and welcomed the progress made towards the finalisation of the draft Recommendation on the Rights and the best interests of the child in care proceedings, to be presented to the CDENF and the CDCJ for joint approval during a plenary session on 3 December 2024 in view of its submission to the Committee of Ministers for adoption, together with the draft Recommendation on parental separation proceedings which had already been finalised and approved by both Steering Committees in November 2023.

12. The Bureau also examined the draft checklists for policymaker in parental separation and in care proceedings and provided first comments in view of the review of the draft by CJ/ENF-ISE during the 10th meeting (Strasbourg, 14-16 October 2024). The Bureau members commended the high quality and clarity of both checklists and considered that they were generally well adapted to the needs of policy makers. The Bureau invited the Committee of Experts CJ/ENF-ISE to ensure that all questions clearly address the intended target group (e.g. the new question after question 27, which might benefit from being reformulated) and that the two checklists are aligned in the overlapping parts.

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

13. The Bureau took note of the update provided by Marjo Malja, member of the ENF-VAE, and the Secretariat on the outcome of the fourth meeting of the ENF-VAE (24-25 September 2024), and the planned follow-up.

14. The Bureau examined the draft implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10 on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence and provided comments in view of the finalisation and presentation of the report to the CDENF for adoption during its 10th plenary meeting.

15. The Bureau agreed to the use of the graphs exemplifying member states' replies to the questionnaire to present the situation in the Council of Europe member states at the Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children (Bogota, 7-8 November 2024).

16. The Bureau examined the structure of the future recommendation on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for inter-alia preventing and combating violence against children and provided its views on practical aspects such as the trainers' education. The Bureau took note of the update made on the children's consultation, agreed that it would be highly beneficial to consult groups of children from additional member States, and invited CDENF Delegations who would be ready to support the process to contact the Secretariat for further information.

17. The Bureau took note of the report on Progress and delay in achieving universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in Council of Europe member states prepared by *End Corporal Punishment*, agreed to the publication of the report and proposed to invite the consultant to present it at the 10th CDENF Plenary in view of a forthcoming exchange on the issue. The Bureau also took note of the updated study on Sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children and took note of its upcoming publication.

6.3 Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency services (ENF-JUS)

18. The Bureau took note of the introductory information provided by the Secretariat on the ISO/IWA 49 process on Guidelines for Barnahus, a child friendly multidisciplinary and interagency response model for abused children, and on the state of play in the development of the ISO Guidelines for Barnahus.

19. The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to launch a call for nomination of expert members with the profile and expertise laid down in the [terms of reference of ENF-JUS](#). The Bureau agreed to propose a shortlist of candidates, having due regard to complementarity of expertise, geographical representation, different legal systems, periodic rotation of member States and gender balance, to be confirmed by the CDENF at its 10th Plenary meeting.

20. The Bureau took note of the information provided by Zaruhi Gasparyan, Head of the Cooperation projects Unit of the Children's Rights Division, on cooperation projects regarding multidisciplinary and interagency child-friendly justice models across different member states.

7. Other CDENF main deliverables

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

21. The Bureau examined the revised Implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration, welcomed the inclusion of elements on child consultations, and agreed to its submission to the CDENF for adoption at its 10th plenary meeting.

22. Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann, Special advisor for the Consultation group on children of Ukraine (CGU), explained the progress made by the dialogue group on guardianship. This dialogue group identified the issue of dual guardianship arrangements, which is addressed by member States in different ways. An

analysis of the questionnaire submitted to member states will be carried out in order to provide support to member States in this area.

23. The Bureau welcomed this work and agreed to the revised version of the Implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)11 being shared with the CGU for information.

7.2 Thematic Guidance Note: Safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content

24. The Bureau examined the thematic guidance note on safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content and agreed to share a revised version to the CDENF at the occasion of its 10th Plenary meeting in view of comments and possible adoption.

8. Children's Rights and the Environment

25. The Bureau took note of the information provided by Mikaël Poutiers, Co-Secretary of the Ad-hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME) on the mandate of the GME and the process towards the elaboration of a Council of Europe Strategy for the Environment, with a second meeting of the GME in early December 2024, a third meeting in February 2025, and the finalisation of the draft Strategy in March 2025 in view of its presentation to the Committee of Ministers for adoption in May 2025.

26. The Bureau examined and approved the discussion paper on children's rights and the environment, and in particular its section III.2 – "Specific actions proposed for the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment" and agreed to declassify the discussion paper and to share it with the CDENF in view of an exchange of views during its plenary meeting in December.

27. The Bureau furthermore instructed its Secretariat to share its Discussion Paper on Children's Rights and the Environment with the GME Secretariat with a view to supporting the drafting process of the Council of Europe Strategy and Action Plan on the Environment.

28. The Bureau instructed its Secretariat to follow closely the process of elaboration of the Strategy and report back to the CDENF at its 10th plenary meeting.

