



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE**

Unit C1 : Fundamental Rights and Rights of the Child

Brussels,

JLS/C1// [REDACTED] D(2011)

**ISG «Children's Rights»**

**Meeting in 15 June 2011 (tentative)**

**Draft Agenda**

**1. State of play on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights**

- Strategy for the effective implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights by the EU
- Annual Report on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Operational Guidance on taking account of Fundamental Rights in Commission Impact assessments
- Council conclusions

**2. Follow-up to the "EU Agenda for the rights of the child"**

**3. State of play of on-going initiatives, in particular:**

- Commission Recommendation on Child poverty (EMPL)
- Adoption of the Victim Package (JUST)
- Recent developments at the UN (EEAS)
- Implementation of the Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (HOME)
- Recent developments in Information Society and Media (INFSO)

**4. 2011 Forum on the rights of the child**

**5. AOB**

15/6/2011

## An EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child

	Action	Responsible service	Timetable	State of play
1.1 Rights of the Child an integral part of EU FR Policy	To provide internal training on operational guidance on impact assessment	JUST.C.1 Other services??		Operational Guidance adopted, Training under preparation.
1.2 Building the basis of Evidenced based policies	To produce basic data on children's rights	JUST.C.1		Terms of reference under preparation – publication of the call for tender foreseen by end 2011
1.3 Cooperation with stakeholders	EU Forum on the Rights of the Child	JUST C.1 Steering Group of the Forum		SG of the Forum – end of June 6 <sup>th</sup> Forum will take place on 22 November 2011. Theme to be decided

2.1 Child friendly justice	Provision of information to children in family law	JUST.A.1 Member States	?	<i>The Commission, in cooperation with Member States, will develop and keep updated factsheets on EU and national legislation on maintenance obligations, mediation and recognition and enforcement of decisions on parental responsibility</i>
	<b>1. Proposal for a Directive on victims' rights raising the level of protection of vulnerable victims, including children</b>	JUST.B.1	2011	Package adopted on 18 May 2011
	<b>2. Proposal for a Directive on special safeguards for suspected or accused persons who are vulnerable, including children</b>	JUST.B.1	2012	

	<b>3. revising EU legislation facilitating the recognition and enforcement of decisions on parental responsibility</b>	JUST.A.1	2013	<i>with a view to ensuring, in the interest of the child, that decisions can be recognised and enforced as quickly as possible, including, where appropriate, the establishment of common minimum standards</i>
	<b>4. promoting the use of the Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly justice</b>		2011	Contacts with the Council of Europe have started. Planned date for internal training in JUSTICE: September 2011
	<b>5. supporting and encouraging the development of training activities for judges and other professionals at European level regarding the optimal participation of children in judicial systems</b>			

<b>2.2 Targeting EU action to protect children when they are vulnerable</b>	<b>Fight against Child Poverty</b>	<b>EMPL</b>	<b>2012</b>	<i>The needs of children at risk of poverty and social exclusion will be addressed in a Commission Recommendation on child poverty, which will outline common principles and propose effective monitoring tools to prevent and combat child poverty within the framework of the Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion</i>
	<b>Integrated Strategy on countering trafficking in human beings</b>	<b>HOME.A.2</b>	<b>2012</b>	
	<b>Encourage quality early childhood education and care</b>	<b>EAC/EMPL?</b>		<i>COM will promote initiatives in collaboration with Member States to fight against segregation in educational systems, and disseminate good practices</i>

	Child Alert Mechanism	JUST.C.1		To check if FR/Daphne Programmes can be used to support MSs in adopting such a system
	<b>6. supporting the exchange of best practices and the improvement of training for guardians, public authorities and other actors who are in close contact with unaccompanied children (2011-2014);</b>	HOME.B.1	2011	Expert meeting on Guardianship

	<p><b>7. paying particular attention to children in the context of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, which will be adopted in spring 2011 and will notably promote the more efficient use of structural funds for the integration of Roma;</b></p>			
	<p><b>8. encouraging and providing support to all Member States to ensure the swift introduction and full functioning of the 116 000 hotline for missing children and the child alert mechanisms (2011-2012).</b></p>	JUST.C.1	yearly	1 <sup>st</sup> High Level meeting held on 25-26 May 2011

	<p>9. supporting Member States and other stakeholders in strengthening prevention, empowerment and participation of children to make the most of online technologies and counter cyber-bullying behaviour, exposure to harmful content, and other online risks namely through the Safer Internet programme and cooperation with the industry through self-regulatory initiatives (2009-2014)</p>	INFSO		
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2.3 Children in EU external action	10. The EU will continue the implementation of the 2007 EU Guidelines on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child that focus on combating all forms of violence against children. The EU will also evaluate the implementation of the Guidelines. The EU will implement the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflicts based on the 2010 Revised Implementation Strategy	EEAS		
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	<b>Commission Report on the worst forms of child labour</b>			
	<b>Child sex tourism</b>	<b>ENTR?</b>		



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR JUSTICE

Directorate C : Fundamental Rights and Union Citizenship  
Unit C1 : Fundamental Rights and Rights of the Child

Brussels, 11 September 2015  
JUST C1

DRAFT MINUTES

**Subject:** Inter-Service Group meeting "Rights of the Child", 15 June 2011

*Participants:* [REDACTED] (HOME.B1), [REDACTED] (EMPL.D2), [REDACTED] (INFO.A1), [REDACTED] (SG.D3), [REDACTED] (DEVCO.D1), [REDACTED] (EEAS.VI.B1), [REDACTED] (JUSTICE.B1), [REDACTED] (SG.D3), [REDACTED] (ENTR.F1), [REDACTED] (HOME.A2), [REDACTED] (TRADE.DGA1.C1), [REDACTED] (JUSTICE.C1).

1. The state of play on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

JUSTICE presented the strategy for the effective implementation of the Charter which is of direct relevance as the Charter contains specific provisions on the rights of the child (Art. 24). The Union must set an example and be beyond reproach when making legislation. The strategy explains how the COM will reinforce the assessment of the impact on fundamental rights of its legislative proposals. An annual report is published to monitor the application of the Charter. The operational guidance on fundamental rights aims to assist the COM staff preparing impact assessments. A discussion followed, summarized as follows:

- HOME shared their experience in the light of the negotiations on the Directive fighting child sexual exploitation.
- The question whether the operational guidance can be applied on international treaties was raised by DEVCO.

*JUSTICE replied that a proposal for negotiation mandate, for example for a trade agreement with a third country, should be fundamental rights checked whenever such proposal is accompanied by a standard Commission Impact Assessment. The Operational Guidance is not meant to be used for ex-post evaluations.*

*The need to involve JUSTICE as early as possible when drafting a policy or a legal proposal was underlined. JUSTICE can also be consulted on an informal*

*basis to help identifying whether a concrete initiative raises fundamental rights issues.*

## 2. Follow-up to the EU Agenda for the rights of the child

State of play of recent initiatives:

- Single entry point for children on EUROPA website (JUSTICE): The single entry point for children and the website for the rights of the child will be launched in September.
- Data collection on children (JUSTICE): The EP has provided funding for a pilot project to enhance access to statistics on children's rights which is comparable, objective and reliable as basis for development of evidence-based child policies. Specifications for a call for tender are being prepared.
- Conference 116 000 (JUSTICE): The joint COM-Presidency-Missing Children Europe conference "European responses to missing children and the need for child-friendly justice" took place on 26 May as announced in the COM Communication on 116 000. The aim was to present how the hotline works in practice and to help MSs that do not have the number operational yet through an exchange of best practices.
- Combating sexual exploitation of children in connection with tourism and travel (ENTR): Discussions focused on what could be done to address the issue of child sex tourism. JUSTICE/HOME stated that child sex tourism is criminalised and COM has jurisdiction only as regards EU nationals and not third country nationals. ENTR was interested to work on the issue but inquired if funding could be made available to address the issue in third countries.

*It was suggested that relevant services in JUSTICE, HOME, ENTR, ELARG and DEVCO meet to discuss how to address the issue.*

- Child poverty and social exclusion (EMPL): Two documents to be adopted by June 2012: a recommendation on access to childcare services and a recommendation on social participation of children. To avoid the multiplication of different initiatives the need for improving communication and coordination was underlined.

*DEVCO pointed out that child poverty in external action is not mentioned in the EU Agenda and asked if the Inter-Service Group would discuss how to address the issue. It is not clear if the internal - external dimension are two parallel or two separate tracks. JUSTICE agreed that the Group should discuss further the issue.*

- Adoption of the victims package (JUSTICE): The proposal for a Directive on minimum standards for victims will ensure that vulnerable victims – such as children – are identified and that they are properly protected. The proposed Regulation on mutual recognition of protection measures will ensure that victims of violence (such as domestic violence) can still rely on restraint or protection orders issued against the perpetrator if they travel or move to another EU country. It is also foreseen to take action to strengthen existing EU rules on compensation to victims of crime.
- Recent developments at the UN (EEAS): The following documents were highlighted: the adoption of the March 2011 UNHRC Resolution on street children, the adoption of

the June 2011 UNHRC Resolution on Optional Protocol 3 to CRC on individual complaints mechanism and drafting of UNGA Resolution on children with disabilities. EEAS invited relevant services to attend the next COHOM Task Force meeting on children's rights on 13 July (agenda will be sent). The 2011 Investing in People Programme is specifically targeting children's rights (DEVCO).

