



# 8<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN FORUM ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Towards integrated Child Protection Systems through  
the implementation of the EU Agenda for the rights of the child

Brussels, 17-18 December 2013

## PROGRAMME

**Tuesday 17 December**  
*(Charlemagne Building, 170 Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat, De Gasperi Conference Room)*

12.30–13.45 Registration

14.00–14.05 Welcome and introduction

*Mr Paul Nemitz, Director, Fundamental Rights and Union Citizenship, DG Justice*

14.05–15.00 Towards EU guidelines on child protection systems

*Ms Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission  
responsible for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship*

*Ms Roberta Angelilli, Vice-President of the European Parliament*

*Ms Edita Žiobienė, Children's Rights Ombudsman, Lithuanian Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union*

*Ms Marie-Pierre Poirier, Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe  
and the Commonwealth of Independent States, UNICEF*

15.00–16.00 The functioning of child protection systems

*Ms Myria Vassiliadou, EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator*

*Ms Marie-Paule Martin Blachais, Managing Director, GIP Enfance en danger  
(French national public institution on child protection policy) and ESN member*

*Ms Lena Karlsson, Director, Save the Children's Global Child Protection Initiative*

*Ms Alexis Jay, Independent Chair of the Centre for Excellence for  
Looked After Children in Scotland*

19.30 Networking dinner at Thon EU Hotel, 75 Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat

**Wednesday 18 December**  
*(Thon EU Hotel, 75 Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat)*

09.00–09.30 Plenary Session I – Introduction

*Ms Margaret Tuite, Commission coordinator for the rights of the child*

*Ms Kirsten Sandberg, Chairperson of the UN Committee on the rights of the child*

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09.30–13.00 Parallel sessions

S1: The role of child protection systems in ensuring respect of the best interests of the child in cases of **parental child abduction**

Mr Michael Shotter, *Head of Unit, Civil justice, DG Justice*

Ms Hilde Demarré, *Child Focus (BE)*

- o Sir Mathew Thorpe, Expert and consultant in International Family Justice (UK)
- o Dr Jamie Walker, Mediator (DE)
- o Mr Agris Skudra, Head of Child Affairs Cooperation Division, Ministry of Justice (LV)

Rapporteur: Ms Hilde Demarré

S2: The role of child protection systems in meeting the needs of **children on the move**

Ms Zoi Sakellidou, *Office of the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator, DG Home Affairs*

Mr Salvatore Parata, *Terre des Hommes EU office*

- o Ms Georgia Dimitropoulou, Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union
- o Mr Thomas Dunning, Principal Social Worker, Separated Children Seeking Asylum Team (IE)
- o Mr Daniele Maria Marcoaldi, Ministry of the Interior (IT)

Rapporteur: Mr Salvatore Parata

S3: The role of child protection systems in protecting children from violence – **bullying and cyber bullying**

Mr Aleksandar Romanovic, *Fundamental rights and rights of the child, DG Justice*

Mr Niall Cowley, *International Director of BeatBullying (UK)*

- o Ms Heidi Vandebosch, Researcher, University of Antwerp (BE)
- o Mr René Schlechter, Ombudsperson for the rights of the child (LU)
- o Mr Peter Binding, Head Teacher, Worle Community School (UK)
- o Ms Johanna Hakala, Teacher, Haagan peruskoulu (FI)

Rapporteur: Mr Niall Cowley

S4: The role of child protection systems in protecting children from violence – **female genital mutilation**

Ms Daniela Bankier, *Head of Unit, Gender Equality, DG Justice*

Ms Christine Loudes, *Campaign Director, Amnesty International EU office*

- o Ms Fátima Duarte, President, Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (PT)
- o Ms Fabienne Richard, Coordinator, GAMS (BE)
- o Ms Naana Otoo-Oyortey, Executive Director, FORWARD (UK)

Rapporteur: Ms Christine Loudes

13.00–14.30 Lunch

14.30–16.00 Plenary Session II – Conclusions from the sessions and Forum conclusions

Rapporteurs from the parallel sessions

Ms Salla Saastamoinen, *Head of Unit, Fundamental rights and rights of the child, DG Justice*