29. The Bureau welcomed the proposal of the Bureau of the GME to include a child consultation element in its work and instructed the Secretariat to share information on consultants having worked for the CDENF in related areas, along with its report on Children as defenders of human rights : a study on Council of Europe member states, with the Secretariat of the GME to support this process.

9. Update on key developments and other events by participants

30. The Bureau was informed of two draft laws submitted for adoption by the Romanian National Parliament, the first law qualifies the year 2025 as the "year of the child" and aims at developing awareness campaigns and raise money for different programmes concerning children's rights. The second law focuses on child participation to enable children to take part in a broader democratic participation process in Romania.

10. Follow-up on transversal activities

31. The Bureau took note of the update provided by its Chair and the Secretariat on the drafting process towards a Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Equality of Rights of

Intersex Persons, with a focus on preventing early intervention on intersex children, planned to be finalised by July 2025.

32. The Bureau took note of the update provided on the drafting process of the CDCJ working Group on migration (CDCJ-MIG) on a preliminary draft feasibility study regarding stateless children's access to nationality and the follow up activities within [the mandate of the CDCJ-MIG](#).

11. Date and place of next meetings

33. The Bureau took note of the following dates of meetings:

34. CDENF Bureau meetings:

- 4 – 5 February 2025 (online)
- 25 – 26 September 2025 (online, to be confirmed)

35. CDENF Plenary meetings:

- 10th plenary meeting: Strasbourg, 3-5 December 2024 (*joint hybrid session with CDCJ on 3 December*)
- 11th plenary meeting: Strasbourg, 1-2 April 2025 followed by a midterm review conference on 3-4 April 2025
- 12th plenary meeting: Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2025, with a launch of the Recommendations and implementation tools on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings, jointly with the CDCJ, on 20 November 2025.

12. Approval of meeting report

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

Appendix 1 – Agenda

Agenda Item	Working documents Reference documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business	
<u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to review and adopt the draft agenda and order of business.	CDENF/Bu(2024)OJ3
3. Information by the Secretariat	
<u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat, including on the activities by the other sectors of the Children's Rights Division.	
4. CDENF workplan: Overview of main activities, priorities, and follow-up to the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)	<u>Working documents</u> CDENF workplan 2024-2025 - CDENF(2024)01 rev
<u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take note of the revised workplan for CDENF submission at the 10th plenary meeting. Examine the Questionnaire for national follow-up to the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) in view of its circulation to CDENF for reply by 31 December 2024 Take note of the state of play of the Mid-term evaluation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) 	Questionnaire for national follow-up and reporting on progress made under the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) - CDENF(2024)21 - (restricted document)
	<u>Reference documents</u> Terms of Reference of the CDENF for 2024-2027 Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)
5. 10th CDENF Plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 3 – 5 December 2024)	<u>Working document</u> Revised draft agenda - CDENF(2024)OJ2prov1
<u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine and approve the revised draft agenda of the 10th plenary meeting of the CDENF. 	<u>Reference document</u> Preliminary Draft agenda of the 10 th CDENF plenary meeting - CDENF(2024)OJ2prov
6. CDENF 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)	<u>Working documents</u>

<p>a. Draft Recommendation on the protection of the rights and the best interests of the child in care proceedings and its draft Explanatory Memorandum</p>	<p>Draft implementation tool for policy makers on the protection of the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings CJ/ENF-ISE(2024)10 prov (<i>restricted</i>)</p>
<p>b. Implementation tool(s) on the protection of the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings <i>Main deliverables 1 and 2</i></p>	<p>Draft implementation tool for policy makers on the protection of the rights and the best interests of the child in care proceedings CJ/ENF-ISE(2024)11 prov (<i>restricted</i>)</p>
<p><u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - take note of the update by the Secretariat - provide first comments on the draft tools for policy makers to implement the future recommendations on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in care proceedings and in parental separation proceedings in view of providing guidance to CJ/ENF-ISE in finalising the drafts. 	<p><u>Reference documents</u></p> <p>Draft recommendation CM/Rec(2025) on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in care proceedings CJ/ENF-ISE(2024)07 prov (<i>restricted</i>)</p> <p>Draft Explanatory Memorandum to the Draft recommendation on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in care proceedings CJ/ENF-ISE(2024)08 prov (<i>restricted</i>)</p> <p>Compilation of comments received from CDCJ, CDENF and key stakeholders on the draft recommendation on the protection of the rights and the best interests of the child in care proceedings and its draft explanatory memorandum CJ/ENF-ISE(2024)09 Mos (<i>restricted</i>)</p> <p>Compilation of comments received from CJ/ENF-ISE on the draft implementation tools for policy makers on the protection of the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and care proceedings CJ/ENF-ISE(2024)12 Mos (<i>restricted</i>)</p> <p>Draft recommendation on the protection of the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings CDCJ(2023)28 rev / CDENF(2023)25 rev (<i>restricted</i>)</p> <p>Explanatory memorandum to the draft recommendation on the protection of the rights and the best interests of the</p>

child in parental separation proceedings
CDCJ(2023)29 rev /
CDENF(2023)26 rev (*restricted*)