- Implementation of the Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors 2010-2014 (HOME): The data collection has been improved (revised guidelines). The anti-human trafficking Directive includes new provisions on particular assistance, support and protection to unaccompanied child victims of trafficking. The amended asylum proposals will include procedural safeguards concerning unaccompanied minors such as reception conditions, age-appropriate support and the obligation to trace family members. The proposed Asylum Procedures Directive: the right of minors to apply for international protection is explicitly mentioned; unaccompanied minors are entitled to free legal assistance; MSs are required to appoint a guardian. An expert group meeting on unaccompanied minors and guardianship was held on 21 June.
- Recent developments in Information Society and Media (INFSO): The recently drafted report on protection of minors is being aligned with the children on the net initiative.

### 3. Other issues discussed

DGs were asked to suggest topics for the next Child Forum in November. The Steering Group of the Forum will meet on 12 July.

TRADE is drafting a Report on the worst forms of child labour and trade as requested in the Council Conclusions on the 2010 COM Staff Working Document – Combating Child Labour and asked for help to find information on situations of hazardous work, age group 15-17 years old, in the EU, in particular from EMPL.

[REDACTED]



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE**

Unit C1 : Fundamental Rights and Rights of the Child

Brussels, 11 November 2011

JLS/C1/●D(2011)

**ISG «Children's Rights»**

**Meeting on 11 November 2011  
from 10:30-12:00**

**Draft Agenda**

1. Implementation of the "EU Agenda for the rights of the child" - DG JUST update
2. State of play of on-going initiatives on children's rights - all DGs (tour de table)
  - a. External EU policy on children's rights (UNGA, EU Guidelines review launch) (EEAS)
  - b. Trade and the worst forms of child labour: state of play on the report to the Council (TRADE)
  - c. Other DGs
3. 6<sup>th</sup> Forum on the rights of the child, and future meetings of the Forum
4. AOB



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR JUSTICE

Directorate C : Fundamental rights and Union citizenship  
Unit C1 : Fundamental rights and rights of the child

Brussels,  
JUST C1/1439831s

MINUTES

**Subject: InterService Group on the rights of the child – 11 November 2011  
10:30-12:00**

**Participants:** (TRADE ), (INFSO ), (TRADE C1),  
(INFSO A1), (EEAS B1), (REGIO D2),  
(REGIO D2), (ENTR F1), (JUST A1),  
(HOME A2), (EMPL D2),  
(JUST C1).

Head of the Fundamental rights and rights of the child unit, chaired the meeting and welcomed the participants. He gave an overview of staff changes within the Fundamental rights and Union Citizenship directorate, namely the recent appointments of as Director, of as Deputy Head of Unit for Fundamental rights and rights of the child and of as Commission coordinator for the rights of the child.

**1. Review of the progress in the implementation of the EU Agenda on the rights of the child - JUST**

A brief update was provided for relevant actions (11 in total), see also indicative overview distributed at the meeting.

**The training in DG JUSTICE on child-friendly justice** in cooperation with the Council of Europe will start early next year (action 4).

A study will be carried out in 2012 on the **implementation of the "Brussels II" regulation on parental responsibility**, followed by a Commission implementation report evaluating the state of play and collecting data. The data will help in preparation of revision of the instrument by end 2013. The judicial training communication adopted in September 2011 sets ambitious targets for the **training of judges**. DG JUST.A1 (civil law) aims to conclude a framework contract to develop training modules in the course of 2012, such as modules on child custody proceedings (actions 3 and 5).

The **hotline 116 000 for missing children** is operational in 16 MS. The Commission will continue to encourage MS that have not introduced the hotline to put it in place as soon as possible (action 8).

The launch of a **single entry point for children on Europa** is planned for the end of the year. At the 6<sup>th</sup> European Forum on the rights of the child, VP Reding will present a short video, as an example of the material that will feature on the children's rights website that is part of the Kids' Corner (action 11).

## 2. State of play of on-going initiatives on children's rights – all DGs (tour de table)

- a. External EU policy on children's rights (UNGA, EU Guidelines review launch) **EEAS**

**The review of the EU Guidelines on Protection and Promotion of the rights of the child** – the first draft concept paper has been distributed to the DGs. On 9/11, the draft was presented to the COHOM Task force on Children, for discussion. There is a move from a single topic implementation to several topics chosen by heads of missions, and internal policies will be mentioned in the HR (RoC) dialogues with third countries. **Line DGs will be asked to contribute to the document in due time.** The guidelines serve as a basis for dialogue and leverage and also help to identify clear objectives and focus priorities for funding. During dialogues, third countries often ask what we have achieved on the RoC in the EU. JUSTICE and HOME pointed out the need to present the link with the internal policies correctly.

**Implementation of the Revised Implementation Strategy for the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC)** – The EEAS invited the COHOM Task force to consider the implementation of actions foreseen in the Revised Implementation Strategy related to thematic demarche campaigns (e.g. ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN CRC on child soldiers, promotion of the recommendations of the Under-Secretary-General Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict (UNSG's SR on CAAC) and the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (SCWG-CAAC).

EEAS also informed participants of the **annual EEAS training** on children's rights, open to EU staff and to MS, scheduled for 16-17 November 2011.

An upcoming Canadian resolution at the UN General Assembly calls for declaring 22 September as the **International Day of the Girl**. An International Day will highlight the particular needs and rights of girls and advocate for greater action and investment to enable girls to reach their full potential.

- b. Trade and the worst forms of child labour: state of play on the report to the Council (**TRADE**)

TRADE distributed a draft non-paper and asked DGs for comments before the end of November. The report was requested following the Council Conclusions on the 2010 COM Staff Working Paper (SWP) 'Combating child labour'. The report will be presented in the form of a SWP in the first quarter of 2012. It is planned to launch an interservice consultation before the end of the year. 2016 is the target date to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. The region most affected is Sub-Saharan Africa. The main problem



sectors are: cocoa, textile industry (cotton), mining of stone in India and gems in Latin America, hazelnuts in Turkey. The non-paper focuses on trade in goods. ENTR proposed to also include the 'services' sector since tourism is merely about services and secondly because the exploitation of children in the service industry is huge.

The chair underlined that this is one of the aims of the ISG – to facilitate informal consultation at an early stage when drafting documents.

c. All other DGs:

**HOME:** The **Directive fighting child sexual exploitation**, to be adopted 15/11/2011 constitutes big improvements compared to the 2004 framework decision (FD), in particular as regards criminalisation which covers a wider range of situations (including new phenomena such as child grooming, webcam abuse, or web viewing child pornography), levels of penalties, protection and prevention. The directive will enter into force two years after adoption. For more detailed information, see comparative analysis of the 2004 FD and the 2011 Directive distributed at the meeting.

**INFSO:** Draft Council conclusions on the protection of children in the digital world were being prepared. *(Post-meeting note: These conclusions were adopted at the Education, Youth and Culture Council on 29 November (see: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/126424.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/126424.pdf) - page 19).* **On the Safer Internet Programme: Empowering and Protecting Children Online**, a project on awareness-raising and training with focus on social workers in the context of vulnerable children will start in 2012. The 2011 Safer Internet Forum took place on 20-21/10 in Luxembourg under the theme "Every European Child Digital Safety – Emerging Challenges and Youth Engagement". The participation of a youth panel (30 children) as well as some parents in the event was a success. JUSTICE was interested to learn more about how the youth participation had been organised. INFSO is preparing a new Communication 'Better Internet for Children' with the aim to promote more the positive side of using internet while also including the negative one. It will encompass existing initiatives and push for further action and an interservice consultation will be launched at the end of 2011.

**EMPL:** The adoption of the **Commission Recommendation on child poverty** is postponed to autumn 2012. The document takes a rights approach. It will include common principles for policy action: access to resources for families (income support, access to labour market), key services (child care, health, education, housing) and participation, as well as a set of indicators to monitor the situation.

**ENTR:** DG ENTR has been instructed to be more involved in DG JUSTICE work on rights of the child. DG ENTR referred to the so-called sex tourism provisions in the directive on combating the sexual exploitation of children. DG ENTR would welcome training on children's rights.

**REGIO:** While DG REGIO has no particular emphasis on children's rights in its work, they are interested in the topic and some of their programmes cover aspects related to children's rights, such as Roma inclusion or deinstitutionalisation/alternative care.

3. 6<sup>th</sup> Forum on the rights of the child, and future meetings of the Forum

The 6<sup>th</sup> Forum will focus on data collection in justice systems and communicating the rights of the child. Members of the Inter Service Group will be invited to the Forum. The chair stressed that the Forum is a tool for all DGs and the colleagues were invited to think about possible topics for the 2012 Forum. The next Steering Group on the rights of the child will be convened in February 2012.

#### 4. Any other business

- **Annual report on the implementation of the charter of fundamental rights, short information point**

DGs were asked to provide input to the annual report on the implementation of the Charter. A request for contributions has been sent to all DGs. The chair requested in particular **contributions on the rights of the child**. The 2010 Annual report is available and indicates what issues could be relevant for the report. The adoption of the new report is planned for March 2012.

