

PROGRAMME

14th European Forum on the Rights of the Child 2022

27, 28 and 29 September (afternoons) – Online

BRINGING CHILDREN TO THE CENTRE:

EMPOWERING, PROTECTING AND INCLUDING CHILDREN

Tuesday 27 September – afternoon 1:

Delivering on the EU Strategy for the Rights of the Child & Child Participation

13:00 – 13:30 *On-line check-in*

13:30 – 13:45 **Welcome and Introduction**

Moderator: Adrio Bacchetta

- **Keynote speech: Dubravka Šuica**, Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, European Commission
- **Impulse statements by children** (Eurochild)

13:45 – 14:15 **Launch of the EU Children’s Participation Platform participatory process**

Moderator: Adrio Bacchetta

- **Dubravka Šuica**, Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, European Commission
- **David Lega**, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair of the Intergroup on children’s rights
- **Perspective from children** who participated in the Conference on the Future of Europe and from a national federation of student councils.

14:15 – 15:00 **High-level session 1:**

Delivering together on the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (I)

Moderator: Adrio Bacchetta

- **Didier Reynders**, Commissioner for Justice, European Commission
- **Zuzana Freitas Lopesová**, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Czech Republic
- **Marija Pejčinović Burić**, Secretary General, Council of Europe
- **Milan Brglez**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup on children’s rights
- **Karin Hulshof**, Deputy Executive Director for Partnerships, UNICEF

15:00 – 15:15 Break

15:15 – 15:45 **High-level session 1:
Delivering together on the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (II)**

Moderator: Adrio Bacchetta

- **Benoît Van Keirsbilck**, Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- **Jeroen Uytterschaut**, Representative & Executive Director of World Vision EU, Co-chair of the Children’s Rights Action Group (CRAG)
- **Marie-Cécile Rouillon**, Commission’s Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, Fundamental rights policy unit, DG JUST, European Commission

15:45 – 17:00 **Parallel workshops sessions – Child Participation in practice**

Children participating & addressing Commission’s experts and stakeholders

Workshop 1 – EU Children’s Participation platform

Moderator: Marie-Cécile Rouillon, Commission’s Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, Fundamental rights policy unit, DG JUST, European Commission

- **Perspective from children** who participated in the Conference on the future of Europe and from a national children and youth council organisation
- Best practices example of child participation mechanisms at national level (**Cyprus**) and at local level (**Ireland**) shared by children participating

Workshop 2 – Child participation in EU initiatives

Moderator: June Lowery-Kingston, Head of unit, Accessibility, Multilingualism and Safer Internet unit, DG CNECT, European Commission

- **Perspective of children** who helped design the Guidelines on child-friendly documents and child-friendly meetings
- **Perspective of a child** who contributed to the consultation on the Better Internet for Kids+ strategy

Workshop 3 – EU Youth action plan in EU external action

Moderator: Ana Torres Fraile, Policy Officer, Youth, Education and Culture unit, DG INTPA, European Commission

- **Sharon Twikirize**, Child Protection Specialist, Joining Forces Uganda
- **Perspective from a child** sharing experience on participation globally (World vision)
- **Daniel McCormack**, European External Action service

17:00 – 17:15 Break

17:15 – 17:30 **Plenary session – reporting back from Day-1 workshops**

Adrio Bacchetta, moderator

Wednesday 28 September – afternoon 2:

Children and armed conflicts, including children fleeing Ukraine and prevention from violence

13:00 – 13:30 *On-line check-in*

13:30 – 14:00 **Opening remarks: children in armed conflicts globally**

Adrio Bacchetta, moderator

- **Testimony from a child from South Sudan** (Save the children)
- **Virginia Gamba**, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- **Janez Lenarčič**, Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission

14:00 – 15:00 **High-level session 2: Supporting children fleeing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine** (conversation)

Adrio Bacchetta, moderator

- **Daria Herasymchuk**, Adviser and Commissioner of the President of Ukraine for the Rights of Children (keynote speech)
- **Ulyana Tokareva**, Deputy Minister for Social Policy of Ukraine (keynote speech)
- **Nacira Boulehouat**, Head of the Migration Management Coordination Taskforce, DG HOME, European Commission
- **Philippe Cori**, Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF
- **Inger Ashing**, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children
- **Sarah Tausendfreund**, representative of Luxembourg

15:00 – 15:15 Break

15:15 – 16:30 **Parallel workshop sessions: Mental health support & Preventing and protecting children from violence**

Workshop 1 – Children in armed conflict: protection and reintegration

Moderator: Felix Rathje, Human rights policy officer, European External Action Service

