12th European Forum on the rights of the child
Where we are and where we want to go

Albert Borschette Conference Centre (CCAB)
2-3 April 2019

BACKGROUND PAPER

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1. Introduction

The European Forum on the rights of the child is a stakeholder conference organised annually by the European Commission. It brings together representatives from EU Member States (as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and the Western Balkans), international organisations, NGOs, Ombudspersons for children, practitioners, academics and EU institutions and Agencies to promote good practice on the rights of the child. More than 250 participants will attend this year's edition, including some children and young people.

This year's Forum is titled: *Where we are and where we want to go*. The backdrop for the conference is the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the European Charter for Fundamental Rights, which constitute the basis for the EU legal *acquis* on the rights of the child. In addition, 2019 is a year of transition in the EU institutions, as the European elections are taking place in May and a new Commission will come into office by the end of the year. Children represent 18,69% of the EU population (close to 100 million children) and the Forum wants to address the situation of the promotion and protection of the rights of all children in the EU.

In light of the above, this year's Forum will be an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved so far in the EU with regard to children's rights, as well as to look ahead and identify priority areas for our collective future work to strengthen the protection of children's rights in the EU.

The Forum will also feature 3 parallel thematic discussions on the following topics, which we believe will (continue to) be a priority for the Commission's work, among others: 1) The protection of children in migration, 2) Children's rights in the ever-changing digital world, and 3) Children and young people's participation in the EU political and democratic life.

2. Structure of the Forum

The first day of the Forum (2 April) opens with a high level plenary session which will help us take stock of today's situation of the protection of children's rights in the EU – thus focussing on what has been achieved and where progress can be highlighted. The opening session will be followed by two panel discussions whose aim will be to highlight gaps and challenges in different areas where children's rights are affected. Several practitioners, experts and academics will share their opinion on what priority areas for future work we should concentrate on.

Three parallel sessions will follow, addressing three broad themes which, as indicated above, we consider a priority for current and future work at EU level: 1) The protection of children in migration, 2) Children's rights in the ever-changing digital world, and 3) Children and young people's participation in the EU political and democratic life.

A Commission colleague with expertise in the field will moderate each of the parallel sessions. The workshops will be articulated over the two days of the event. On the first day, the discussion will focus primarily on the problem-definition and the understanding of the issues at stake. On the second day, participants will reflect on good practices, solutions and proposals for future action.

On each day, the session will start with three presentations that will help inspire participants and trigger the group discussion that will follow. This paper contains a specific background section for each workshop, to guide participants in the discussion and to put forward some questions for

reflection. Participants will also be given the opportunity to provide input through post-its and graphic contributions, which will then be collated and shared.

The workshops will be followed by a reporting session from the workshops discussion. The last plenary will focus on the future and how can we further strengthen the promotion and protection of children's rights in the EU.

Each plenary and parallel session will be recorded graphically. We encourage you to have a look at the work of the graphic recorders and use it for communicating about the Forum in various media. The Forum twitter handle is: #EUchildforum.

Participants and panellists are encouraged to make connections and bridges between the topics of the different sessions, thus reflecting the importance of a comprehensive, integrated, and multidisciplinary approach.

Adrio Bacchetta, an independent consultant and experienced facilitator with a strong knowledge of humanitarian and non-governmental world, will facilitate the whole event by moderating all plenary sessions.

3.   Objectives of the Forum

The overall objective of the Forum is to collectively reflect on the current situation of the promotion and protection of the rights of the child in the EU, and to collect input for future work to be undertaken at EU level. In addition, the Forum will contribute to:

- Foster shared understanding of EU and international legal frameworks, standards and policies in place.
- Hear the voices of children affected by the situations under discussion and involve young people with direct experience in Forum discussions.
- Exchange expertise among stakeholders, and listen closely to practitioners working in the field, to better inform policies and practices
- Gather and disseminate good and promising practices and build on them to address current and future challenges.
- Promote interaction among Forum participants as well as networking after the Forum.