- **ISG working methods/ frequency of meetings, etc.**

DG JUSTICE considered it useful to rethink and discuss DGs' needs and expectations vis à vis the Inter Service Group. There was no time to discuss this and the point will be raised again at the next meeting.

The new coordinator will continue to contact individual DGs for bilateral meetings as part of her stakeholder consultations.

#### Next meeting:

The next meeting is planned to take place in January 2012, before the Steering Group is convened.

#### Annexes:

- Indicative overview of the implementation of actions identified in the EU Agenda for the rights of the child
- Directive fighting child sexual exploitation – comparative analysis of the 2004 FD and the new Directive
- Non-paper on The Worst Forms of Child Labour
- Final agenda and background paper - 6<sup>th</sup> Forum on the rights of the child  
<http://ec.europa.eu/justice/events/child-forum/index.html>

## Indicative overview of the implementation of actions identified in the EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child

The Communication on an **EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child** was adopted on **15 February 2011**. The Communication identifies 11 priority areas of action without preventing the Commission to continue implementing existing and well established policies in areas not explicitly mentioned in the Communication but having an impact on the rights of the child. Furthermore, the EU Agenda makes the rights of the child an integral part of the EU's fundamental rights policy and makes a commitment towards building the basis for evidence-based policy making. A concerted action of all Commission services, other EU institutions, Member States and other actors is necessary for a successful implementation of the EU Agenda.

1. adopting, in 2011, a <b>proposal for a Directive on victims' rights</b> raising the level of protection of vulnerable victims, including children;	<i>Commission's proposal adopted on 18 May 2011.</i>
2. tabling, in 2012, a <b>proposal for a Directive on special safeguards</b> for suspected or accused persons who are vulnerable, including children;	<i>Ongoing preparatory work.</i>
3. revising, by 2013, the <b>EU legislation facilitating the recognition and enforcement of decisions on parental responsibility</b> with a view to ensuring, in the interest of the child, that decisions can be recognised and enforced as quickly as possible, including, where appropriate, the establishment of common minimum standards;	<i>Ongoing preparatory work.</i>
4. <b>promoting the use of the Council of Europe Guidelines of 17 November 2010 on child-friendly justice</b> and taking them into account in future legal instruments in the field of civil and criminal justice;	<i>Mainstreaming of the Guidelines in Commission's initiatives and organisation of internal training in DG JUSTICE under preparation in co-operation with the Council of Europe.</i>
5. supporting and encouraging the <b>development of training activities for judges</b> and other professionals at European level regarding the optimal participation of children in judicial systems.	<i>Communication COM(2011) 551 final, Building trust in EU-wide justice a new dimension to European judicial training, adopted on 13 September.</i>
6. supporting the exchange of best practices and the <b>improvement of training for guardians, public authorities</b> and other actors who are in close contact with unaccompanied children (2011-2014);	<i>Expert meeting was held on 21 June (DG HOME) with the objective of identifying needs of Guardians and possible EU actions to support them.</i>
7. paying particular attention to children in the context of the <b>EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies</b> , which will be adopted in spring 2011 and will notably promote	<i>Communication on EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies adopted on 5 April 2011.</i>

the more efficient use of structural funds for the integration of Roma;	<i>Council Conclusions of 19 May 2011 on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020.</i>
8. strongly encouraging and providing support to all Member States to ensure the <b>swift introduction and full functioning of the 116 000 hotline for missing children</b> and the child alert mechanisms (2011-2012);	<p><i>Conference on 'European responses to missing children and the need for child-friendly justice' on 26 May 2011.</i></p> <p><i>Possibility of future funding is being looked into to support the operation of existing hotlines and the creation of new ones.</i></p> <p><i>Communication COM (2010) 674 final 'Dial 116 000: The European hotline for missing children' envisaged the possibility of adopting a Regulation on EU hotlines for missing children.</i></p>
9. supporting Member States and other stakeholders in <b>strengthening prevention, empowerment and participation of children to make the most of online technologies and counter cyber-bullying behaviour</b> , exposure to harmful content, and other online risks namely through the Safer Internet programme and cooperation with the industry through self-regulatory initiatives (2009-2014);	<i>Safer Internet Work Programme for 2012 is currently under preparation.</i>
10. continuing the implementation of the 2007 <b>EU Guidelines on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child</b> that focus on combating all forms of <b>violence against children</b> . The EU will also evaluate the implementation of the Guidelines. The EU will implement the <b>EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflicts</b> based on the 2010 Revised Implementation Strategy;	<i>Ongoing work in co-operation with EEAS.</i>
11. setting up, in the course of 2011, a <b>single entry point on EUROPA with information for children on the EU and on the rights of the child</b> . The Commission will invite other EU institutions to join this initiative.	<i>The single entry point for children to get information about the EU and their rights, Kids' Corner, will be launched on 23 November. The EU website for the Rights of the Child, dedicated to children, will be launched as part of the Kids' Corner.</i>

What the 2004 Framework Decision contained	What the new EU Directive contains
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### *Offences and penalties*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminalisation covering limited number of offences, not taking into account new phenomena like child grooming, webcam abuse, or web viewing child pornography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminalisation covering wide range of situations of sexual abuse and exploitation (20 offences), of which 9 are new; covering new phenomena like child grooming, webcam abuse, or web viewing child pornography</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of penalties (1-5 years)</li> <li>• Only two minimum levels of penalties, not sufficiently fine-tuned (1 or 5 years prison)</li> <li>• little approximation of MS' legislation</li> <li>• Sanctions on legal persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased levels of penalties, ranging 1-10 years</li> <li>• Levels of penalties more detailed, depending on severity of offence and (in some cases) age of the victim: levels at 1,2,3,5,8 or 10 years</li> <li>• New aggravating circumstances, including vulnerable children, abuse by family members, gang rape, or recidivism</li> <li>• Greater approximation of MS legislation</li> <li>• Sanctions on legal person as in FD 2004</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As criminalisation was narrower, the risk of undesired criminalisation of consensual sexual activities was lower</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More detailed and fine-tuned provision (distinguishing sexual relations, performances, and recording pictures) to avoid unintended criminalisation of consensual activities between peers in the course of their sexual development; fundamental decisions left to Member States, to take account of different social and cultural traditions.</li> </ul>

### *Investigation and prosecution*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vague provision on statute of limitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension of statute of limitation for most offences after victim has reached majority</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No provision on confidentiality rules and reporting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of confidentiality obstacles to reporting by professionals with the main duty to work with children</li> <li>• Encouragement to report suspicion of abuse</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigation or prosecution not dependant on report or accusation of victim at least in the most serious offences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigation and prosecution not dependent on report or accusation by the victim nor on withdrawal of the statements, for all offences</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No provision on investigative tools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective investigative tools must be made available to investigators or prosecutors, such as those used against organised and serious crime</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No provision on investigation to identify victims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obligation on MS to set up investigative units to identify victims, in particular by analysing child pornography</li> </ul>

What the 2004 Framework Decision contained	What the new EU Directive contains
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### ***Travelling child sex offenders***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraterritorial jurisdiction for national offenders only if MS does not extradite them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraterritorial jurisdiction for offenders who are nationals in all cases</li> <li>• Possibility to establish extraterritorial jurisdiction if offenders is habitual resident in MS or if victim is national or habitual resident in MS</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No provision on double criminality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of double criminality for offences most serious or more typical to be committed by sex tourists (sexual contact, abuse of vulnerability of children, rape, exploitation of children in pornographic performances or child prostitution, sex with child prostitutes, production of child pornography)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No provision waiving need for report of victim or authority in third country if crime committed outside territory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waiving requirement for report of victim or authority in third country if crime committed outside territory</li> </ul>

### ***Protection and assistance to child victims***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited provision on specific treatment of particularly vulnerable victims</li> <li>• Possibility of assistance to the family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive assistance and support measures for child victims:</li> <li>• Assistance and support as soon as reasonable grounds to suspect offence</li> <li>• Presumption of victim to be a child and receive immediate assistance if age uncertain</li> <li>• Assistance and support before, during and after conclusion of criminal proceedings</li> <li>• Special protection for children reporting abuse within family</li> <li>• Assistance and support not conditional on cooperation with criminal proceedings</li> <li>• Assistance measures following individual assessment of each child</li> <li>• Possibility of assistance to the family in the MS' territory</li> <li>• Special representative for children if conflict of interest with guardian or if unaccompanied</li> <li>• Access without delay to legal counselling and legal representation, free of charge if victim does not have sufficient financial resources.</li> </ul>
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What the 2004 Framework Decision contained	What the new EU Directive contains
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited provisions on testimony without open court, staff in contact with children being trained</li> <li>• No provision to prevent that child victims of sexual exploitation are treated as offenders rather than victims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive measures to prevent trauma during interviews and testimony</li> <li>• Protection of victim's privacy, identity and image</li> <li>• Possibility of non punishment of child victims of sexual exploitation for criminal activities they have been compelled to committed as a direct consequence of their exploitation</li> </ul>

