BUILDING A EUROPE FOR AND WITH CHILDREN

The Council of Europe programme

Council of Europe

”Building a Europe for and with children”

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Presentation

1) General Council of Europe points

2) Transversal Programme ”Building a Europe for and with children”

3) The Council of Europe campaign to stop sexual violence against children

4) Website:

www.coe.int/children

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60th Anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights

Council of Europe

- Established 1949
- 60th Anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights
- Three pillars:

1) Human rights

2) Democracy

3) Rule of law

- 47 member states (800 million children)
- **Including 150 million children**

Council of Europe

- Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)
- Committee of Ministers (CM)
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- Secreteriat (2,000 staff):
  Secretary General: Mr Thorbjorn Jagland
  Deputy Secretary General
  Mrs Maud Boer Buquicchio
- European Court of Human Rights
- Council of Europe observer status: United States, Canada, Japan, Mexico, The Holy See

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Conventions, Recommendations and Resolutions

- Specific treaties on children's rights
  - European Convention on the Legal Status of Children born out of Wedlock
  - European Convention on the exercise of children's rights
  - European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions Concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of the Custody of Children, etc.

The CoE Mechanisms to hold the governments to account on children's rights

- The European Court of Human Rights takes up cases (also dealing with children's rights)
- European Committee for the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (CPT)
- The European Social Charter is monitored by the European Committee of Social Rights (collective complaints may also be lodged)
- The Human Rights Commissioner (Mr Thomas Hammarberg)

- **Commissioner for Human Rights**
- One of the influencal defenders of children's rights
- Independent office since 1999
- Submits written comments
- Participates in hearings
- Undertakes country visits, thematic recommendations, raises awareness
- Promotes the development of national human rights institutions

Building a Europe for and with children 2006 - 2008

- Third Summit Mandate was to
  - mainstream children's rights in all CoE policies
  - coordinate all children-related activities in CoE
  - eradicate all forms of violence against children
- Building a Europe for and with children, 3-year-programme launched in Monaco 2006

Building a Europe for and with children 2006 - 2008

- Establishment of a Co-ordination unit
- Establishment of an Inter-secretariat task force
- Three-year-action programme Children and violence
- Nomination of a Thematic Coordinator on children on the Committee of Ministers level

Building a Europe for and with children 2006 – 2008 - outcomes

- A pilot scheme in selected countries to review their national policies for protecting children against violence -> guidelines
- Special focus on violence
  - in schools
  - on Internet
  - sexual abuse
  - corporal punishment of children

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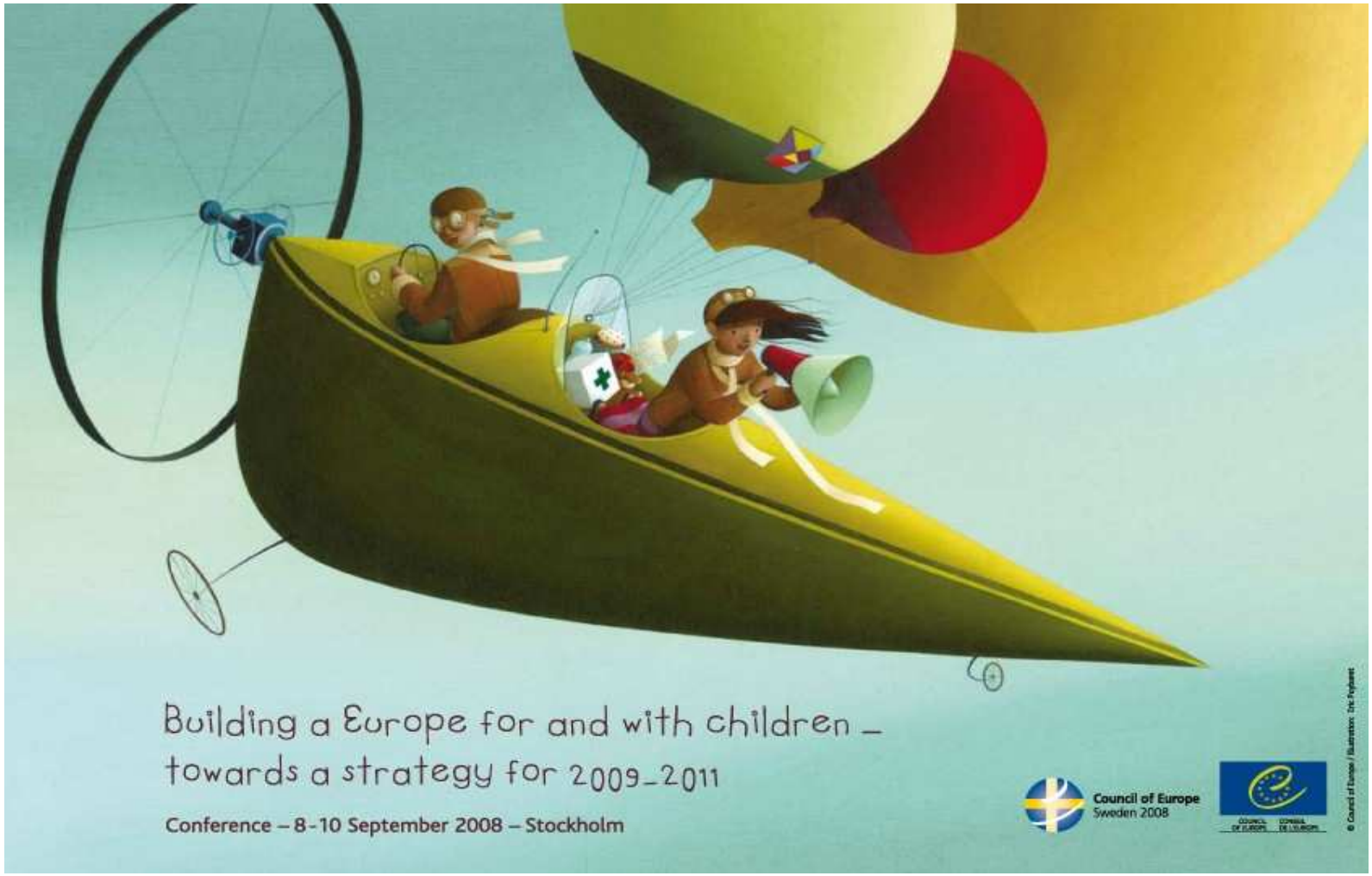

