European Commission

10th European Forum on the rights of the child

Side event on guardianship for unaccompanied children

▶ 28-29 November 2016

PROGRAMME

Chair: Margaret Tuite, Commission coordinator for the rights of the child

Co-chairs: Tin Verstegen, Director, Stichting Nidos (Dutch guardianship institution for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, hereafter "Nidos"), and

Georgia Dimitropoulou, Seconded National Expert, EU Fundamental Rights Agency

Note: Each session of the side event, and all speakers, will address challenges, opportunities for action and the way forward. Participants are invited to make the most of networking opportunities provided by the side event with a view to the future of guardianship. Each session will include time for questions and answers/discussion.

Justice and Consumers

Monday 28 November 2016

14:30-16:00 ***Session 1:*** *Guardianship for unaccompanied children*

- **Margaret Tuite,** Commission coordinator for the rights of the child, Fundamental Rights Policy, DG Justice and Consumers *(chair)*
- **Isabela Atanasiu,** Legal Officer, Asylum Unit, DG Migration and Home Affairs *(overview of EU law, including new CEAS provisions, July 2016)*
- **Tin Verstegen,** Director, Nidos *(scene setter on guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children)*
- **Georgia Dimitropoulou,** Seconded national Expert, Rights of the Child Sector, EU Fundamental Rights Agency *(overview of guardianship in EU Member States)*

16:00-16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30-18:15 ***Session 2:*** *Appointment of the guardian, support and monitoring*

(e.g. range of guardianship profiles – key skills, talents, avoidance of conflict; immediacy of appointment; trust and relationship-building; optimising meetings between the guardian and the child; training, support and monitoring)

- **Marjan Schippers,** Head of department of behavioural scientists, Nidos *(guidance policy in the Netherlands in case of child marriages)*
- **Kristina Lundin**, Swedish guardian *(a day in the life of a Swedish guardian)*
- **Bernard Georis,** Guardianship Office for Unaccompanied Minors, Federal Public Services Justice, Belgium *(guardianship and best interests: assessment, determination and monitoring)*
- **Lorenz Paumgartten,** Guardian, Child and Youth Welfare Department of Tirol, Austria *(appointment of a guardian, monitoring and support, as practised in Tirol, Austria)*

Tuesday 29 November 2016

09:00-09:20

Opening speech by **Zaïna Karekezi**, *former unaccompanied child, on her experience of guardianship*

09:20- 11:15

Session 3: *Roles and responsibilities (guardians and those with whom guardians interact)*

(e.g. the guardian's role in assuring quality and continuity of care and protection; the guardian's role in preventing and responding to violence)

- **Pippo Costella,** Defence for Children Italy *(the guardian's role in assuring quality and continuity of care and protection)*
- **Nadine Finch,** Honorary Research Fellow, School of Policy Studies, University of Bristol (*the guardian's role in the context of trafficking)*

11:15-11:45

Coffee break

11:45-13:00

Session 4: *Crossborder aspects of guardianship for unaccompanied children*

(e.g. cross-border guardianship aspects; civil law aspects, the role of Brussels IIa/ Hague Convention and Central Authorities; networking activities for guardianship authorities and guardians; cooperation with third countries in the context of return decisions)

- **Germa Lourens,** Legal department, Nidos *(cross-border guardianship aspects)*
- **Andrea Schulz,** Seconded National Expert, Civil Justice, DG Justice and Consumers *(cross-border guardianship aspects: the legal framework of Brussels IIa Regulation and 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention)*

13:00-14:10

Lunch *(The Forum starts at 14:30 in Room OA, you do not need to register again and you have the full set of papers in your pack)*