



10th European Forum on the rights of the child

The protection of children in migration

► 29-30 November 2016

PROGRAMME



Albert Borschette Conference Centre
Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels

► Tuesday, 29 November 2016

13:00-14:30

Registration

14:30-14:40

Welcome and introduction

- **Tiina Astola**, Director General, DG Justice and Consumers

14:40-15:45

Plenary Session I – EU and international commitments on the protection of children in migration

- **Věra Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality
- **Dimitris Avramopoulos**, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship
- **Anna Maria Corazza Bildt**, Member of the European Parliament, Co-chair of the Child Rights Intergroup in the European Parliament
- **Caterina Chinnici**, Member of the European Parliament, Co-chair of the Child Rights Intergroup in the European Parliament
- **François Crépeau**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants (video message)

15:45-16:10

Coffee break

16:10-18:30

Plenary Session II – challenges and opportunities for the protection of children in migration

Moderator: **Chiara Adamo**, Head of Unit, Fundamental rights policy, DG Justice and Consumers

- **Michael O’Flaherty**, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- **Tomáš Boček**, Council of Europe Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees
- **Manuel Fontaine**, UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa
- **George Moschos**, Deputy Ombudsperson for Children’s Rights (Greece)
- **Raffaella Milano**, ITA-EU Programmes and Advocacy Director, Save the Children (Italy)

Question and answer session

19:30

Networking dinner at Thon City Centre Hotel



► Wednesday, 30 November 2016

09:00–09:20

Plenary Session III – towards durable solutions, including integration, for children in migration

Moderator: **Margaret Tuite**, Commission coordinator on the rights of the child, Fundamental rights policy, DG Justice and Consumers

- **Gulwali Passarlay**, testimony from a 21-year-old Afghan former unaccompanied child now living in the United Kingdom

09:20–13:00

Four parallel sessions

► **S1: IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION**

(ROOM 0A – COFFEE BREAK 11:00-11:20)

(e.g. identification of child and assessment of needs, registration, prevention of trafficking and of sexual and other forms of exploitation, abuse and violence, missing children, follow-up, traceability)

Chair: **Martin Schieffer**, Head of Unit, Migration Management Support, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Co-chair: **Irina Todorova**, Migrant Assistance Specialist, Brussels International Organisation for Migration Regional Office

Panellists

- **Major Jos Klappe**, Commandant Border Security Team, Chief of Intelligence, Royal Marechaussee, Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands *(the practice in identification and protection of children in the migration situation at Chios) (video start)*
- **Kostas Simitopoulos**, Coordinator for Unaccompanied Children, Reception and Identification Service (RIS) in Moria, Lesbos island, Greece *(hosting unaccompanied children in the Moria Centre in Greece)*
- **François Bienfait**, European Asylum Support Office (EASO) Liaison Officer to the EU Institutions in Brussels *(Identification of vulnerability)*
- **Athanasia Retinioti**, Manager of the Accommodation Centre for Unaccompanied Children of Doctors of the World – Greece *(current issues in the identification process and protection of unaccompanied children; the right to health)*
- **Amir Hashemi-Nik**, Development Manager, County Administrative Board of Stockholm, Sweden *(missing unaccompanied children)*
- **Swati Pande**, Assistant Team Manager, Child Trafficking Advice Centre, UK *(identification and protection: challenges in cross-border collaboration, experiences from the UK)*
- **Chris Nash**, Director and co-founder of the European Network on Statelessness *(born in exile, the risk of statelessness faced by refugee and migrant children in Europe)*



▶ **S2: RECEPTION**

(ROOM OB - COFFEE BREAK 11:20-11:40)

(e.g. reception conditions for children (unaccompanied or with families), quality of care, full access to education, right to adequate standard of living, healthcare, prevention of deprivation of liberty and treatment in cases thereof)

Chair: Ellen Gorris, Assistant Policy Officer, Rights of the child team, Fundamental Rights Policy, DG Justice and Consumers

Co-chair: Ester Asin, Director and EU Representative, Brussels Advocacy Office, Save the Children