- **Testimony from a young person**, former child in armed conflict (Plan international)
- **Juan Sebastián Campo**, Coordinator of projects, Benposta Nación de Muchach@s en el Mundo, Colombia

- **Rocco Blume**, Head of Policy & Advocacy, War Child, UK

Workshop 2 – An inclusive EU society: mental health support and the European Child Guarantee

Moderator: Stefan Iszkowski, Policy officer, Social policies and child guarantee unit, DG EMPL, European Commission

- **Fatima Awil**, Advocacy and policy officer, Mental Health Europe
- **Triinu Täht**, Social affairs Ministry, Estonia
- **Perspective from a young person** (SOS children villages)

Workshop 3 – Prevention of violence in the digital world

Moderator: Antonio Labrador Jiménez, Team Leader for Fight Against Child Sexual Exploitation, Security in the digital age unit, DG HOME, European Commission

- **Caterina Molenari**, Policy Officer, DG HOME, European Commission
- **Leanda Barrington-Leach**, Director of International Advocacy and Head of European Affairs, 5rightsfoundation
- **Nina Vaaranen-Valkonen**, Executive Director, Senior Specialist, Suojellaan Lapsia ry (Protect Children), Finland
- **Almudena Lara**, Child safety senior manager, Google

16:30 – 16:45 Break

16:45 – 17:00 **Plenary session – reporting back from Day-2 workshops**

Adrio Bacchetta, moderator

17:00 – 17:30 **Ways forward: Child participation to prevent violence**

[designed and presented by **children** (Eurochild)]

Thursday 29 September – afternoon 3: Towards Integrated Child Protection Systems

13:00 – 13:30 *On-line check-in*

13:30 – 14:00 **Opening remarks**

Adrio Bacchetta, moderator

- **Najat Maalla M'jid**, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- **Catharina Rinzema**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup on children's rights
- **Charlotte Caubel**, State Secretary to the Prime Minister, in charge of children, France

14:00 – 15:00 **High-level session 3: Towards Integrated Child Protection systems**

Adrio Bacchetta, moderator

- **Theoni Koufonikolakou**, past-Chair of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC), Deputy Ombudswoman for Children's Rights, Greece
- **Olivia Lind Haldorsson**, Head of the Children at Risk Unit, Council of Baltic Sea States Secretariat
- **Astrid Podsiadlowski**, Head of social rights sector Unit, Equality, Roma and social rights unit, Fundamental Rights Agency
- **Ally Dunhill**, Head of Advocacy, Eurochild, Co-chair of the Children's Rights Action Group (CRAG)

15:00 – 15:15 Break

15:15 – 16:30 **Parallel workshops**

Workshop 1: Towards integrated child protection systems - identification, reporting and referral in cases of violence against children

Moderator: Marta Tarragona Fenosa, Legal Officer, Fundamental rights policy unit, DG JUST, European Commission

- **Ana Marija Spanic**, Clinical psychologist, Zagreb Child and Youth Protection Center, Croatia
- **Foteini Papadatou**, Psychologist, The Smile of the child, Greece
- **Annika Svensson**, Community police officer, Uppsala, Sweden
- **Louise Holm**, Social worker, Uppsala city council, Sweden

Workshop 2: Towards integrated child protection systems - protection and support to unaccompanied children: the role of guardians

Moderator: Isabela Atanasiu, Policy Officer, Asylum unit, DG HOME, European Commission

- **Rebecca O'Donnell**, Senior EU Policy Advisor, European Guardianship Network
- **Michael Nahrstedt**, Guardian, Magdeburg Youth Welfare Office, Germany
- **Perspective of a former unaccompanied child** (UNICEF)
- **Regína Jensdóttir**, Head of the Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe

Workshop 3: Protection and support to children through coordinated and cooperative procedures

Moderator: Marie-Cécile Rouillon, Commission's Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, Fundamental rights policy unit, DG JUST, European Commission

- **Carla Ferreira**, Manager, APAV/CARE, Portugal
- **Lucía Losoviz Adani**, Director General for the rights of the child and adolescents, Ministry of social rights and Agenda 2030, Spain
- **Vesselina Araptcheva**, Federal Public Service Justice, Directorate-General Legislation and Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, International Cooperation in Civil Matters, Belgium

16:30 – 16:45 Break

16:45 – 17:00 **Plenary session – reporting back from Day-3 workshops**

Adrio Bacchetta, moderator

17:00 – 17:30 **Bringing Children to the Centre: Delivering together, with and for children**

Adrio Bacchetta, moderator

- **Concluding remarks by children** (Eurochild)
- **Concluding remarks by Ana Gallego**, Director General, Directorate General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission