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Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Sub-Committee on Children

Mandate of the General Rapporteur on child participation

Denomination: General Rapporteur on child participation

Term of office: one year renewable, subject to a maximum of two years

Subject: it is the duty of the General Rapporteur on child participation to promote the development of sustainable mechanisms for child participation in the Parliamentary Assembly.

Responsibilities: the General Rapporteur contributes to ensuring that the Assembly consults children in the preparation of the Assembly reports that concern them, in particular with reference to the rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 005), the European Social Charter (revised) (ETS No. 163), the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS No. 201, "Lanzarote Convention"); the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197); the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210, "Istanbul Convention"); and the Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185, "Budapest Convention").

The General Rapporteur encourages the participation of children who have diverse backgrounds and thus are representative of our societies; ensures that such participation is facilitated in an appropriate way and with due respect to child safeguarding procedures, for example through written consultations, participation in hearings, focus groups and parliamentary networks, and through giving children a voice in the debate of Assembly reports, for example by inviting a child representative to take the floor in the debate of the report in plenary or in the Standing Committee. The General Rapporteur ensures that children are provided with feedback on how their contributions were used and what impact they may have had. In this context, the General Rapporteur pays particular attention to the participation of children in situations of vulnerability.

The General Rapporteur also supports child participation in the work of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment.

In addition, the role of the General Rapporteur includes:

- supporting the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child (Priority Area 5: Giving a voice to every child);
- facilitating annual reviews of child participation in parliaments, with the support of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) and Eurochild;
- supporting systematic information sharing and synergies with other Council of Europe bodies, such as the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Commissioner for Human Rights and the Steering Committee on the Rights of the Child (CDENF); with international and European institutions and organisations, such as the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the European Parliament; and with voluntary sector organisations such as Eurochild, Child Rights Connect, and the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC);
- representing the committee on behalf of the Assembly in relevant fora.

The General Rapporteur shall report periodically to the committee on the action taken.