Panellists

- ▶ **Christos Hombas**, Head of the Division for Social Interventions, National Centre for Social Solidarity – EKKA, Ministry of Labour, Greece (*video message: reception of unaccompanied children in Greece*)
- ▶ **Litsa Arsenopoulou**, Decentralised Administration of Aegean, Head of Department of Civil Status, Migration and Social Integration of Prefecture of Chios, Greece (*the life of a refugee child on Chios*)
- ▶ **Ben Lewis**, Advocacy Coordinator, International Detention Coalition (*understanding the rights of the child in relation to immigration detention, and an introduction to the Community Assessment and Placement (CAP) model*) (*video start*)
- ▶ **David Lowyck**, Director, Minor-Ndako, Brussels (*the shift from residential care to foster-care for unaccompanied minors: review after one year work on this transition in Flanders*)
- ▶ **Vega Velasco Sampredo**, Secretary General of Integration of Migrants, Directorate General of Migration, Spain (*reception of children within families in Spain*)
- ▶ **Bernadette Kumar**, Director, Centre for Migrant and Minority Health, Norway (*access to healthcare*)
- ▶ **Benoit Van Keirsbilck**, President, *Defence for Children International* (*using the collective complaint mechanism to improve the reception conditions of children and families*)

▶ **S3: ACCESS TO ASYLUM PROCEDURES AND PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS**

(ROOM OC - COFFEE BREAK 11:40-12:00)

(e.g. appointment of a guardian; information to children, legal advice and assistance, access to the asylum procedure, family reunion, the urgency principle in procedures involving children, child-sensitive assessment of protection needs taking into account persecution of a child-specific nature, age assessments)

Chair: Stephen Ryan, Deputy Head of Unit, Asylum, DG Migration and Home Affairs

Co-chair: Rebecca O'Donnell, Co-founding Director of Child Circle

Panellists

- ▶ **Maria Dapena-Vilario**, Centre for Training, Quality and Expertise, European Asylum Support Office (EASO) (*procedural safeguards in the age assessment process and interviewing children*)
- ▶ **Anja Dewilde**, Co-ordinator Unaccompanied and Separated Children, Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons, Belgium (*the child and his or her best interests in the Belgian asylum procedure*)
- ▶ **Elena Rozzi**, Social Researcher and Legal Adviser, Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione – ASGI, Italy (*unaccompanied children in Italy, between rights violations and good practices*)
- ▶ **Charlotte Kilroy**, Public Law Practitioner, Doughty Streets Chambers, United Kingdom (*ZAT- a case study on how to improve access to asylum procedures for children*)

▶ **S4: DURABLE SOLUTIONS INCLUDING INTEGRATION**

(ROOM 1B – COFFEE BREAK 11:00-11:20)

(*integration, return to country of origin*)

Chair: **Michael Teutsch**, Head of Unit, Country Analysis, Directorate-General for Education and Culture

Co-chair: **Verena Knaus**, Senior Policy Advisor, UNICEF Brussels Office

Panellists

- ▶ **Andrea Vonkeman**, Senior Policy Officer, UNHCR Brussels Office (*Safe and Sound – durable solutions*)
- ▶ **Fanny Bertrand**, Mission Lead for Unaccompanied Foreign Minors, Pas-de-Calais County Council, France (*integration of children in France*)
- ▶ **Luísa Malhó**, Director Choices Programme, Office of the High Commissioner for Migration, Portugal (*Programa Escolhas - Social inclusion of children and young people: the contributions based on 16 years of intervention*) (video start)
- ▶ **Christiane Timmerman**, CEMIS, Centre for migration and intercultural studies at the University of Antwerp, Belgium (*making integration work in the classroom*)
- ▶ **Stefania Congia**, Head of Department for Policies of Social Inclusion and Employment of Migrants and Protection of Foreign Children, Directorate-General for Immigration and Integration Policies, Ministry of Labour, Italy (*unaccompanied children turning 18*)
- ▶ **Mónica García**, Director, RED ACOGE, Spain (*too young to be an adult*)

13:00–14:30

Lunch

14:30–16:00

Plenary Session IV - concluding remarks and next steps

Moderator: **Paul Nemitz**, Director, Fundamental rights and rule of law, DG Justice and Consumers

- ▶ **Ioannis Mouzalas**, Minister for Migration of the Hellenic Republic
- ▶ **Mario Morcone**, Head of the Immigration department, Ministry of Interior, the Italian Republic
- ▶ **Nathalie Griesbeck**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Child Rights Intergroup in the European Parliament
- ▶ **Vincent Cochetel**, Director of UNHCR's Bureau for Europe
- ▶ **Frans Timmermans**, First Vice-President of the European Commission