### ***Programmes for offenders***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No provision on treatment of offenders or potential offenders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intervention programmes or measures for offenders and for persons who fear they can offend.</li> <li>• Convicted offenders must be subject to an assessment of danger to identify appropriate programmes.</li> </ul>
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### ***Disqualifications***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convicted offenders may be prevented from professional activities related to the supervision of children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convicted offenders may be prevented from professional activities involving direct and regular contacts with children (not only supervision)</li> <li>• Right of employers for professional and organised voluntary activities involving direct and regular contact with children to request information about convictions and disqualifications</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No provision to counter offenders convicted in one Member State gaining access to children in another Member State</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main potential hurdles for effectiveness of exchange of criminal records (ECRIS) removed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- information on disqualification subject to exchange, regardless of where it is stored (in criminal records or separate records)</li> <li>- obligation of MS to exchange information with ECRIS for the purpose of facilitating effectiveness of disqualification and background checks by employers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### ***Child pornography on the web***

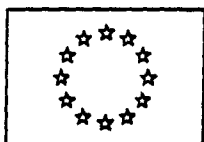
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No provision to disrupt distribution of child pornography on the Web</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obligation to ensure prompt removal of webpages in MS' territory</li> <li>• Obligation to endeavour to obtain removal if hosted outside MS' territory</li> <li>• Possibility of MS to block access to webpages, with safeguards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- transparent procedures</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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What the 2004 Framework Decision contained	What the new EU Directive contains
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- necessity and proportionality</li> <li>- information to users</li> <li>- possibility of judicial redress</li> <li>• Blocking possible through public action and/or self-regulation, with adequate level of legal certainty and predictability</li> </ul>

***Prevention through awareness***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No provisions on prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibition of advertising possibility of abuse, or organising child sex tourism</li> <li>• Prevention of child sexual exploitation through education, awareness raising and training of officials</li> </ul>
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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE

Unit C1: Fundamental Rights and Rights of the Child

Brussels,

**ISG «Children's Rights»**

**17 January 2012**

**09:30-13:00**

**Vitorino Meeting Room (close to LX46 entrance, ground floor)**

**Draft agenda**

1. Implementation of the EU Agenda for the rights of the child - DG JUSTICE update
2. State of play of on-going initiatives on children's rights - all DGs (*tour de table*)
3. Feedback on 6<sup>th</sup> Forum on the rights of the child
4. Preparation of 2012 Forum meeting and February Steering Group meeting – proposed agenda items from other DGs?
5. Child-friendly documents – proposals/contributions from other DGs (see list attached)?



Adaptation of EU  
documents\_Web...

6. Functioning of the ISG and DGs' expectations vis-à-vis DG JUSTICE including identification of training needs on children's rights
7. AOB

## DOCUMENTS ALREADY PUBLISHED OR IN CHILD-FRIENDLY VERSION PREP:

✓ 1. COM(2011) 60 final – COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION "An EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child" (DG JUST); already published  
([http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/children/docs/com\\_2011\\_60\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/children/docs/com_2011_60_en.pdf))

Background information:

- Press release: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/156>

✓ 2. COM(2010) 674 final – COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION "Dial 116 000: The European hotline for missing children" (DG JUST), already published  
(text: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/children/docs/com\\_2010\\_674\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/children/docs/com_2010_674_en.pdf))

Background information:

- Press release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1513&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

✓ 3. COM(2010) 636 final – COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION "European Disability Strategy 2010-2020: A Renewed Commitment to a Barrier-Free Europe" (DG JUST), to be sent to DGT  
(text: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?url=COM:2010:0636:FIN:EN:PDF>)

Background information:

- News item: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=933&furtherNews=yes>

FAQ:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/578&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

- Presentation: [http://download.rarediseaseday.org/presentations\\_2011/Silvio%20Grieco.pdf](http://download.rarediseaseday.org/presentations_2011/Silvio%20Grieco.pdf)

✓ 4. COM(2010) 2020 – COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION "EUROPE 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" (DG EMPL), to be sent to DGT  
(text: [http://europa.eu/press\\_room/pdf/complet\\_en\\_barroso\\_007\\_europe\\_2020\\_en\\_version.pdf](http://europa.eu/press_room/pdf/complet_en_barroso_007_europe_2020_en_version.pdf))

Background information:

- Press release: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/225>

website: [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)

✓ 5. COM(2010) 603 final – "EU CITIZENSHIP REPORT 2010: Dismantling the obstacles to EU citizens' rights" (DG JUST), to be sent to DGT  
(text: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/citizenship/docs/com\\_2010\\_603\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/citizenship/docs/com_2010_603_en.pdf))

Background information:

- Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news1149\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news1149_en.htm)

✓ 6. COM(2011) 173 final – COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION – "An EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020" (DG JUST) to be sent to DGT  
(text: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?url=COM:2011:0173:FIN:EN:PDF>)

Background information:

- Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=518&langId=en>

- press release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/400&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/216>

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## **PROPOSALS FOR CHILD-FRIENDLY TEXTS IN 2012**

### **7. Toy Safety: Ensuring children benefit from the highest level of protection + European Toy Safety Campaign (DG ENTR)**

(text: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/toys/files/toys-safety-brochure/w-toys-safety-brochure\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/toys/files/toys-safety-brochure/w-toys-safety-brochure_en.pdf) + IP/11/1467)

Background information:

- Toy Safety Directive (2009/48/EC) – child-friendly version already produced
- IPs: IP/11/908, MEMO/11/448

### **8. DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA (DG HOME)**

(text and press release:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/126068.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/126068.pdf)

Background information:

- IP/11/1255
- Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating the sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, repealing Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA
- Framework Decision [2004/68/JHA](#) (child-friendly version already produced)

**Other proposals from DGs?**

## Indicative overview of the implementation of actions identified in the EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child

The Communication on an **EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child** was adopted on **15 February 2011**. The Communication identifies 11 priority areas of action without preventing the Commission to continue implementing existing and well established policies in areas not explicitly mentioned in the Communication but having an impact on the rights of the child. Furthermore, the EU Agenda makes the rights of the child an integral part of the EU's fundamental rights policy and makes a commitment towards building the basis for evidence-based policy making. A concerted action of all Commission services, other EU institutions, Member States and other actors is necessary for a successful implementation of the EU Agenda.

1. adopting, in 2011, a <b>proposal for a Directive on victims' rights</b> raising the level of protection of vulnerable victims, including children;	<i>Commission's proposal adopted on 18 May 2011.</i>
2. tabling, in 2012, a <b>proposal for a Directive on special safeguards</b> for suspected or accused persons who are vulnerable, including children;	<i>Ongoing preparatory work.</i>
3. revising, by 2013, the <b>EU legislation facilitating the recognition and enforcement of decisions on parental responsibility</b> with a view to ensuring, in the interest of the child, that decisions can be recognised and enforced as quickly as possible, including, where appropriate, the establishment of common minimum standards;	<i>Ongoing preparatory work.</i>
4. <b>promoting the use of the Council of Europe Guidelines of 17 November 2010 on child-friendly justice</b> and taking them into account in future legal instruments in the field of civil and criminal justice;	<i>Mainstreaming of the Guidelines in Commission's initiatives and organisation of internal training in DG JUSTICE under preparation in co-operation with the Council of Europe.</i>  <i>Joint training with the CoE in first half of 2012</i>
5. supporting and encouraging the <b>development of training activities for judges</b> and other professionals at European level regarding the optimal participation of children in judicial systems.	<i>Communication COM(2011) 551 final, Building trust in EU-wide justice a new dimension to European judicial training, adopted on 13 September.</i>
6. supporting the exchange of best practices and the <b>improvement of training for guardians, public authorities</b> and other actors who are in close contact with unaccompanied children (2011-2014);	<i>Expert meeting was held on 21 June (DG HOME) with the objective of identifying needs of Guardians and possible EU actions to support them.</i>
7. paying particular attention to children in the	<i>Communication on EU Framework for</i>

<p>context of the <b>EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies</b>, which will be adopted in spring 2011 and will notably promote the more efficient use of structural funds for the integration of Roma;</p>	<p><i>National Roma Integration Strategies adopted on 5 April 2011.</i></p> <p><i>Council Conclusions of 19 May 2011 on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020.</i></p>
<p>8. strongly encouraging and providing support to all Member States to ensure the <b>swift introduction and full functioning of the 116 000 hotline for missing children</b> and the child alert mechanisms (2011-2012);</p>	<p><i>First conference on 'European responses to missing children and the need for child-friendly justice' organised on 26 May 2011. Second conference to take place on 30 May 2012.</i></p> <p><i>The call for proposals for specific 116000 hotline operating grants under the Daphne III programme has been launched. Deadline for applications is 15 February 2012.</i></p> <p><i>Special Eurobarometer on Harmonised numbers for services of social value -116 was published in October 2011.</i></p> <p><i>Website on 116 numbers (DG INFSO) to be revamped.</i></p> <p><i>Communication COM (2010) 674 final 'Dial 116 000: The European hotline for missing children' envisaged the possibility of adopting a Regulation on EU hotlines for missing children.</i></p>
<p>9. supporting Member States and other stakeholders in <b>strengthening prevention, empowerment and participation of children to make the most of online technologies and counter cyber-bullying</b> behaviour, exposure to harmful content, and other online risks namely through the Safer Internet programme and cooperation with the industry through self-regulatory initiatives (2009-2014);</p>	<p><i>Safer Internet Programme 2012 Draft call and work programme have been published</i></p> <p><i>28 leading companies have formed a new Coalition to make a better and safer internet for children. Put together by the Commission, founding Coalition members are: Apple, BSkyB, BT, Dailymotion, Deutsche Telekom, Facebook, France Telecom-Orange, Google, Hyves, KPN, Liberty Global, LG Electronics, Mediaset, Microsoft, Netlog, Nintendo, Nokia, Opera Software, Research in Motion, RTL Group, Samsung, Sulake, Telefonica, TeliaSonera, Telenor Group, Tuenti, Vivendi, Vodafone.</i></p>

