



## Building a child-friendly Europe: turning a vision into reality

Conference on the Council of Europe Strategy  
for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015

Making children the masters of the game:  
data protection and the new media environment

Workshop

Monaco, 21 November 2011, 9.00-12.00

**CONCEPT NOTE**



**Introduction:**

Children grow up and live with digital screens. They have fully integrated the Internet and other information and communication technologies into their everyday lives and interaction with others. The new media environment, be it social networks, blogs, chats, messenger services or other, provides children with almost limitless opportunities for spending their leisure time, and enables them to learn, express themselves and influence decision-making.

Yet this environment is also a space where children are at risk of having their rights violated and in particular their right to protection from harm. This harm can take the form of violence, abuse or exploitation and it may also be a consequence of a violation of their right to respect for private life (Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights) and data protection.

If the notion of “private life” has significantly evolved through the years, our understanding of it has varied greatly depending on the age of the persons concerned. Children have views of their own about what privacy is, and how it should be enjoyed.

Mirroring the “real world”, it can be difficult in the new media environment to strike the right balance between the right to participation, in particular the right to freedom of expression, and the right to protection from harm.

Based on its rich expertise and standards in the fields of children’s rights, Internet governance and data protection, the Council of Europe is in a unique position to provide guidance on these crucial questions.

**Objectives:**

This workshop aims to explore a range of situations where children’s right to data protection are at stake, thereby possibly exposing them to further harm (children’s safety). Participants will discuss which measures should be undertaken to enhance children’s data protection, starting from the key question of the minimum age requirement (consent) and its concrete implementation. The issue of data conservation and the general need to remove children’s traces on the Internet, as well as the abusive use of children’s data will also be addressed.

The workshop will give illustrations of children’s habits and “good behaviour” on the Internet, demonstrating how awareness raising of potential risks and the issues at stake is beneficial.

Privacy options by default, the use of pseudonyms, the risks of geolocation and the necessary respect for the privacy of others are other key themes of this workshop.

**Moderator:**

Mr Giovanni Buttarelli, Assistant European Data Protection Supervisor

**Speakers:**

- Mr Jean-Philippe Walter, Chair of the Consultative Committee of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data
- Ms Anne-Sophie Bordry, Director of Public Affairs, France and Southern Europe, Facebook
- Ms Janice Richardson, Principal Adviser, European Schoolnet, Belgium
- Mr Theo Noten, representative of eNACSO, ECPAT Netherlands
- Mr Jean-Philippe Noat, Action Innocence, Monaco

**Rapporteur:**

Ms Anica Djamić, Committee of Ministers Thematic Co-ordinator for Children, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the Council of Europe