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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CDENF/Bu(2025)PV03
6 October 2025

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CDENF)

16th Bureau meeting

Paris, 25-26 September 2025

Meeting Report

1. Opening of the meeting

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

2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

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

3. 12th CDENF plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 19-21 November 2025)

3. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the 12th CDENF plenary meeting and approved the draft agenda and the draft annotated agenda.

4. The Bureau discussed the modalities for the replacement of three of its members. The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to launch a call for candidates prior to the 12th CDENF plenary meeting and to prepare the upcoming elections through an electronic voting procedure.

5. The Bureau examined the workplan up to 2026 and was informed that a Conference of Ministers of Justice is foreseen for 16 June 2026 under the Monegasque Presidency on the possible topic of child-friendly justice. Consulted on the opportunity of moving the dates of the 13th CDENF plenary meeting to hold it back-to-back with this Conference, the Bureau indicated its preference to maintain the dates of 2-4 June 2026 for the 13th CDENF plenary meeting.

4. Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022 –2027)

6. The Bureau examined the draft Implementation Report of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child for the period of 2024-2025 and agreed to hold an exchange in view of its approval during the 13th CDENF plenary meeting.

5. CDENF Subordinate bodies and groups

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

7. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the next ENF-JUS meeting, which will take place on 15-16 October 2025. The first day will be dedicated to presentations from experts and survivors of sexual exploitation. During the second day, the Committee will go through elements for a draft Recommendation on multidisciplinary and interagency services for child-friendly justice.

5.2 Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE):

8. The Bureau took note of the ongoing work to prepare the next meeting of ENF-VAE on 7-8 October 2025. It will focus on the drafting of a Recommendation on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for *inter alia* preventing and combating violence against children, and on a first exchange on elements for a draft Explanatory Memorandum.

9. The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to launch a call among national delegations for the proposal of an expert to fill a vacancy in the ENF-VAE. The Bureau will then preselect the new member among the candidates for CDENF approval.

5.3 (Former) Committee of experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)

10. The Bureau held an exchange of views with the Bureau of the European Committee for Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), which met in Paris at the same time, on the draft programme of the joint CDCJ-CDENF Launch Event for [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2025\)4 on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings](#) and [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2025\)5 on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in care proceedings](#), and their implementation tools. This Launch Event will be held on 19 November 2025 in Strasbourg.

11. The Bureau entrusted both secretariats with the coordination and finalisation of the programme.

12. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the preparation of the child-friendly versions of the two Recommendations for the ministerial conference of 16 June 2026.

6. Other CDENF main deliverables

6.1. Thematic review of the Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice

13. The Bureau took note of the update provided by the Secretariat on the developments that occurred since the last plenary meeting in June 2025. The Bureau held an exchange of views with the Bureau of the CDCJ on the progress made on the draft thematic review of the Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice, prepared in the light of comments and drafting proposals received during the consultation process led by the CDENF. The Secretariat of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), as the third steering committee involved in this process, was informed of this update.

6.2. Child Right Impact Assessment tool (CRIA) on artificial intelligence

14. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the ongoing work on a CRIA (Child Rights Impact Assessment) on AI.

6.3. Participation of children and young people under the age of 18

15. The Bureau took note of the update on ongoing work regarding the implementation review of Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)2 on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18 (deliverable 10) and the draft Guidelines for Developing a National Children's Participation Strategy (deliverable 11).

16. The Bureau agreed to submit to the 13th CDENF plenary meeting, the concept note framing the future work and the timeline of this activity.

7. Transversal activities

17. The Bureau took note of the invitation received by the Chair of the CDENF to attend the 19th Ministerial Conference of the Council of Europe International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group) on 27-28 November 2025 and agreed to identify a CDENF member or a relevant expert to represent the CDENF at this Conference.

18. The Bureau was informed about the attendance of CDENF members in various meetings, within the context of the implementation of the transversal nature of children's rights within the Council of Europe.

19. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the Lanzarote Committee's Day for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse on 18 November. The theme of the 2025 edition is "Strengthening the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse through evidence-based policy making". #EndChildSexualAbuse Day

8. Update on ongoing activities from Bureau members

20. The Bureau members exchanged information on ongoing activities in their respective countries, notably:

- In Finland, public consultations will be opened soon on the adoption of a "Barnahus law". A Non-Violent Childhood Action Plan and an Action Plan on the Istanbul Convention are currently being prepared, and the reform of the Social Services Act is in progress.
- In Norway, a proposal to raise the age of access to social media from 13 to 15 is undergoing public consultation. Continuous prevention work on the child-welfare reform (2022), to move from treatment to early prevention. The Government is setting up a children and youth centre, focusing on children's participation in society under the Directorate of Children, Youth and Family Affairs.
- In Slovenia, the child newspaper CASORIS received the international *SozialMarie* prize for social innovation. The foster care reform came into force on 1 November 2025. Preschool care curricula (early childhood education) are being renewed in 2025. A programme for children, taking into account the Council of Europe's Roma Strategy is under discussion (2026-2031).

9. Any other business

21. The Bureau took note of the information provided on the outcome of the procedure regarding requests submitted by the Barnahus Network for observer status to the CDENF and the ENF-JUS, and by SOS Children's Village International for observer status to the ENF-JUS.

10. Date and place of next meetings

22. The Bureau agreed on the dates for its next meeting (9-10 April 2026), pending confirmation by the new Bureau, which will be appointed during the 13th CDENF plenary meeting. The Bureau agreed to convene again in Paris, to facilitate the travel of the Bureau members.