10. continuing the implementation of the 2007 **EU Guidelines on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child** that focus on combating all forms of **violence against children**. The EU will also evaluate the implementation of the Guidelines. The EU will implement the **EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflicts** based on the 2010 Revised Implementation Strategy;

***EU Guidelines on Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child***

*In 2011, the EU launched a review of the EU Guidelines. On 16 February, an expert seminar to be held in presence of the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on violence against children to discuss the review.*

*In January 2012, the EU launched a lobbying campaign to promote the ratification of two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the rights of the child and the International Labour Organisation Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour in more than 50 countries.*

*EEAS organises yearly training on children rights for EU institutions, EU Member States and EU delegations, in co-operation with UNICEF and Save the children (last training: November 2011, next training: October 2012).*

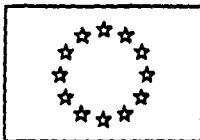
*In 2011, in cooperation with GRULAC (Group of Latin America and the Caribbean), the EU succeeded in passing resolutions on children at the UN General Assembly and HRC.*

DG DEVCO launched a call for proposals (11mil€) on child labour under the Investing in People Programme. In 2012, DG DEVCO will launch a call for proposals on violence against children under the Investing in People Programme. DG DEVCO will also launch an online training course on "Mainstreaming Child Rights" for Commission staff, including Delegations.

***EU Guidelines on Children and armed conflict (CAAC)***

*In May 2011, EEAS sent an instruction to relevant EU Delegations to implement the EU Guidelines on CAAC. In July 2011, the EU participated in the public debate of the UN Security Council (UNSC) on CAAC issues. The EU also updated its list of entities involved in grave violations against children based on*

	<p><i>the deliberations in the UNSC. In cooperation with Save the Children, the EU is developing training modules on child protection for Common Security Defence Policy (CSDP) missions. In 2011, the EU developed standard language on child protection to be included in the mandates of EU Special Representatives.</i></p>
<p><b>11. setting up, in the course of 2011, a single entry point on EUROPA with information for children on the EU and on the rights of the child. The Commission will invite other EU institutions to join this initiative.</b></p>	<p><i>The single entry point for children to get information about the EU and their rights, Kids' Corner, was launched at the end of 2011. The EU website for the Rights of the Child, dedicated to children, was launched as part of the Kids' Corner.</i></p>



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR JUSTICE**

Directorate C : Fundamental rights and Union citizenship  
Unit C1 : Fundamental rights and rights of the child

Brussels, 8 February 2012  
JUST C1 [REDACTED] 147020s  
REV.1 (changes to REGIO and ECHO)

**MINUTES**

**Subject: Interservice group on the rights of the child – 17 January 2012**  
**09:30-12:00**

**Participants:** [REDACTED] (INFO A1), [REDACTED] (INFO A1), [REDACTED] (ECHO A3), [REDACTED] (EEAS B1), [REDACTED] (COMM C1), [REDACTED] (JUST A1), [REDACTED] (HOME B1), [REDACTED] (TRADE D1), [REDACTED] (TRADE D1), [REDACTED] (RTD B5), [REDACTED] (EMPL D2), [REDACTED] (REGIO D2), [REDACTED] (ENTR F1), [REDACTED] (JUST B1), [REDACTED] (EAC E1), [REDACTED] (EEAS B1), [REDACTED] (JUST A1), [REDACTED] (JUST C1).

[REDACTED] chaired the meeting and welcomed the participants.

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The draft agenda was adopted.



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ISG meeting.do...

**2. DG JUSTICE UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EU AGENDA ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

DG Justice circulated an updated table on implementation of the EU Agenda, invited ISG members to submit updates where relevant, and informed participants that the table would be posted on the children's rights pages on DG Justice Website.



### **3. TOUR DE TABLE – STATE OF PLAY OF ON-GOING INITIATIVES ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

#### **3.1. DG JUST.A1 – civil law**

The Brussels II implementation study will soon be underway and its results are expected for end 2012.

#### **3.2. DG JUST.B1 – criminal law**

On the victims' side – a directive on victims' rights is being negotiated in the Council and EP and its adoption is expected for this year. It will ensure protection and support measures for victims including vulnerable victims, such as children. The negotiations have just started in the Council and EP on the regulation on mutual recognition of civil law protection measures. On the suspects' side (procedural rights for suspects and accused persons) – a pre-impact assessment study is underway. It will result in a legislative proposal in the course of 2012.

#### **3.3. DG JUST.C1 – rights of the child**

The calls for tender for studies on data collection are under preparation and should be launched very soon: one on children in judicial proceedings, the second one on missing children. A study on child participation is also envisaged and preparations for that open call for tender will begin shortly.

The second annual conference on missing children will take place on 30 May. VP Reding will participate as well as Vice President of the European Parliament Roberta Angelilli. The conference is prepared in cooperation with Missing Children Europe and, possibly, the Danish Presidency. Meanwhile, in the framework of the DAPHNE III programme the call for operating grants has been launched to support non-governmental organisations or other entities mandated by the national authorities in setting up and/or running 116 000 hotlines for missing children.

The meeting of the Europe de l'Enfance Inter-governmental Group under the Danish Presidency will take place in Copenhagen on 20 March, preceded by a conference on child poverty on 19 March, co-organised by the European Commission (DG Justice, in cooperation with DG EMPL) and the Presidency.

#### **3.4. DG HOME.B1 – immigration and integration**

With regard to unaccompanied minors, Member States are to report on progress over the last two years.

#### **3.5. DG TRADE.D1 – Trade and sustainable development, generalised system of preferences**

Following a DG TRADE restructuring, the Staff Working Paper on trade and the elimination of the worst forms of child labour is scheduled for completion by Easter. DG TRADE hopes to launch the ISC shortly thereafter. DG TRADE is currently assessing the usefulness of Unicef statistics in determining which industries/sectors the largest numbers of children work. A

Oram will also travel to Washington in March to learn more about the US system. Cape Verde was granted GSP+ (additional tariff preferences to support developing countries that have ratified and effectively implemented 27 international Conventions) status on 9 December, and is therefore considered by the EU to be effectively implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as ILO Conventions 138 and 182 on child labour.

DG TRADE asked about the relationship between this ISCG and the ISCG on human trafficking, as there seemed to be considerable overlap. *(note: trafficking covers more than children. We liaise where appropriate with DG HOME and keep each other informed, and try to avoid overlap insofar as possible.)*

### **3.6. DG COMM**

The Kids' Corner (<http://europa.eu/kids-corner/>) has been launched which includes three strands: games for children of different age groups, portraits of MS and a link to the DG Justice children's rights website (<http://ec.europa.eu/0-18/>). Promotion of the website is planned in the first half of 2012.

### **3.7. DG EAC**

As a step in implementing the EU Youth Policy, the European Youth Portal is currently being revamped to be more interactive and to include rights and protection online in the context of the safer internet programme.

### **3.8. EEAS**

The EU Guidelines on the rights of the child are under review. ISG line DGs are invited to submit their comments by 7 February to [REDACTED]. An expert seminar for the Commission and the EP will be held on 16 February 2012 in Brussels to discuss the guidelines. Work is underway on preparation of a toolkit for EU delegations on children's rights and line DGs are also welcome to contribute to that. EEAS continues EU action in multilateral fora. On 19 December 2011 the UN General Assembly adopted a new Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) establishing a complaints procedure for violations of children's rights. The signing ceremony is planned for 28 March and it is not yet clear how many EU MS might be willing to sign already in March. The Optional Protocol must be accepted by ten countries before it can enter into force. The first draft of the EU and GRULAC (the Latin American and Caribbean Group) resolution on children will be sent to the ISG for comments. EU and GRULAC plan to organise a Panel on Administration of Justice in Geneva. COHOM WP on 15/2 will discuss children's rights in the presence of Ms Santos Pais, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on violence against children. She will also attend the expert seminar on 16 February and attend bilateral meetings. After the adoption of the Guidelines, EEAS expects that the Council will discuss and adopt Council Conclusions on the Guidelines.

On 8 March in Geneva the UN Human Rights Council will organise a panel on children and the administration of justice and DG Justice is asked to propose speakers.

### **3.9. DG EMPL**

The recommendation on child poverty is planned for adoption in autumn 2012. There is a common understanding among the Member States that action is needed as regards prevention, remediation, child participation and access to labour market for (single) parents, to social benefits, and to health. Poverty-related exclusion of children is increasing.