Since its beginning, the Forum has tried to bridge the gaps between various areas and services that affect every day live of children. In this context, all discussions should be underpinned by the Ten principles for integrated child protection systems[1], concluded at the 9th European Forum on the rights of the child in 2015. Participants are expected to embrace and respect a child rights approach[2] in their interventions and suggestions for future work. The focus of our interactions needs to be put on the impact and outcome for children. The principle of best interests of the child must be the primary consideration in all actions or decisions concerning children.

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[1] http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/document.cfm?doc_id=49907

[2] General Comment No 13 of the UN Committee on the rights of the child, para 59, definition of a child rights approach

4. EU legislative and policy framework

The rights of the child are human rights, rights that the EU and EU countries must respect, protect and fulfil. As laid down in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which has been signed and ratified by all EU Member States, a child is any human being below the age of 18. The Commission is guided by the principles set out in the UN Convention on the rights of the child, ratified by all EU countries. General Comments[3] issued by the Committee provide interpretation of the specific articles. The most relevant for the topics to be discusses during the Forum are listed in the Annex.

Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union establishes the objective for the EU to promote the protection of the rights of the child. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU guarantees the protection of the rights of the child by the EU institutions, agencies and EU countries when they implement EU law. Article 24 on the rights of the child and Article 31 on the prohibition of child labour specifically cover children's rights.

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[3] https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=5&DocTypeID=11

5. Workshop 1 – The protection of children in migration

Europe is no longer confronted with a real migration crisis (150,000 irregular arrivals in one year for 28 Member States),[4] but the political context in Europe is becoming increasingly difficult for those who advocate and work for the rights of migrants. Migration and asylum policies and legislation are being tightened in various Member States. Rescue boats are stranded at sea, leaving people, including many children, in danger at sea at risk of drowning, while we are discussing endlessly about what 'solidarity' means. There are push-backs at our external borders and attempts to re-introduce the internal borders. Reception conditions for migrants are sometimes below the standards required by EU law, and rights are not always recognised and enforced.

Migrant children continue to arrive to Europe in relatively large numbers. From the 141,500 arrivals to the EU by sea and land in 2018, about one fourth (34,200) were children.[5] In only one year, the estimated number of unaccompanied migrant children in Spain increased from 5,500 to 13,500.[6] Italy and Greece continue to host large numbers of unaccompanied children–8,500 and 3,700 respectively, according to the most recent information.[7] Eurostat reported 159,000 asylum applications from children in the EU in 2018.[8]

Over the past two years good progress was achieved in some of the areas covered by the 2017 Communication on the protection of children in migration[9], e.g.:

- Italy and Greece reformed their guardianship systems for unaccompanied children,
- Child protection teams were deployed at the Greek hotspots,
- Numerous projects were implemented with EU financial support (e.g. direct grant under REC programme[10]),
- Member States were encouraged to use AMIF funds for the protection of migrant children under the next Multiannual financial framework (MFF),
- The Global Compacts on Refugees and on Migration were adopted by some Member States.

However, there are still challenges to achieving the objectives in the Communication[11], such as:

- Protection of and reception conditions for migrant children, in countries of arrival remain a major concern. UNICEF informs that, in Greece, the number of unaccompanied children in first reception and identification centres (RICs) and in protective custody has increased by 60 per cent in 2018 compared to 2017[12,] and this is largely due to shortage of suitable long-term accommodation for them.

