

Newsletter

ENOC News & Announcements

ENOC training workshop on complaints mechanisms for children's rights violations

Last June, ENOC held a workshop on children's rights complaints mechanisms that exist at European and at International level. The workshop was hosted by the Dutch Ombudsman for Children Office and attended by a group of 20 participants (11 ENOC member institutions participated). The workshop focused on 3 main mechanisms: the one before the European Court of Human Rights and before the European Committee of Social Rights; and the newly established mechanism before the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child. Participants had the opportunity to exchange with the speakers but also to share their own experiences at national level as to the scope of competences of their respective Ombudspersons to handle individual complaints. A list of participants and all the presentations are available on the ENOC website: <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infodetail.asp?id=28492>

The ENOC Bureau met in Brussels on 2nd of July

The ENOC Bureau met for the 2nd time this year in Brussels. The Bureau discussed a range of issues among which organizational details around the upcoming annual conference in Cyprus, the state of play of the ENYA project and the upcoming ENYA meeting, outstanding applications for membership to ENOC, the ENOC budget, the Madrid case (<http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=28815&flag=news>) and other administrative issues. The Bureau will meet again on the occasion of the ENYA Seminar in Warsaw at end of August. The minutes of the Brussels' meeting are available upon request to the ENOC Secretariat.

ENYA meeting in Warsaw

ENYA young advisors and ENYA Coordinators from approximately 10 different countries will be meeting on **29-31 August, 2012 in Warsaw, Poland**. Young participants will have the opportunity first to get to know each other before they spend a day on interactive discussions on two thematic main issues: juvenile delinquency, and the rights of children in institutional care. The ENOC Bureau will be attending the meeting while Ms. Patricia Lewsley (Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children & Young People), Ms. Edita Ziobiene (Ombudsman for Children, Lithuania) and Ms. Leda Koursoumba (Cyprus' Commissioner for Children's Rights) will be playing an active role in the workshop discussions. ENYA representatives will also participate in Janusz Korczak activities, organized by the Ombudsman for Children in Poland.

Update on European & International Activities in the Children's rights field

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Nils Muižnieks, talked about NHRIs and the effects of austerity measures in his 1st HR comment

The new CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks, published his 1st Human Rights comment at end of May. The comment relates to National Human Rights Structures (NHRs) that, according to the Commissioner, can help mitigate the effects of austerity measures and would continue helping the most vulnerable groups of people amongst which children. While the Commissioner referred to some good examples where NHRs continue to provide extended support to people whose rights are breached, he also noticed the negative impact of the economic crisis on the functioning and effectiveness of NHRs.



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REMINDERS

Annual Membership fees

- ENOC members that have not paid yet their **membership fee for 2012** are kindly requested to proceed to the payment ASAP. Not notified delays in payment will be considered by the Bureau.

ENOC Annual Conference

- Deadline for registering **31st July, 2012**
- Deadline for booking in one of the proposed hotels **31st July, 2012**.
- Last chance to send a proposal for a thematic update from the activities of your institution: deadline **31st July, 2012**

Survey on Juvenile Delinquency:

- Deadline: **31st July**

New Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Europe elected

On 26th June 2012, Ms. **Gabriela Battaini-Dragoni** (Italy) has been elected by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe as the **Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe**.

Ms. Battaini-Dragoni will take up office on 1 September 2012 for a period of three years, and will thus replace Ms. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, whose mandate expires on 31st August, having performed this function since 1 September 2002.

The European Commission held its 1st stakeholder meeting on ECEC and ESL

On 26th June, 2012 the European Commission held its 1st stakeholder meeting on ‘Early Childhood Education and Care’ and on ‘Early School Leaving’ as a follow up of the 2011 EC Communication on ‘*ECEC: providing all children with the best start for the world of tomorrow*’ and the Council (EU Ministers of Education) Conclusions from May 2011 to initiate a process of policy cooperation at EU level on ECEC. Detailed information, a calendar of activities and related documents are available under: http://ec.europa.eu/education/school-education/childhood_en.htm

Thus many NHRs (amongst which Ombudspersons for Children) have seen their operational capacities reduced, the closure of regional offices, or the merger of various bodies into overarching structures that are not as focused or accessible as the bodies they have replaced. The Commissioner reminded States’ obligations under the Paris principles and invited CoE member states to involve NHRs at all stages of the budget process. The full text of the comment is available under: <http://humanrightscomment.org/2012/05/31/nhrs/>

2012 Council of Europe Youth Peace Camp a symbol of 40 years work with and for young people

51 young representatives from conflict-stricken regions (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Israel, Kosovo, Georgia, Russian Federation etc.) participated on 22-30 June in the 2012 CoE Youth Peace Camp which celebrates its 40th anniversary. The objective is to engage young people and youth organisations in dialogue and conflict transformation activities through human rights education and intercultural learning, to leave them with positive experiences of living and learning with others. The peace camp provides a unique opportunity for many young people to meet their neighbors from "the other side" of the conflict face to face for the first time. The Council of Europe has also created **75 Youth Peace Ambassadors**, the result of an idea put forward by the youth leaders who sit side by side with government officials to decide on the Organisation’s policies, programmes and priorities regarding young people. For more information please follow: <http://youthpeace.coe.int/Project>