### **3.10. DG RTD**

There are a number of programmes and projects on research. The ISG was invited to provide input to the Work Programme for the next year. Topics previously covered include: trafficking in human beings, early childhood education and care as well as horizontal topics (reliable indicators on child and youth well-being).

### **3.11. DG INFSO**

While no special emphasis is put on children's rights, work on de-institutionalisation is on-going with a focus on Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia. The pilot project on Roma inclusion includes a strand on early childhood education and care (ECEC) support, covering four countries (Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and FYROM) through a wide range of projects (<http://www.romaeducationfund.hu/good-start-eu-roma-pilot> )

### **3.12. DG INFSO**

Further to the 13 September 2011 Commission report analyzing the implementation of the 1998 and 2006 Recommendations in the Member States – "Protecting Children in the Digital World" ([http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/reg/minors/rec/2011\\_report/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/reg/minors/rec/2011_report/index_en.htm)), the Council adopted conclusions on 29/11/2011. The Report and the conclusions highlight not only the risks, but also the opportunities which media and online technologies open up for children. As to the responses to their potential risks, they rightly emphasise – next to protective measures in the strict sense - enhancement of media literacy, teaching online safety in schools, as well as in early childhood education, and empowering children, parents, teachers and other carers to fight the potential risks and dangers and to maximise the effective use of existing protective tools.

On 1 December 2012, 28 leading companies formed a Coalition to make a better and safer internet for children. Priority actions include making it easier to report harmful content, ensuring privacy settings are age-appropriate, and offering wider options for parental control, reflecting the needs of a generation that is going online at an increasingly young age.

Distinct from the Coalition, on 19 January 2012, 25 companies across the ICT sector announced that they had signed up to a list of key principles

related to the safer internet for children. <http://www.egba.eu/pdf/ICT-Coalition-press-release-19-01-2012.pdf>

A Communication 'Better Internet for Children' focusing on positive measures is expected to be adopted by the end of April and the interservice consultation should be launched towards the end of February.

**3.13. DG ECHO**

ECHO is working on enhancing the capacity of International Organisations, the UN and NGOs. Since the adoption of the 2008 Staff Working Document (SWD) "Children in Emergency and Crisis Situations", ECHO has elaborated Implementation Guidance Notes, which are complementary to the SWD. These are designed for DG ECHO's internal use, and translate in operational terms the principles and main recommendations in the Staff Working Document, i.e.:

- Children in emergency and crisis situations
- Separated and un-accompanied children
- Children associated with armed forces or armed groups
- Education in emergencies

ECHO is looking into the possibility of further complementing the SWD with practical tools such as checklists and/or training. ECHO can indirectly contribute to the work of the DG HOME ISG on Trafficking in human beings through for instance providing support for registration of refugees and education in emergencies.

### 3.14. DG ENTR

DG ENTR pointed out the need for direct initiatives on children in **tourism** and highlighted the transversal nature of tourism, with links to work in DG REGIO and corporate social responsibility, etc. There are no direct initiatives on tourism related to children's rights.

The UN body concerned for tourism is the UN World Tourism Organisation. *(Post-meeting note from DG ENTR: On 9 March 2012, a meeting of the world tourism network on child protection will take place in Berlin, to exchange information and best practice on child protection in tourism. The focus will be on "young workers in the tourism sector", organised together with ILO-IPEC. If anyone wants a copy of the programme, please contact*

*[REDACTED]*

With regard to **corporate social responsibility (CSR)**, a file shared between ENTR and EMPL and in which MARKT is also involved, as [REDACTED] was unable to attend the ISG meeting, an update was provided by [REDACTED] following on from a meeting with ENTR, as follows:

- Guiding principles on business and human rights, adopted 16 June 2011 by the HRC contain generic principles addressed to states and others addressed to companies: <http://www.business-humanrights.org/SpecialRepPortal/Home/Protect-Respect-Remedy-Framework/GuidingPrinciples>
- COM Communication on CSR led to COM introducing a higher profile for HR in this topic: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sustainable-business/files/csr/new-csr/act\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sustainable-business/files/csr/new-csr/act_en.pdf)
- COM committed to report by end 2012 on EU priorities and measures (e.g. procurement, corporate law, reporting, environment, access to justice, etc.
- COM will provide illustrative guidance for SMEs based on the principles
- COM will identify three economic sectors on which to draw up sector-specific guidance. The criteria for this selection include: extent of HR risks in sector, availability of existing guidance or not, extent of influence of sector (domino effect). DG ENTR has concluded a contract with the Institute of human rights and business (London) and Switch (New York), two independent bodies. *(Post meeting addition: The three sectors chosen out of 74 sectors after several shortlists for specific guidance are: 1) information and communication technology; 2) oil and gas; 3) recruitment and employment agencies. The final decision on the sectors should be made shortly. Tourism, which would have been relevant in particular from the point of view of rights of the child was not retained as one of the three sectors.*
- A key concept is to not cherry pick or list selected human rights, but to ensure due diligence in respect of all HR.
- COM invited MS to draw up national plans to implement the principles by end 2012.
- DG MARKT has prepared a first draft of a requirement on company disclosure: requirement that companies disclose social, environmental, anti-corruption and human rights information and measures.

### **3.15. DEVCO**

A call for proposals will be launched for the programme Investing in People with a focus on tackling violence against children and anti-discrimination. DG DEVCO is also preparing an e-training module on mainstreaming of the rights of the child, based on previous work done for gender mainstreaming. The toolkit that DEVCO has been working on with Unicef is likely to be completed in 2012. In February 2012, DG DEVCO will organise a training seminar on investing in people, with a discussion on rights of the child external to the EU and child protection.

## **4. PREPARATION OF 2012 FORUM AND FEBRUARY STEERING GROUP – PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FROM OTHER DGs**

DGs were invited to submit their proposals for topics for the next European Forum on the Rights of the Child, as the Forum was

established to cover the broad spectrum of children's rights topics in the Commission, not only those of DG Justice. EEAS enquired if we could consider topics on external aspects possibly linked to DG TRADE Staff Working Paper. The topic could also be linked to the celebration of the International Day of the Girl (11/10) or the Global conference on child labour (2013).

**Action point: DGs to consider possible topics for the November 2012 Forum and to communicate them to DG Justice.**

#### **5. CHILD-FRIENDLY DOCUMENTS – PROPOSALS/CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER DGs**

The children's website incorporated into the Kids' corner includes child-friendly documents. DGs were invited to submit proposals for documents they might wish to have adapted into child-friendly language and published on the children's rights website.

**Action point: DGs to consider possible topics to be adapted in child-friendly language and published on the children's rights website and to inform [REDACTED] if they have such documents.**

#### **6. FUNCTIONING OF THE ISG AND DGs' EXPECTATIONS VIS-À-VIS DG JUSTICE INCLUDING IDENTIFICATION OF TRAINING NEEDS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

Most of the DGs agreed that exchange of information in the inter-service group is already useful and should be continued. The need for information on how to benefit from the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) was highlighted as well as the need to better understand what we mean by children's rights and how in practice to take a rights-based approach. The need for training was emphasised but should be considered in the framework of already existing training modules, for example the annual EEAS training on children's rights. DG REGIO proposed that the ISG could discuss and propose topics to be funded under the structural funds. EEAS considered that the ISG could help to mainstream children's rights in the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) and the Delegations' human rights country strategies. DG RTD proposed that the ISG could mainstream children's rights in project studies.

DG Justice proposed that if and when a particular DG would benefit from an ISG meeting, DG Justice can schedule a meeting accordingly. DG Justice will also explore what can be done in terms of a workshop on children's rights, taking account of what has already been done by EEAS, etc.

It was agreed that shared Intranet pages on the ISG accessible to all Commission staff would be appropriate in terms of sharing and storing relevant information. *(Post-meeting note: the Intranet pages are in preparation and we will keep you informed.)*

**7. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (2011) (POST-MEETING INFORMATION)**

Chapters include:

- The European Union and children's rights: editorial
- Are we there yet? The impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the EU Children's rights agenda
- 'Child-proofing' EU law and policy: interrogating the law-making processes behind European asylum and immigration provision
- An independent voice for children's rights in Europe? The role of independent children's rights institutions in the EU
- Can the EU live up to the expectations of its child citizens?
- Children's rights in EU external action: beyond charity and protection, beyond instrumentalisation and conditionality
- The right to education of Roma children in Romania: European policies and Romanian practices
- Advertising regulation and the protection of children-consumers in the EU: in the best interests of...commercial operators?
- The EU, online safety and media literacy
- The harmonisation of private law in Europe and children's tort liability: a case of fundamental and children's rights mainsteaming

**Access for Commission staff only, from Commission computers, in line with the license terms and conditions:** the article "The European Union and children's rights" / Guest editors: Helen Stalford, Nigel Thomas, Eleanor Drywood, In: Special issue of : The International journal of children's rights, 2011, v. 19, n. 3., p. [381]-594, can be downloaded directly from the bibliographic record through the ECLAS catalogue (see URL [http://ec.europa.eu/eclas/F/?func=direct&local\\_base=EUC01&doc\\_number=000545107](http://ec.europa.eu/eclas/F/?func=direct&local_base=EUC01&doc_number=000545107))