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[4] http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1496_en.htm
[5] https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean
[6] See e.g. UNICEF (2019): Los derechos de los niños y niñas migrantes no acompañados en la frontera sur de España
[7] https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/immigrazione/focus-on/minori-stranieri/Pagine/Dati-minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati.aspx, and respectively
http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXEIA/EKKA_Dashboard_15-2-2019.pdf.
[8] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/data/database
[9] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A52017DC0211
[10] https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=607382
[11] See the table on the progress on the implementation of the actions in the Communication by the Commission and EU agencies: http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/document.cfm?doc_id=49908
[12] https://www.unicef.org/eca/sites/unicef.org.eca/files/2019-02/Refugee%20Migrant%20Crisis%20Europe%2030%20Dec%202018_0.pdf

- Migrant children across Europe still do not receive enough information about their rights and options for the future. They are also rarely present in any discourse and their voices are rarely taken into account by decision and policy makers.
- Children in migration not have enough or regular access to a good quality legal aid, health, education, protection (mental health and psychosocial support, guardianship, case-management, foster care arrangements, etc.).
- Restrictive policies (no disembarkation, pushbacks, temporary/tolerated status), protracted procedures, fragmented national laws for status determination hinder access to status determination procedures and in consequences to durable solutions. Best interests procedures to identify durable solutions for children are inconsistently applied across EU member states.
- Migrant children who are not applying or are not considered eligible for refugee status often remain off the radar of the authorities and fall out of any protection programme.
- Lack of effective communication and cooperation between States is also a key remaining issue that impedes identification and implementation of durable solutions in the best interests of the child.

Limited access to services and legal pathways towards durable solutions continue to affect refugee and migrant children. The workshop on 2-3 April 2019 will discuss various aspects of durable solutions and integration of the migrant children who are likely to remain in Europe. This is an area of the Communication where progress so far has been slow and uneven, whereas it should be recognised as a priority if we wish to achieve a harmonious integration of the migrant children in our societies.

According to UNHCR's and UNICEF's Safe & Sound report of 2014,[13] in this context a "durable solution" is to be understood as "a sustainable solution that ensures that the unaccompanied or separated child is able to develop into adulthood, in an environment which will meet his or her needs and fulfil his or her rights as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and will not put the child at risk of persecution or serious harm. Because the durable solution will have fundamental long-term consequences for the unaccompanied or separated child, it will be subject to a best interests determination. A durable solution also ultimately allows the child to acquire, or to re-acquire, the full protection of a state".

The search for a durable solution, aims at establishing a continuity of care in a safe and enabling environment. The establishment of stable social relations and individual development opportunities is central in this process. The search for and implementation of durable solutions will thus involve a range of different actors: the child, social workers and guardians, community groups, health professionals, legal professionals, immigration authorities and judges, educators, care-givers, services involved in family tracing or return, local organizations.

As noted in the 2017 Communication:
"Member States should establish procedures and processes to help identify durable solutions on an individual basis, and clearly set out the roles and duties of those involved in the assessment, in order to avoid that children are left for prolonged periods of time in limbo as regards their legal status. Access to education, healthcare and psychosocial support while awaiting the identification of a durable solution should also be ensured. Finally, Member States should seek to ensure availability of status determination procedures and resolution of residence status for children who will not be returned, in particular for those who have resided in the country for a certain period of time.

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[13] https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/5423da264.pdf

Early integration of children is crucial to support their development into adulthood. It is a social investment and essential factor contributing to societal cohesion overall in Europe. […] children in this transitional phase should be provided with guidance, support and opportunities for continuing education and training. Furthermore, as is the case for children in State care who are EU nationals, mechanisms and processes need to be in place to help prepare children in migration in State care for the transition to adulthood/leaving care. "

While there is already a wealth of knowledge and good practices for the integration of migrant children in the host communities, overall not sufficient attention and resources are being invested in the Member States in projects to integrate those children who, in all likelihood, will stay and become members of our society. For instance, in 2017, 16 Member States allocated a total of 5 million euros from the AMIF National Programs for programs aimed at the integration of migrant children. It becomes evident that the protection of migrant children is still not being prioritised.

The following questions are proposed as a basis for discussion during the workshop:

Day 1 – challenges and problem definition:
- What defines a successful integration? What does it mean for children and young people?
- What are the main challenges to identifying and implementing durable solutions for children in migration?
- How can we ensure that the child's best interests are a primary consideration in determining durable solutions?
- What can be done to make sure that the integration support offered to a child does not stop at the day of her/his 18th birthday?

