



Strasbourg, 26 May 2015

DECS-ENF (2015) PVA1

**Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (DECS-ENF)  
2<sup>nd</sup> meeting**

**DRAFT ABRIDGED REPORT**

**Opening of the meeting: Tuesday 12 May 2015 (9.30 am)**

**Close of the meeting: Wednesday 13 May 2015 (6.00 pm)**

**Council of Europe, Agora, Room G01, Strasbourg**

The Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (DECS-ENF) held its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 12 and 13 May 2015 in Strasbourg, chaired by Ms Ina Verzivolli (Albania), Vice-Chair of the Committee. The agenda, as adopted, appears in Appendix I.

At this meeting, the DECS-ENF:

1. Took note of the Secretariat's presentation of the data on progress achieved on the 2012-2015 Strategy for the Rights of the Child and invited the Secretariat to prepare a written draft report to be sent to the Committee prior to its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
2. Took note of the presentation by Ms Mieke Schuurman (expert) on the report "Challenges to children's rights today: What do children think?".
3. Took note of the Secretariat's presentation of the analysis of replies to the questionnaires by member States, NGOs and Ombudspersons for Children.
4. Welcomed that the draft Strategy reflects to a great extent the priorities emerging both from the replies by stakeholders to the questionnaires and from the report "Challenges to children's rights today: What do children think?".
5. Took note of the conclusions of the European Conference on the "Best Interests of the Child", Brussels, 9-10 December 2014, presented by Mr Joost van Haelst (Belgium) and stated that the principle of the best interests of the child should be referred to in the introductory chapter of the Strategy as well as throughout the Strategy where applicable.

6. Welcomed the opening of the exhibition “Austerity Bites” by Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Mr Tam Baillie (United Kingdom), Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People and Chair of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC).
7. Took note of a presentation by Ms Ksenija Turković, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, on Current challenges to children’s rights in Europe: The case law of the European Court of Human Rights.
8. Exchanged views on the general structure of the draft Strategy and agreed to:
  - a. add a 5<sup>th</sup> priority area on the opportunities and challenges for children’s rights linked to internet and ICT;
  - b. replace the three cross-cutting priorities by a reference to the four general principles of the UNCRC.
9. Took note of presentations by Ms Maria Herczog, President of Eurochild and former member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Ms Eliane Chemla, Member of the European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR), Ms Yekaterina Chzhen, UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti Florence, and Ms Michaela Bauer, UNICEF CEE/CIS Brussels Office, as well as Mr Martin Martinek, Rapporteur on Roma Children of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM).
10. Exchanged views on the chapter “Equal opportunities for all children” and agreed on a number of modifications to the paragraphs on the economic effects of austerity and on guiding and supporting parents and on countering discrimination.
11. Held an exchange of views on the paragraphs on countering discrimination and, while noting that there is no current intergovernmental activity of the Council of Europe focusing specifically on migration issues, stressed the importance of this issue for member States and asked for a reference to children with migrant background in this paragraph.
12. Took note of the presentation by Mr Tam Baillie on his work on child participation as Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People, and Ms Anniki Lai (Estonia), member of the DECS-ENF, on the Estonian experience in piloting the Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool.
13. Exchanged views on the chapter “Participation of all children” and agreed on a number of modifications, including that the wording of the chapter should be strengthened to reflect the requirement for member States to develop innovative methods for child participation and the need for the Council of Europe to support them through facilitating exchange of experiences.
14. Took note of the presentations by Ms Marta Santos Pais, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children, Mr Peter Newell, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children and Ms Ina Verzivolli, Albania, member of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee).
15. Exchanged views on the chapter “A life free from violence for all children” and agreed on a number of modifications, including that the paragraph on corporal punishment should be strengthened to reflect more clearly the importance of achieving a legal ban on corporal punishment of children in the home.

16. Took note of a presentation by Ms Ursula Kilkelly, professor of law, School of Law at University College Cork, on child-friendly justice.
17. Exchanged views on the chapter “Access to justice for all children” and agreed on a number of modifications, including that reference should be made to children deprived of liberty instead of children in detention and that a reference to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Optional Protocol to the UNCRC should be added to this chapter.
18. Agreed to postpone the discussion of the chapters “Making standards work for children” and of the co-operation methods with NGOs under the chapter “Involving all relevant stakeholders” to the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
19. Held an exchange of views on the methods of co-operation with member States under the chapter “Involving all relevant stakeholders” and agreed to continue this discussion at its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting
20. Took note that the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting would be held on 20-21 October 2015 in Strasbourg and instructed its Bureau to determine the feasibility and necessity of holding this meeting together with the Network of National Co-ordinators or how otherwise to involve the Network in the finalisation of the Strategy.
21. Agreed in principle to propose to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe that the duration of the Strategy be extended to six years and invited the Secretariat to make a more detailed proposal on the modalities of evaluation and adjustment of the Strategy throughout this period.
22. Invited the Secretariat to send a revised version of the draft Strategy to the DECS-ENF by **26 May in English and 5 June in French.**
23. Agreed that DECS-ENF participants would be asked to provide comments to this revised version by **10 July**, on the basis of which the Secretariat would prepare a 2<sup>nd</sup> revised version for consideration at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## Appendix I

### **Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (DECS-ENF) 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting**

#### **REVISED DRAFT AGENDA**

**Opening of the meeting: Tuesday 12 May 2015 (9.30 am)**

**Close of the meeting: Wednesday 13 May 2015 (6.00 pm)**

**Council of Europe, Agora, Room G01, Strasbourg**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda, order of business and report of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting *DECS-ENF (2015) OJ1rev2  
DECS-ENF (2015) OJA1rev3  
DECS-ENF (2014) PV1*
3. Presentation of elements of the Draft progress report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015
4. Draft Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2019 *DECS-ENF (2015) 2  
DECS-ENF (2015) 3  
DECS-ENF (2015) 4*
5. Third meeting of the DECS-ENF
6. Adoption of the abridged meeting report *DECS-ENF (2015) PVA1*
7. Other business
8. Closing of the meeting