Cc ISG members, P Nemitz, Director, JUST.C, [REDACTED] JUST.C1, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] DG JUST, Unit JUST.C1

## **ISG rights of the child**

**13 June 2012**

**09:30-13:00**

**Schengen Meeting Room (close to LX46 entrance, ground floor)**

### **Draft agenda**

1. ***Tour de table* all DGs on recent developments**
2. **European Forum on rights of the child 13-14 November 2012**, probably with child protection systems as an overarching theme, and approximately six three-hour workshops on various topics on the second day  
The suggested theme would be **"Supporting child protection systems through the implementation of the EU Agenda on the rights of the child"**. COM proposed six tentative or possible workshop topics under that overarching theme.
  1. Child-budgeting mechanisms in child protection systems and beyond
  2. An insight into the role of child protection systems in assuring child-friendly justice (CoE workshop with case studies)
  3. How child protection systems can best meet the diverse needs of children on the move (unaccompanied children; asylum seekers, victims of trafficking)
  4. The role of child protection systems in preventing violence against children
  5. The role of child protection systems in guaranteeing the child's right to health
  6. The role of child protection systems in responding to the needs of children with disabilities
3. **Identification of all Commission spending relating to children**: we have been tasked with identifying and recording spending relating to children
4. **Points tabled by other DGs/units** - please let me know if you have a point to be tabled
5. On 25 June, morning, in cooperation with Save the Children, for ISG participants **we will run a workshop on the UNCRC articles and what taking a child rights approach in our work means in practice**. The invitation will follow separately. **If you have practical examples of questions relating to children's rights that came up in your work, or difficulties in applying a so-called child rights approach, could you note them in an email so that they can be dealt with during the course?**
6. **AOB**





**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR JUSTICE**

Directorate C : Fundamental rights and Union citizenship  
Unit C1 : Fundamental rights and rights of the child

Brussels, 15 June 2012

JUST C1/ [REDACTED]

**MINUTES**

**Subject: Interservice group on the rights of the child – 13 June 2012 09:30-12:00**

**Participants:** [REDACTED] (EAC E1), [REDACTED] (EEAS B1), [REDACTED] (COMM C1), [REDACTED] (JUST B1), [REDACTED] (HOME B1), [REDACTED] (RTD B5), [REDACTED] (EMPL D2), [REDACTED] (REGIO D2), [REDACTED] (DEVCO D1), [REDACTED] (JUST C1).

[REDACTED] Commission coordinator for the rights of the child chaired the meeting and welcomed the participants.

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. TOUR DE TABLE – UPDATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

**2.1. DG JUST.C1 – Fundamental rights and rights of the child**

Two studies to collect data are in the pipeline: one on children in judicial proceedings, the second one on missing children. The study on missing children covering EU 27 should start in autumn 2012; the study on children in judicial proceedings also covering EU 27 should start in October/November 2012 – it will last for 2 years. A study on child participation: mapping legislation policy and practice in EU 27 is also envisaged and terms of reference are to be finalised shortly.

The second annual conference on missing children took place on 30 May with participation of VP Reding, VP Kroes and Vice President of the European Parliament Roberta Angelilli.

A workshop on child-friendly justice organised in co-operation with the Council of Europe took place end of March.

*(Post meeting note: An updated table on implementation of the EU Agenda is posted on the children's rights pages on DG Justice Website).*

## **2.2. DG JUST. B1 – Procedural criminal law**

The Victims' Rights Directive is in its 5<sup>th</sup> trialogue and a final agreement is expected soon. It contains several important elements safeguarding the rights of the child and the child's best interest, including the right to be heard (also giving evidence via video-link), the right to access to a lawyer, and the right to be accompanied.

A proposal for a directive on the rights of vulnerable suspects is expected to be adopted in March/April 2013.

## **2.3. DG EAC.E1 – youth policy**

The EU Youth Report, which is published every three years, is in preparation and expected to be issued in September 2012.

A study on youth participation in democratic life is being prepared by LSE. DG JUST.C1 could reference it in the terms of reference for its study on child participation.

An impact assessment is ongoing on a new Youth on the Move (YoM) initiative concerning a YoM card to facilitate mobility and participation of young Europeans (aged 13-30). The initiative, which aims at speeding up youth integration when moving abroad and providing advantages in line with existing student/youth cards, is due in 2013.

EAC is also revamping the Youth Portal to make it more interactive.

## **2.4. EEAS**

The EU Guidelines on the rights of the child are under review. It is necessary to wait for the endorsement of the EU Strategic Framework and an Action Plan on HR and Democracy which will be adopted by the Foreign Affairs Council on 25 June which will set the priorities for next 3-4 years. The EEAS reiterated a wish to use the ISG on the rights of the child to discuss the Guidelines, and DG Justice re-confirmed that this will be possible.

EU and GRULAC (the Latin American and Caribbean Group) will co-sponsor a UN General Assembly resolution on the rights of the child which will focus on indigenous Children this year. GRULAC will be in lead.

Sweden and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on violence against children, Ms Marta Santos Pais will organize a conference on research and data collection on children's rights. FRA will also participate. Ms Santos Pais underlined on several occasions her desire for more cooperation with the EU.

## **2.5. DG HOME.B1 – immigration and integration**

In February an expert group meeting on family tracing took place. A mid-term report on the Action plan on Unaccompanied Minors is being drafted and will be sent for inter-service consultation.

DG Home is preparing an expert conference on unaccompanied children with Save the Children and the Danish presidency.

DG Home received €1 million for a pilot project on unaccompanied children from the European Parliament [REDACTED]

DG Home was advised by DG Justice to use the term "child" rather than "minor", in line with the terminology of the UNCRC.

## **2.6. DG RTD – Social sciences and humanities (SSH)**

Evaluation of the SSH Work Plan 2012 is to be completed by end of June.

A number of projects concerning children are co-financed and will be negotiated over the next months, including in particular a project on Roma inclusion with a strong research strand on children for a value of €2.5m over four years.

The SSH Work Plan 2013 will be published in mid-July and contains a number of topics, which could be interesting from the children's rights perspective. Among them:

- trafficking in human beings, focusing on tackling demand by employers, consumers and those facilitating the trafficking process for services provided by victims of trafficking in the EU and neighbouring countries. The study will look amongst other into legal frameworks and practices, the role of ICT (in particular Internet) in fostering and reducing demand, trafficking for the purposes of (child) labour, sexual exploitation, begging, criminal activities, the removal of organs, etc.
- a longitudinal study on children and wellbeing
- Other SSH research that is currently being co-financed touches upon children and early childhood education.

## **2.7. DG COMM – Youth information**

The Kids' Corner (<http://europa.eu/kids-corner/>) includes three strands: games for children of different age groups, portraits of MS and a link to the DG Justice children's rights website (<http://ec.europa.eu/0-18/>). Currently, the promotion of the Kids' Corner is underway, primarily through EC Permanent Representations in MS and Europe Direct Centres. Last month there were two million page views. Four new games and two new games for mobile devices are planned. At the Commission Open Door Day, they ran a stand with five PCs showing the kids' corner and it was well received.

## **2.8. DEVCO – Governance, Democracy, Gender, Human Rights**

- A call for proposals on violence against children covering DCI countries (Latina America, Asia, Middle East, ENPI, ACP) is in preparation for an amount of € 41 million. It will cover violence against children in different settings: 1) at home and in the family; 2) in schools and other educational centres, care institutions and detention centres and 3) in the community
- A project on birth registration implemented in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Myanmar, Mozambique, Uganda, Kiribati, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands is also in preparation. The EU contribution amounts to €5.4 million (out of a total of €6m. This three-year project will be implemented by UNICEF.

## **2.9. DG REGIO – Thematic coordination, innovation**

A toolkit on deinstitutionalisation is being prepared. The first draft will be circulated by next week and the meeting between DGs REGIO, EMPL and JUST will take place on 27 June.

DG REGIO has a thematic focus on early childhood education and care for Roma children, and lessons can be drawn for rights of the child policy as well as for the Structural Funds.

Conclusions and recommendations on the use of Structural Funds for children's rights, covering FYROM, Romania, Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Hungary are currently being prepared.

## **2.10. DG EMPL – Active inclusion of disadvantaged groups, fight against poverty**

The recommendation on child poverty is planned for adoption at the beginning of 2013. There will be no Impact Assessment. Member States are reluctant about the "rights-based" approach, citing its high costs in times of austerity. They are also reluctant to set targets, other than those already set in Europe 2020.

A child poverty conference will take place in Cyprus in October with a meeting of Europe de l'Enfance to be convened in parallel.

UNICEF's Innocenti institute issued the report card number 10 on Measuring child poverty, ranking OECD countries  
(<http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/660>)

### 3. EUROPEAN FORUM ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The next Forum will take place on 13 and 14 November 2012, with a VIP/political session on the afternoon of the first day and all-day workshops on the second. The topic proposed "Supporting child protection systems through the implementation of the EU Agenda on the rights of the child", with an aim to cover both internal and external aspects.