Day 2 – good practices and recommendations for future actions:
- How to overcome the practical challenges in implementing durable solutions as identified yesterday?
- What can the local communities and society as a whole do to 'smoothen' the integration of children in migration?
- How can we empower children as agents of their own integration?
- What could be the role of the Commission on this? What initiatives could the Commission work on in the future?

6. Workshop 2 - Children's rights in the ever-changing digital world

Children of today are digital natives. The internet and the information and communication technologies (ICTs) have an undeniable impact on children in their everyday life.

The digital world offers a wide range of opportunities: new technologies can promote and enable children's participation, children can play through their devices, they can look for information in the website, express themselves online and it has ultimately changed the way children socialize. But it can also entail some risks: violence is perpetrated online (cyberbullying, grooming, sexting,…), children share their private details, they can more easily access harmful content or the fake news.

Some identified challenges in the field still exist such as having a safe and equal access to the digital environment, giving children a voice through technologies, adapt the on-line content to child-friendly versions, digital literacy, including tools to build critical thinking.

Many stakeholders are involved in the respect and protection of children in the digital world: from the parents and carers, to companies, including ICTs, the education community and child protection and public authorities, such as media regulators and of course children themselves.

The European Commission has among its priorities building a better online environment for young users. The EC Safer Internet activities aims to protect as well as empower young people to become confident and responsible digital citizens.

The EU has limited competences in the digital environment for children.[14] Rights of children need be also promoted and protected in this field.

Through the European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children[15], the EC provides a set of complementary measures, including funding, coordination and self-regulation for making the internet a trusted place for children and young people.

In this context, the EC co-funds Safer Internet Centres in Member States - coordinated by Insafe - with a single entry point for sharing best practices and resources across Europe.[16] The national centres run helplines for young people, parents, and teachers if they need advice on any issue they face online. They also hold regular awareness-raising presentations in schools, libraries and youth organisations about children's use of internet and provide parents and teachers with a wide range of information and relevant resources.

The Safer Internet Centres also fight against the dissemination of online child sexual abuse material through a network of hotlines - INHOPE. They aim to curb the spread of child sexual abuse images (CSAM), allowing internet users to anonymously report such content. Hotlines cooperate internationally with law enforcement agencies, allowing sharing of data and quick removal of CSAM.[17]

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[14] EU *acquis* on children's rights in the digital world: Directive 2011/93 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography; Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia; Directive (EU) 2018/1808 on the Audiovisual Media Services; Regulation (EU) 2016/679 the General Data protection regulation, Directive 2005/29/EC on Unfair Commercial Practices; Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online; Communication on Tackling online disinformation: a European approach; Recommendation on measures to effectively tackle illegal content online

[15] COM(2012)0196 final

[16] www.betterinternetforkids.eu

[17] In 2017, the network processed nearly 90,000 URLs that depicted CSAM (containing 260,000 images), of which around 62% was taken down within 3 days worldwide.

The Commission also facilitates the "Alliance to better protect minors online"[18], a self-regulatory initiative with leading ICT and media companies, industry associations, civil society and UNICEF tackling harmful content and behaviour that minors face online.

Awareness-raising is an essential element of online safety: every year, Safer Internet Day is celebrated.[19] In 2018, the #SaferInternet4EU[20] campaign was launched - an awareness campaign on challenges and opportunities for children (child online safety, media literacy and cyber-hygiene) targeting EU citizens, from children to educators and parents.

It is part of the Digital Education Action Plan[21], adopted in January 2018, which sets out a series of initiatives to support citizens, educational institutions and education systems to better adapt for life and work in an age of rapid digital change.