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Stockholm strategy 2009 - 2011

Provision

Protection

Participation

for children in Europe

Working methods:

- Mainstreaming
- Co-ordination
- Co-operation

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Stockholm strategy 2009 - 2011

Thematic pillars

Child participation

Child-friendly justice

Violence against children

with the focus on

most marginalized and vulnerable children

- Strategy recognises the importance of the international co-operation by providing tools such as
  - Standard setting
  - Monitoring
  - Policy development
  - Technical assistance
  - Awareness-raising

- Policy development
- Steering committee of government representatives + observers from NGOs and intergovernmental organisations
- Examples: rights of children in institutions, integration of migrant children, rights of children with disabilities, access to education by Roma children, tools for decision makers for human rights education, methods and tools for child participation

Recent commitments: Child-friendly justice

- European **guidelines**
- Improving children's **access** to international justice
- A child-friendly version available
- More voice to children in judicial system
- Good practices and practical solutions to remedy the legal gaps
- In parallel it is important to assure alternative means such as mediation

Eradication of all forms of violence against children

- Role of the **regional coordinator** of national and regional initiatives to combat violence against children
- **National Focal points** ->**A platform for Children's Rights**
- **Policy guidelines** for integrated strategies
- Actions against **sexual exploitation** and sexual abuse of children, trafficking of children

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Council of Europe Campaign to Stop Sexual Violence against Children

Launched:
29 November 2010
in Rome

Goals of the campaign

1. To support the signature, ratification and implementation of relevant CoE standards

The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

(Lanzarote Convention)

CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

CoE Convention on Cybercrime

Goals of the campaign

2. To raise European societies' awareness of the full extent of sexual violence and to provide children, parents and professionals with knowledge and tools to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

Campaign to stop sexual violence against children

- Collecting and analysing data on sexual violence against children
- Raising awareness amongst children, families, carers and professionals working for and with children
- Facilitating communication in and among member states, including with NGOs and NGO coalitions
- National focal points to facilitate in setting up multistakeholder campaign teams and national campaign action plans

Communication products

- Graphic identity
- Information pack
- Media pack
- Campaign website

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Child participation 2009 - 2011

- **Mainstreaming** child participation in CoE
- European guidelines for child and youth participation
- Analyses for national policies in 3 pilot member states
- First pilot in Finland: workshop in the end of 2010 to review the results
- Consultations of children to develop our work: for drafting the guidelines on child-friendly justice 3700 children in 25 European countries were consulted

Recommendations to the EU strategy on Children's Rights

- Intergrated approach is necessary
- Reinforcement of the co-ordination function within the European Commission
- Impact assessment process prior to adopting a policy
- Information consultations prior to major decisions likely to affect children's rights
- Accession to the key CoE human rights instruments
- Recognition of the findings, decisions and recommendations of the CoE monitoring bodies
- Co-ordinated collaboration with NGO sector

CONSTRUIRE UNE EUROPE POUR ET AVEC LES ENFANTS

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www.coe.int/children

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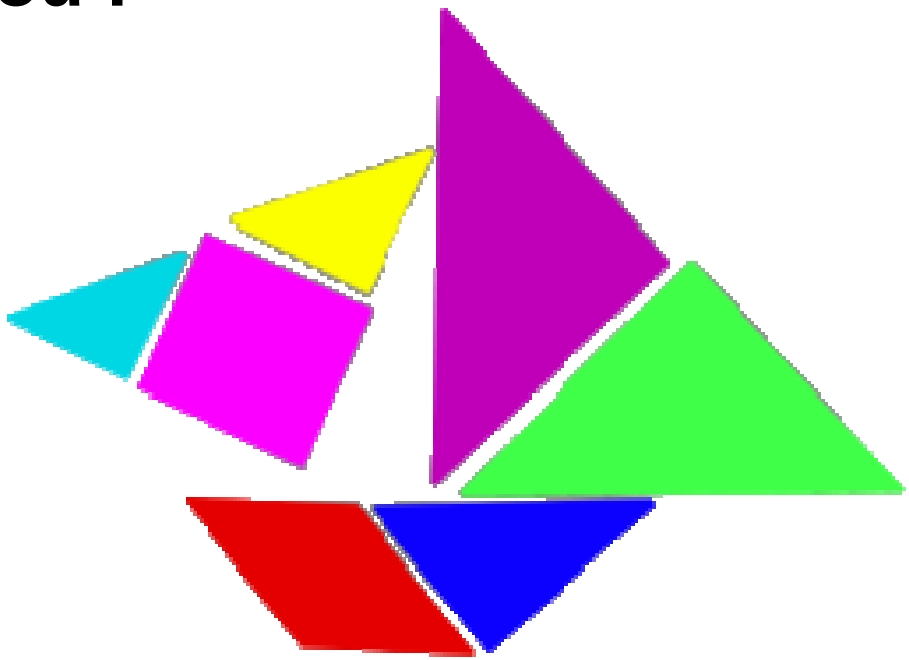
Thank you !