Six tentative workshops are proposed

- Child-budgeting mechanisms in child protection systems and beyond
- An insight into the role of child protection systems in assuring child-friendly justice (CoE workshop with case studies)
- How child protection systems can best meet the diverse needs of children on the move (unaccompanied children; asylum seekers, victims of trafficking)
- The role of child protection systems in preventing violence against children
- The role of child protection systems in guaranteeing the child's right to health
- The role of child protection systems in responding to the needs of children with disabilities

DGs were again invited to submit their comments, ideas and proposals for the Forum in general and for any of the proposed workshops. DG JUST.C1 aims to make this year's Forum accessible and relevant for the widest range of COM services possible, as it was established to cover the broad spectrum of children's rights topics in the Commission, not only those of DG Justice.

**Action point: DGs to communicate comments and suggestions relating to the Forum to DG JUST.C1 by 2 July.**

### 4. IDENTIFICATION OF ALL COMMISSION SPENDING RELATING TO CHILDREN

DG JUST.C1 was tasked by DG JUST Cabinet with identifying and recording spending relating to children across the Commission. The services suggested and it was agreed that DG JUST.C1 send an official letter to DGs in order to get their response.

Cc ISG members; P. Nemitz, Director, JUST.C; [REDACTED], HoU, JUST.C1; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] DG JUST; Unit JUST.C1

## ISG rights of the child

19 July 2012

11:00-12:30

Vitorino Meeting Room (close to LX46 entrance, ground floor)

### Draft agenda

1. **Tour de table** all DGs on recent developments
2. **Follow up to recent workshop on UN Convention on rights of the child**
  - a. **Tools needed within COM to ensure respect of the rights of the child**
  - b. **Future workshops?**
    - ☐ Child participation/UNCRC (Article 12)
    - ☐ How to start/improve child budgeting transparency
    - ☐ Mainstreaming children's rights
    - ☐ Child-friendly justice case studies
    - ☐ Asylum and migration with a focus on separated/unaccompanied children
    - ☐ Best interest determination (Article 3)
    - ☐ Child protection
    - ☐ Other (please specify)

Three replies received so far:

Mainstreaming children's rights	2
Child participation/UNCRC Art 12	2
How to start/improve child budgeting transparency	1
Best interest determination	1 (family law context)
Child protection	1
Asylum and migration	1

3. **European Forum on rights of the child 13-14 November 2012**, probably with child protection systems as an overarching theme, and approximately six three-hour workshops on various topics on the second day  
The suggested theme would be "**Supporting child protection systems through the implementation of the EU Agenda on the rights of the child**". With the following workshops under that overarching theme.
  1. The role of child protection systems in assuring child-friendly justice
  2. How child protection systems can best meet the diverse needs of children on the move (unaccompanied children, asylum seekers, victims of trafficking)
  3. The role of child protection systems in preventing violence against children
  4. The role of child protection systems in fulfilling the rights of children with disabilities in an inclusive manner
  5. The supervision of parents' access visits
4.
  - a. **Identification of all Commission spending relating to children:** we have been tasked with identifying and recording spending relating to children – DG JUSTICE to issue request to other DGs, pending
  - b. **EEAS point: EU strategic framework on HR and democracy and AP – child rights aspects**



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR JUSTICE**

Directorate C : Fundamental rights and Union citizenship  
Unit C1 : Fundamental rights and rights of the child

Brussels, 03 August 2012  
JUST/C1/[REDACTED]/1112892s

**MINUTES**

**Subject:** Interservice group on the rights of the child – 19 July 2012 11:00-12:30

**Participants:** [REDACTED] (EAC E1), [REDACTED] (EEAS B1), [REDACTED] (HOME B1), [REDACTED] (RTD B5), [REDACTED] (EMPL D2), [REDACTED] (CNECT), [REDACTED] (HOME B2), [REDACTED] (HOME.A2), [REDACTED] (REGIO D2), [REDACTED] (DEVCO), [REDACTED] (JUST A1), [REDACTED] (JUST C1).

[REDACTED] chaired the meeting and welcomed the participants.

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. TOUR DE TABLE – UPDATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

**2.1. DG JUST.C1 – Fundamental rights and rights of the child**

The study to collect data on missing children has been launched with a kick off meeting taking place on 16 July. The study to collect data on children in judicial proceedings is likely to start on 1 September. Both will cover EU 27. A study on child participation: mapping legislation policy and practice in EU 27 + Croatia is also envisaged and a request for offer is to be sent to potential contractors shortly. *(post-meeting note: ToR and request for services were sent on 23 July)*

A workshop on UNCRC was organised with Save the Children in June.

**2.2. DG EAC.E1 – youth policy**

Mapping study on youth work and non-formal learning is underway. There are plenty of developments in the Member States in this area, but little is known about it. The study will be completed in 2013.

The Cypriot presidency is preparing Council Conclusions on participation and social inclusion of young people with a migrant background.

A study on youth participation in democratic life which is being prepared by LSE should be concluded by end of September. DG JUST.C1 has referenced it in the terms of reference for its study on child participation in the EU.

### **2.3. DG REGIO – thematic coordination, innovation**

The results of the `Good Start` project, implemented by the Roma Education Fund, are being disseminated (See executive summary in Annex). One of the findings is that early childhood education and care which is essential to children's development is crucial for breaking the cycle of inter-generational poverty.

### **2.4. DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid**

Online training material for EC delegations officials has been prepared on integrating the rights of the child in development co-operation. Training is to be completed by end of 2012.

UNICEF was asked to prepare a new draft of the Toolkit on the rights of the Child by end of 2012. The toolkit is to be accompanied by seminars organised for the officials in EC delegations in 2013.

### **2.5. DG EMPL – Active inclusion of disadvantaged groups, fight against poverty**

The Social Protection Committee adopted a report on child poverty and well-being with some facts and figures on the impact of the crisis (to be found here – right column).

Cypriot presidency is planning Council Conclusions on child poverty and well-being in October (focusing on investing in children, implementation and monitoring in the context of Europe 2020)

Recommendation on child poverty is planned for end of 2012, possibly including an action plan.

Work is in progress on developing a child deprivation indicator (building on EU SILC 2009 ad hoc module which had specific questions on children).

### **2.6. DG HOME – Immigration and integration**

The mid-term report on Action plan on Unaccompanied Minors is to be made very visible. Statistics are not as complete as hoped for (ex. not all MS record children separately).

In the context of the pilot project of EUR 1 million two studies are envisaged. Potential contractors will be asked to team together and work with MS). Priorities are diverse, ranging from child protection systems to family tracing.



## **2.7. DG CONNECT**

The Cypriot Presidency is planning Council Conclusions on COM Strategy for better internet for children.

The work of the CEO Coalition to make the Internet a better place for kids is progressing. The interim review took place on 11 July 2012, chaired by Robert Madelin. The report of the meeting and the progress reports from the Coalition Working Groups have been published on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/sip/self\\_reg/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/self_reg/index_en.htm)

## **2.8. DG JUSTICE – Civil justice**

A booklet on International families in crisis is being finalised.

## **2.9. EEAS**

A new Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for children and armed conflict Leila Zerrougui of Algeria has been appointed.

Annual training on the rights of the child is set for 25 and 26 October.

EU and GRULAC (the Latin American and Caribbean Group) will co-sponsor a UN General Assembly resolution on the rights of the child. It will be an omnibus resolution, with a slight focus on indigenous children. GRULAC will be in lead.

Review of EU guidelines on the rights of the child will resume in October.

Mapping of children in armed conflict for the years 2008-2012 will take place.

### **Action point:**

An action plan is attached to the recently adopted EU strategic framework for Human rights and democracy. Some tasks of the action plan are related to children. COM services are asked to identify areas where they could contribute. EEAS suggests that the next meeting of ISG be devoted to the discussions on the implementation of this action plan.

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/131181.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/131181.pdf)

## **3. EUROPEAN FORUM ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

The next Forum will be on "The role of child protection systems in implementing the EU Agenda for the rights of the child", taking place on 13 and 14 November 2012.

Five tentative workshops are proposed

- The role of child protection systems in assuring child-friendly justice

- The role of child protection systems in meeting the diverse needs of children on the move (unaccompanied children; asylum seekers, victims of trafficking)
- The role of child protection systems in preventing violence against children
- The role of child protection systems in responding to the needs of children with disabilities
- Supervision of parents' access visits

DG JUST.C1 aims to make this year's Forum accessible and relevant for the widest range of COM services possible, as it was established to cover the broad spectrum of children's rights topics in the Commission, not only those of DG Justice.

**Action point:** Services will be approached for their concrete contribution in the preparation of the Forum workshops.

#### 4. AOB

- EEAS expressed interest in cooperating in the preparation of the planned Forum workshop on violence against children (ex. topic on worst forms of child labour was suggested to coincide with one of the tasks in the EU strategic framework and action plan for human rights and democracy)
- DG EMPL suggested that child poverty could also be addressed in the same workshop.
- DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid announced they could contribute towards the preparation of several proposed workshops.
- DG JUST to get approval from the hierarchy about the Forum 2012 concept and get guidance about a possible invitation to HR/VP Ashton to participate in the high-level political session on 13 November.

Cc ISG members; P Nemitz, Director, JUST.C; [REDACTED] HoU, JUST.C1; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] DG JUST