The following questions are proposed as a basis for discussion during the workshop:

Day 1 - Challenges and problem definition

1. Which do you consider the biggest challenges for children and young people as they engage with new technologies? To what extent should the law protect them?
2. Who has a role to play in improving children's experiences online? Are the social media and the online services inclusive enough for young people, without discrimination due to socio-economic status, abilities or age? How can we remove the existing barriers? To what extent should policy-makers intervene?
3. How can we foster cooperation among public authorities and other actors (including children themselves, family, school, civil society) to achieve a better internet for kids?
4. How to ensure that the voice of children - the digital natives – matters in the construction of the digitalized world? How are the ICTs shaping civic participation of children and youth?

Day 2 - Good practices and recommendations for future actions

1. What will be the impact of new technologies on the evolution of fundamental children's rights?
2. Can you share some good practices or examples of positive empowerment or protection of children or young people in relation to the digital society? What is the approach that works most – grassroots initiatives, a top-down approach, peer support?
3. How can we reach a fair balance between empowering children to use ICTs and minimizing the risks that children face online?
4. What is the role of new technologies in the fields of education, work, social interaction, civic participation?
5. How can we create evidence-based policies? How can we best collect data in a fast-paced digital environment with constantly evolving technologies and new services

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[18] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/alliance-better-protect-minors-online

[19] A worldwide event on online safety, now celebrated in over 150 countries in all continents. This year's Safer Internet Day took place on 5 February 2019 with the slogan **"Together for a better internet".**

[20] Throughout the year, the campaign reached nearly 30 million EU citizens providing them with more than 1.800 new resources covering themes such as fake news, cyberbullying, privacy concerns, grooming, sexting and cyber hygiene.

[21] COM(2018)022 final

7. **Workshop 3 - Children and young people's participation in the EU political and democratic life**

Ahead of the European elections, EU leaders have highlighted the need to strengthen the European project, and the trust EU citizens have in the Union. In order to achieve this, it is essential for the EU institutions to reconnect with its citizens, starting from the youngest generations, and to involve them in their decision-making processes.

Children and adolescents (0 – 18) make up for roughly 19% of the EU population. Although not yet able to exercise the right to vote (except from in some EU Member states where the voting age has been lowered to 16 years old), EU youngest citizens are the key constituency who will help build a stronger Union. Their involvement in the democratic and political life needs to start today, in order to build a strong participation to the EU project.

The Convention of the Rights of the Child, ratified by every EU Member State, gives all children the right to participate, to be consulted in decisions that concern them, to engage, be listened to and be heard. Looking at the demographic challenges Europe is faced with nowadays, children can be considered as critical stakeholders in the society, that can and should provide meaningful inputs into policies and programmes that directly or indirectly impact them. Their participation through consultation in decision making affecting their present and future, will also strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of these policies and programmes.

The nine requirements for an effective and meaningful children's participation are that all processes in which they are heard and participate must be transparent and informative, voluntary, respectful, relevant, child-friendly, inclusive, supported by training, safe and sensitive to risk and accountable.[22] During 2018, while European leaders launched a debate around the future of Europe, UNICEF and Eurochild launched an online survey, inviting children and young people to share their views on the Europe they want. 'Europe Kids Want' gathered children's and young people's experiences of family-life, school, society and their thoughts on Europe. So far the survey has collected 19.577 replies (5,13% by 9 years and younger; 38,87% by 10-14 years; 36,93% by 15-17 years; 19,07% by 18-30 years).

The 'Europe Kids Want' online poll was developed by children's rights experts and tested with focus groups of children themselves. It is available in 29 languages and all questions are written in a child-friendly language so as to encourage responses from under 18-year-olds. The results of this survey, which will be presented at the Forum by three children from the Netherlands and Croatia, are meant to support decision-makers in understanding children's views on key issues that affect them.