6.2 Committee of Experts on the prevention of Violence (ENF-VAE)

- a. Implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10 on Council of Europe policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence
Main deliverable 5
- b. Progress and delay in achieving universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in Council of Europe member states
- c. Recommendation on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for inter-alia preventing and combating violence against children
Main deliverable 9
- d. Guidance on the Prevention of sexual violence and harmful or risky behaviour by children
Main deliverable 14

Required action: The Bureau is invited to:

- Take note of the update on ongoing work.
- Examine the *draft implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10* and provide comments in view of the finalisation and presentation of the report to the CDENF for adoption during its 10th plenary meeting.
- Take note of the updated study on *Sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children* and provide possible comments in view of its publication.

Working documents

Implementation review of Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10 on Council of Europe policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence - ENF-VAE(2024)04 (*restricted*)

Updated study on Sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children: Nature, causes, consequences and responses, Prepared by: Professor Simon Hackett, Durham University, United Kingdom - ENF-VAE(2024)05 (*restricted*)

Progress and delay in achieving universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in Council of Europe member states - [ENF-VAE\(2024\)06](#)

Reference documents

[Terms of reference of the ENF-VAE](#)

Working methods and workplan - [ENF-VAE\(2023\)01 rev4](#)

6.3 Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency services (ENF-JUS)

Required action: The Bureau is invited to:

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat.
- Instruct the Secretariat to launch a call for nomination of expert members of ENF-JUS.

Reference documents

[Terms of Reference of the ENF-JUS](#) (2025-2026)

[Barnahus: a European Journey](#)

Mapping study on multidisciplinary and interagency child-friendly justice models responding to violence against children in Council of Europe member states

[ISO/IWA 49 Guidelines for Barnahus, a child friendly multidisciplinary and interagency response model for abused children](#)

7.	Other CDENF main deliverables	
7.1	<p>Implementation Review report of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration</p> <p><u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to examine the revised Implementation review report for submission at the 10th CDENF plenary meeting, notably the inclusion of elements on child consultations.</p>	<p><u>Working document</u> Draft Implementation Review report of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration - CDENF(2024)06 (<i>restricted</i>)</p> <p><u>Reference documents</u> Outline and questionnaire for the implementation review of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on Effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in migration - CDENF(2023)12rev3 CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration Methodology for child consultations (summary) Report on consultations of children and young persons – annex to the Draft Implementation Review report of the Recommendation on Guardianship - CDENF(2024)06 add</p>
7.2	<p>Thematic Guidance Note: Safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content</p> <p><u>Required action:</u> the Bureau is invited to examine the preliminary draft of the Guidance Note and provide comments in view of its finalisation and submission to the CDENF for approval.</p>	<p><u>Working document</u> Preliminary draft Guidance Note on Safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content - CDENF(2024)20 (<i>restricted</i>)</p> <p><u>Reference documents</u> Concept note for a thematic exchange on Safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content - CDENF(2024)05 Report of the thematic exchange on Safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content - CDENF(2024)11</p>
8.	<p>Children’s Rights and the Environment</p> <p><u>Required action:</u> the Bureau is invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME). - Examine and approve the discussion paper on children’s rights and the environment. 	<p><u>Reference document</u> Reykjavik process and the Environment (COE website)</p> <p><u>Working document</u> Discussion paper on children’s rights and the environment CDENF-BU (2024)02 (<i>restricted</i>)</p>

9. Update on topical issues from Bureau members

The Bureau members are invited to share information of topical activities.

10. Follow-up on transversal activities

The Bureau is invited to take note of the information provided on transversal activities.

11. Date and place of the next meeting

12. Approval of the meeting report

APPENDIX II – List of participants

Bureau Members

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

Solvor Bäcklund (Vice-Chair of CDENF)
Senior Advisor
The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs
Norway

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

online

Marjo Malja
Senior Ministerial Adviser, Social Affairs
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
Finland

Rareş Petru Achiriloaie
President of the National Authority for the Protection of Children Rights and Adoption
Romania

DGI – Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law – Biodiversity Division

Mikaël Poutiers
Secretary of the Bern Convention
Co-Secretary of the Environment Governmental Committee (GME)

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

Regina Jensdottir
Head of the Children's Rights Division and CoE Coordinator for the Rights of the Child

Agnes von Maravić,
Executive Secretary to the Lanzarote Committee, Children’s rights division

Zaruhi Gasparyan
Head of Cooperation projects Unit, Children’s rights division

Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann,
Special Advisor to the Council of Europe Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine

Paul Benedict Lee
Trainee

**Secretariat of the Steering Committee for the right of the child - Children's Rights
Division**

Katrin Uerpmann
Secretary of the CDENF

Anne Kayser-Attuil
Co-Secretary of the CDENF

Magdalena Bochinska
Policy officer

Justine Vizier
Project officer

Audrey Winum
Project Assistant