Council of Europe-UNHCR workshop on detention of Unaccompanied/Separated children

On the occasion of World Refugee Day (20th June), the CoE Children’s Rights Division together with the UNHCR held a workshop to discuss the legal standards and practice regarding the detention of unaccompanied and separated children in need of protection. A number of eminent experts on the issue, representatives from ECRE, the Danish Refugee Council, UNHCR, CoE Migration Division, PACE Committee on migration etc. participated in the workshop. The CoE Strategy on the Rights of the Child for 2012-2015 stipulates that the organisation should support member states in improving the protection of migrant children and children "on the move", including asylum seeking, refugee, unaccompanied, separated, internally displaced and stateless children. At the end of the workshop, the CoE announced that they will start working as of 2013 on a specific standard setting tool (the format has not been revealed yet) on the issue of detention of UAM/separated children and especially on alternatives to detention and specific reception measures and conditions. For more information please follow: http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/News/Workshop-unaccompanied-separated-children_en.asp

Council of Europe expert meeting on “Monitoring children’s rights in Europe”

On 3-4 July, 2012 the CoE held an expert meeting to discuss how to make full use of existing CoE and UN monitoring mechanisms for the benefit of children’s rights in Europe. Representatives from a number of Council of Europe monitoring bodies, including the European Court of Human Rights, the European Committee of Social Rights and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture discussed with experts from UN agencies, the EU and civil society how to improve children’s access to the rights guaranteed by key human rights treaties. Participants assessed the difficulties that children experience in accessing international justice and identified the measures needed to strengthen children and their representatives’ access to international monitoring bodies, to strengthen the impact of the findings, conclusions, and decisions of monitoring bodies; to take into account children’s special needs and last but not least to include children and their views in their work. ENOC has been represented by Ms. Leda Koursoumba, ENOC Chair elect and Commissioner for Children’s Rights of Cyprus and by Ms. Alexandra Moschopoulou from the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Children in Greece. Ms. Koursoumba intervened to share experience and expertise on how national children’s rights institutions involve on a regular basis children and young people in monitoring their rights, and on the crucial role played by children and young people themselves to detect deficiencies in the protection and promotion of their rights. Ms. Koursoumba’s presentation is available on the ENOC website under <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?id=29030> For further information on the meeting and CoE activities on the issue, please follow http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/News/Monitoringmeeting_en.asp

Updates from ENOC members

- ✓ In June 2012, the Greek Ombudsman and the Deputy Ombudsman for children's rights submitted to the UNCRC a parallel report on the implementation of the CRC in Greece from 2003 to 2011 summarizing the main findings and recommendations. The report was submitted on the occasion of the review of the second and the third National Report of Greece on the Implementation of the CRC. The PR and the report are available under <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/InfoDetail.asp?ID=28625>
- ✓ In a comprehensive, *ex officio investigation* the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights in Hungary has asked responsible authorities about the reasons for *children missing* or playing truant, about the ways of prevention and intervention, about the measures taken to deal with the children concerned, and about how professionals working in this field can help overcoming this problem. For further information, <http://crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=28632&flag=news>
- ✓ In July 2012, the Rights' Defender of France published *its annual activity report for 2011*. The report covers a large area of issues because of the broad mandate of the institution and includes a separate chapter on children's rights. On the same occasion the Deputy Ombudsman in charge of children's rights published a report on the annual activities of the Young Ambassadors (promotion 2011-2012). Both reports (in French) are available under <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?id=29031>
- ✓ On 5th July, 2012 the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England published its *annual report 2011-2012*. The annual report outlines the impact and achievements of the Office in a range of policy areas but also provides an overview of the progress the Office made across all its projects. The report also highlights successful partnerships with stakeholders but also with children & young people. The full report is available under <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?id=29012>

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **23 July 2012:** Meeting of the Steering Group of the EU Forum on the rights of the child (European Commission), Brussels, Belgium
- ❖ **29-31 August 2012:** ENYA Seminar, Warsaw, Poland
- ❖ **28 September 2012:** Committee on the Rights of the Child, Day of General Discussion 'The rights of all children in the context of international migration', Geneva, Switzerland
- ❖ **10-12 October 2012:** ENOC 16th Annual Conference and General Assembly meeting, Nicosia, Cyprus
- ❖ **24-26 October 2012:** Eurochild's Annual 2012 Conference 'Promoting the rights of children in alternative care across Europe', Sofia, Bulgaria

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).

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European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

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