

Newsletter



ENOC Paris Conference: annual updates by member institutions

Thank you all for having registered and thus confirmed your participation at the 13th ENOC Annual Conference and General Assembly to be held on 23-25 September in Paris. As every year, during the first part of the Conference, member institutions are requested to present a brief summary of their annual activities (September 2008-September 2009). For this purpose, this year you will be requested to use a special format that will be circulated among the members shortly after.

You are also kindly requested to send us as soon as possible (and thus despite that the deadline is over) your proposals for intervention at the Conference's workshops.

Call for ENOC Chair 2010-2011

The current Chair of ENOC, Ms Emily Logan, has circulated among ENOC full members a call for expression of interest to chair ENOC for the year 2010-2011. While the question of the next chairmanship (2010-2011) will be further discussed and a decision will be taken during the upcoming General Assembly, interested members are kindly requested to contact the ENOC Secretariat preferably by end of July 2009.

Update on International and European activities in the field of children's rights

The 08 Summit of Ombudspersons for Children, Nuoro, Italy

"The impact of financial crisis and climate change on children"

Ombudspersons for Children or similar independent human rights institutions from all G8 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) have met in Nuoro, Sardinia (Italy) on 25-26 June for the 08 Summit to discuss the impact of the financial crisis and climate change on children, and issue recommendations to G8 leaders to address challenges. The event was organized by the Province of Nuoro, the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre and the Association of the Provinces of the Mediterranean area (Arco latino). Two ENOC members participated at the summit: Ms Dominique Versini, Défenseure des enfants (Children's Defender) in France and Ms Patricia Lewsley, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People.

At the outcome of the meeting, Ombudspersons for Children called on G8 leaders to:

- Invest in national and global social protection;
- Address climate change now;
- Maintain and increase development cooperation;
- Mobilize human resources;
- Establish, increase, maintain, and reinforce Ombudspersons for Children in more countries and regions.

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ENOC Secretariat on annual leave

Kindly be informed that the ENOC Secretariat will be on annual leave and therefore closed from **10th August to 31 August 2009**.

In my absence, for Paris Conference related issues you may contact Mr. Hugues Feltesse under

hugues.feltesse@defenseurdesenfants.fr

World Appeal to a New Mobilization on Childhood

BICE (the International Catholic Child Bureau), together with distinguished experts, civil society and academics launched on 4 June 2009 in Geneva the World Appeal to a New Mobilization on Childhood intended to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Appeal is addressed to all stakeholders: States, organizations, media, religious and moral authorities as well as all persons of good will. It develops recommendations to each of them.

In particular, one of the recommendations addressed to States is to **create and cooperate with independent institutions to monitor the rights of the child** such as the Ombudspersons for Children.

The Appeal remains open to institutional and/or individual signature up to 20 November 2009.

For further information and signature of the appeal: www.bice.org

The event also supported the Junior-8, an initiative promoted by UNICEF to be held from 4 to 12 July in Rome and L'Aquila, gathering adolescent representatives from the G8 countries and from 6 non-G8 countries who will present their views and recommendations to G8 leaders.

The 4th European Forum on the Rights of the Child, 18 June, Brussels

The 4th European Forum on the Rights of the child that took place in Brussels on 18 June 2009 focused on how to effectively address *child labour* using instruments the EU has at its disposal. Within the main theme of *child labour*, the Forum specifically focused on *social protection* and *corporate social responsibility*.

ENOC has been represented at the Forum by the following member institutions: Belgium (Flemish community), Greece, Cyprus, Finland, France, Hungary, Lithuania and Poland.

While Commissioner Jacques Barrot (Justice, Freedom and Security) presented the overall picture within the EU, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External relations and European neighborhood policy) presented the question of child labour from external perspective before concluding that child labour needs to be tackled at all levels and through concerted efforts from governments, international community, civil society, industry and social partners. It was underlined that the problem of child labour has a global character with some 250 million working children between the age of 5 and 14 and therefore no region is free of it.

In Europe and in the world exploitation of children includes commercial sexual exploitation, slavery and similar practices, exploiting children for illicit activities, child trafficking, begging and exploitation of street children, and employment of children under hazardous conditions.

For further information on the EU Forum: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/children/forum/fsj_children_forum_en.htm

International Conference on combating sexual exploitation of children in the Internet, 30 June 2009, Berlin (follow-up of the Rio Congress) "The protection of girls and boys against sexual violence in the new media"

The German federal Ministry for Family Affairs, in cooperation with UNICEF, Save the Children, and Innocence in Danger organized on 30 June 2009 in Berlin an European follow-up conference to the 3rd World Congress against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents that took place in November last year in Rio de Janeiro.

What impact does the sexualisation of society have on children and young people? What child and youth protection measures can be provided for the Internet? Which solutions have proved particularly fruitful in identifying and supporting victims and in dealing with youth offenders?

These questions and further steps have been discussed. In workshops, brief presentations and round table discussions current challenges have been identified and perspectives for Europe have been outlined.

In addition to the German Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Ursula von der Leyen, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Europol Director Rob Wainwright, Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office President Jörg Ziercke were present as well as young people from various European countries.

A final declaration has been agreed upon at the outcome of the Conference.

The full text of the declaration is made available under: <http://www.child-protection-conference.org/download/Abschlusserklaerung-englisch.pdf>

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **15-19 July 2009:** III Issyk-Kul International Forum on Human Rights, Bishkek and Issyk Kul Lake, Kyrgyz Republic
- ❖ **31 August-1 September 2009:** Symposium on “Child Poverty-A European Challenge”, Berlin, Germany
- ❖ **23-25 September 2009:** ENOC Annual Conference and General Assembly on the theme of “*Best interests of the Child*”, Cité universitaire internationale, Paris, France
- ❖ **4-6 October 2009:** Youth pre-conference workshop, organized by the Council of Europe together with SOS Children’s Villages, in Vlinius, Lithuania (call for participants-20 young people to participate)
- ❖ **7-8 October 2009:** Conference on “*Keeping the door open-support to young people living in care*” organized by the Council of Baltic Sea States, Lithuanian Ministry for Social Security & Labour, Council of Europe, UNICEF and SOS Children’s Villages, Vilnius, Lithuania

The ENOC website needs your input to continue to grow. Send us information about new web resources, research or data related to Children’s Rights.

If you have any suggestions or if you would like to include any information or upcoming events in our newsletter please send the details to secretariat@ombudsnet.org (Re: ENOC Newsletter).

JULY 2009

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