In November 2018, Eurochild organised a conference titled: *All Aboard: How children can improve public decision-making.* The event offered a space for mutual learning between children (100) and adults (200) in the child-friendly city of Opatija, whose child Mayor will be present and intervening at the Forum. At the end of the three days conference, three final recommendations from adults, children and young people were presented:

1. Every government in Europe should make teaching about children's right to participate a mandatory part of the curriculum in every school.
2. Every government in Europe should implement an inclusive participation strategy, for ALL children, that obliges local, regional and national decision makers to take children's views into account.

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[22] Committee on the rights of the child, General comment No. 12 (2009): The rights of the child to be heard, para. 134

3. Every government in Europe should be obliged to provide evidence of the impact of children in setting the agenda, influencing decisions and following these through.

Romania, which is holding the semester of Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2019, has also put a strong emphasis on the topic of child participation to the EU decision-making process. Starting with the appointment of four Junior Ambassadors to the European Union (who will be present at the Forum), the ambitious programme of the Romanian Presidency includes a high-level event on child participation to the EU decision making processes in Bucharest in May, and the finalisation of a "children's declaration". The overall aim of this "Bucharest Declaration" would be to establish formal mechanisms that promote children's participation in EU decision-making processes.

In light of all the above, it seemed very important to dedicate part of this Forum's discussion to this issue – also with the aim of exploring the next steps to make child participation to the EU decision-making process a reality. As a concrete follow-up to the Forum's discussion, the Commission will, by the end of 2019, launch a study to explore how can child participation in the democratic life at EU level be strengthened, and how EU institutions can play a role in this. This workshop will be useful to this regard, too.

The following questions are proposed as a basis for discussion during the workshop:

Day 1 - Challenges and problem definition

1. How do we raise awareness on child participation: what it really means, in all contexts?
2. How do we inform children about their rights and in particular the right to be heard?
3. How do we achieve inclusive participation?
4. What can be done to ensure adults in positions of power take child participation seriously, and take the necessary time and resources to listen to children and follow-up on what they say?
5. How do we shift the paradigm: we often ask children to participate but within a world that adults have created, modelled, ruled. How do we change that?
6. How can we communicate about the EU, its work and decision-making process in a child-friendly way? Through what channels? Is the EU "old" (for old people)?

Day 2 - Good practices and recommendations for future actions

1. How to create synergies among all the initiatives existing at local/national level on child participation?
2. How can the EU support these initiatives?
3. How could the EU institutions concretely foster child participation within their own functioning mechanisms? (public consultations, Eurobarometer, online survey, advisory boards, mentoring schemes...).
4. How can children who are used to participate more in such things, pass on their experience/knowledge to others?
5. What could the Commission focus on when launching a study on child participation to the EU democratic life? What are the gaps that such a study could fill?

8.   Annex I – Useful resources

- [Charter of Fundamental rights of the European Union](#)
  Article 24. The rights of the child
  1. Children shall have the right to such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being. They may express their views freely. Such views shall be taken into consideration on matters which concern them in accordance with their age and maturity.
  2. In all actions relating to children, whether taken by public authorities or private institutions, the child's best interests must be a primary consideration.
  3. Every child shall have the right to maintain on a regular basis a personal relationship and direct contact with both his or her parents, unless that is contrary to his or her interests.
- [Treaty on European Union](#)
- [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#)
- [An EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child (2011)](#)
- Fundamental Rights Agency. [Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child (2015)](#)
- [Compilation of EU *acquis* on the rights of the child lists and links all legislation and proposals](#)

International standards
- [UN Convention on the Rights of the child](#)
- [UN Committee on the rights of the child](#)
- [General Comments of the Committee on the rights of the child](#)
  - [General Comment No. 6 (2005): Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside Their Country of Origin](#)
  - [General Comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard](#)
  - [General Comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence](#)
  - [General comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (art. 3, para. 1)](#)
  - [Joint General Comment No. 3 of the CMW and No. 22 of the CRC in the context of International Migration: General principles](#)
  - [Joint General Comment No. 4 of the CMW and No. 23 of the CRC in the context of International Migration: States parties' obligations in particular with respect to countries of transit and destination](#)

Commission work on the rights of the child[23]
The Commission mainstreams rights of the child across different services through the Commission coordinator on the rights of the child and the structures set up to this end (such as the inter-service group on the rights of the child). The Commission also promotes dialogue with national authorities through the informal expert group on the rights of the child.