23. The Bureau agreed to consider holding an *ad hoc* meeting in the margins of the next CDENF plenary meeting in November 2025, if needed.

11. Approval of meeting report

24. The meeting report was approved by the Bureau members present.

APPENDIX I – 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 present draft agenda and order of business of this Bureau meeting.	<u>Working document</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDENF/Bu(2025)OJ3 prov – draft agenda and order of business of the Bureau meeting
3. 12th CDENF Plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 19-21 November 2025): <u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to examine and approve the draft agenda of the 12 th CDENF Plenary meeting.	<u>Working document</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDENF(2025)OJ02 prov – draft agenda of the 12th CDENF Plenary meeting • CDENF(2025)OJ2 ANN prov – draft annotated agenda of the 12th CDENF Plenary meeting • CDENF(2025)01 rev3 – CDENF Workplan and working methods for 2025-2026 <u>Reference documents</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDENF-Bu(2025)PV02 – Report of the 15th Bureau meeting
4. Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022 –2027) <u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to examine the draft implementation report of the Strategy for the right of the child regarding the period 2024-2025.	<u>Working document</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDENF(2025)07 (restricted) – Second implementation report of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022 –2027)
5. CDENF Subordinate bodies and groups	
5.1 Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency services (ENF-JUS): <u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to take note of the update on ongoing work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the next meeting of the ENF-JUS on 15-16 October 2025 • Draft Recommendation on multidisciplinary and interagency services for child-friendly justice, including operational guidelines 	<u>Working documents</u> <i>[tbc]</i> <u>Reference document</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENF-JUS (2025)01 – Draft concept note: Proposals for initiating the (ENF-JUS) activity on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency services for children

Main deliverable 12

5.2 Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE):

Required action: The Bureau is invited to take note of the update on ongoing work:

- Preparation of the next meeting of ENF-VAE on 7-8 October 2025
- Draft Recommendation on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for inter-alia preventing and combating violence against children
- Elements for a draft Explanatory Memorandum

Working documents

- [ENF-VAE\(2025\)02 rev2](#) (restricted) – Draft Recommendation on the protection of children against violence through age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education
- [ENF-VAE\(2025\)04 rev](#) (restricted) – Elements for a Draft Explanatory Memorandum
- [ENF-VAE\(2025\)03 rev](#) – (restricted) – Compilation of comments

5.3 (Former) Committee of experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)

Required action: The Bureau is invited to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on:

- The launching event and further dissemination of the two Recommendations to strengthen the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings and in care proceedings on 19th November 2025
- the preparation of child-friendly versions of the two Recommendations

Reference documents:

- CM/Rec(2025)4 on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings ([Recommendation/ EM](#))
- CM/Rec(2025)5 on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in care proceedings ([Recommendation/ EM](#))

6. Other CDENF main deliverables

6.1 Thematic review of the Guidelines on child friendly justice

Required action: The Bureau is invited to take note of the updates on the consultations provided by the Secretariat.

Working documents

- [CDENF\(2025\)03 rev1 Full](#) (restricted) - Draft thematic review report of the Guidelines on child friendly justice

including:

- [part \(1\)](#) (restricted) – analysis and rationale of the revisions proposed
- [part \(2\)](#) (restricted) – drafting proposals to amend the guidelines
- [part \(3\)](#) (restricted) – drafting proposals to amend the explanatory memorandum

Reference documents

- [CDENF \(2025\)06](#) (restricted) – Compilation of comments and drafting proposals received on the draft review
 - [Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on Child friendly Justice](#)
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6.2	Child Right Impact Assessment tool (CRIA) on artificial intelligence and digital topics	<u>Working document</u>
	<p><u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take note of a brief update on the state of play of the CRIA+ provided by the Secretariat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDENF(2024)24 – Concept note for future CDENF action in view of the feasibility, timeliness and pertinence of elaborating a Child rights impact assessment tool on artificial intelligence
		<u>Reference document</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping Study on the Rights of the Child and artificial intelligence – Legal Frameworks that Address AI in the Context of Children’s Rights
6.3	<p>Participation of children and young people under the age of 18 <i>Main deliverables 10 and 11</i></p>	<u>Working document</u>
	<p><u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to take note of the update on ongoing work regarding on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation review of Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)2 on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18 (<i>deliverable 10</i>) The draft Guidelines for developing a national children’s participation strategy (<i>deliverable 11</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDENF(2025)05 (restricted) – Draft concept note on CDENF’s work on Child Participation
		<u>Reference document</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)2 on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18
7.	Transversal issues	
	<p><u>Required action:</u> The Bureau is invited to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat</p>	
8.	Update on ongoing activities from Bureau members	
9.	Any Other Business	
10.	Date and place of the next meeting	<p><u>Dates proposal:</u> 9-10 April 2026 (date and place to be confirmed) 24-25 September 2026 (date and place to be confirmed)</p>
11.	Approval of meeting report	

Draft Order of Business

Date	Time (UTC+1)	Agenda items
25 September 2025	Morning 09.30 am - 12.30 pm	Items 1,2, 3, 4, 5.1,
	Afternoon 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm	Items 5.3, 6.1 (jointly with CDCJ bureau)
26 September 2026	Morning 09.30 am – 12.30 pm	Items 5.2, 6.2, 6.3
	Afternoon 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

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

excused

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

Secretariat of the Steering Committee for the right of the child (CDENF) - Children's Rights Division

Anne Kayser-Attuil
Secretary of the CDENF

Tanja Gerwien
Co-Secretary of the CDENF

Audrey Winum
Project Assistant