European Forum on the rights of the child: This is the 12th edition of the European Forum on the rights of the child.[24] Previous European Forum on the rights of the child have been:
- [11th Forum, Brussels, 6-8 November 2017:](#) Children deprived of their liberty and alternatives to detention
- [10th Forum, Brussels, 29-30 November 2016](#): the Protection of children in migration

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[23] https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child_en

- 9th Forum, Brussels, 3-4 June 2015: Coordination and cooperation in integrated child protection systems
- 8th Forum, Brussels, 17-18 December 2013: Towards integration child protection systems through the implementation of the EU Agenda for the rights of the child
- 7th Forum, Brussels, 13-14 November 2012: Supporting child protection systems through the implementation of the EU Agenda for the rights of the child
- 6th Forum, Brussels, 23 November 2011: Developing evidence for child-friendly policies and communicating children's rights
- 5th Forum, Brussels, 14 October 2010: How to move forward on the EU strategy on the Rights of the Child
- 4th Forum, Brussels, 18 June 2009. Social protection and child labour. Corporate Social responsibility and child labour
- 3th Forum, Brussels, 9 December 2008. Child participation and violence against children
- 2nd Forum, Brussels, 4 March 2008. Child Alert Mechanisms for missing children and child poverty and social exclusion, with special attention to Roma children
- 1st Forum, Berlin, 4 June 2007. Strengthening membership and discussed possible mechanisms for future participation of children to the Forum and how to protect children against sexual exploitation

Funding of the European Union on the rights of the child in the DG JUSTICE Programmes

1. Compilation of EU-funded projects on rights of the child and violence against children (since 2011) in the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme and Justice programmes

2. Funding programmes in DG JUST:
- The Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)
- The Justice Programme

The protection of children in migration

- [Commission Communication on the protection of children in migration, COM(2017) 211 final of 12.4.2017](#).
- Please also consult the information and documents published on the website of DG JUSTICE on Children in Migration: https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/children-migration_en#documents
- [European Commission, AMIF Union Action (cross-border) projects aimed at the integration of children in migration.](#)
- [OECD, Working together for local integration of migrants and refugees in Athens](#) , 2018
- UNICEF, [situation reports and advocacy briefs on refugee and migrant children](#)
- [European Social Network Report: Investing in Children's Services, Improving Outcomes.](#) A Study on how the key principles on access to quality services of the European Recommendation 'Investing in children' are implemented in 14 European countries, 2016.
- [Needs Tackling and Networks Tracing for Unaccompanied minors integration (Net for U)](#)
- SOS Children's Villages International, Ageing Out of Care: From Care to Adulthood in European and Central Asian Societies.
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Unaccompanied and Separated Asylum-seeking and Refugee Children Turning Eighteen: What to Celebrate?, March 2014
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Safe & Sound: what States can do to ensure respect for the best interests of unaccompanied and separated children in Europe, October 2014.
- Durable solutions for separated children in Europe, Irish Refugee Council 2015.
- European Social Network: [Promoting the social inclusion of migrant children and young people, 2018: the duty of social services](#).
- Terre des Hommes and Destination Unknown: [Making life better for children on the move: Promising practices for working with](#) and supporting children on the move, 2019
- UNICEF[: U-report: on the move](#)
- European Migrant Advisory Board: [Ask the people report,](#) 2019

Children's rights in the ever-changing digital world

- #Saferinternetforchildren: [Factsheet](#)
- #Saferinternetforchildren: [Infographics](#)
- Council of Europe, [Internet Literacy Handbook](#), Digital environment, 2017
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