

Children, Europe, Emergency
The protection and future of migrant children: a challenge for Europe

28th of June 2016, Paris
“Maison de l’UNESCO” (room IV)
125, av. Suffren, 75007 Paris

Draft programme
with confirmed speakers

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| 9:00 | Registration |
| 9:30 | <p>Opening of the conference <i>By Geneviève Avenard, Children’s defender and Deputy of the Defender of Rights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broadcast of the video testimony of young migrants; - Speech of Jacques Toubon, Défenseur des droits, France, - Speech of Tomas Bocek, Special Representative on Migration and Refugees of Council of Europe’s Secretary General, - Presentation of ENOC’s report on “Safety and Fundamental rights at stake for Children on the move”, by Fredrik Malmberg, The Ombudsman for children in Sweden, and cowriter of the report. |
| 10:15 | <p>Overview</p> <p>Overview of the current migratory situation, Ralf Gruenert, a.i. representative in France, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</p> <p>Speech of Jean-Claude Legrand, Senior Regional Advisor Child Protection for UNICEF Europe and Central Asia</p> |
| 11:00 | <p>Round table 1: Ensuring an immediate protection of migrant children <i>Moderator: David Lallemand, Communication advisor for the Children’s rights General delegate, French speaking community, Belgium</i></p> <p>There is few reliable data on children on the move in the European territory. However, they face many dangers involving their safety. Besides the obvious dangers encountered during their journey, children risk to be separated from their families and to be victims of sexual abuse or human trafficking. They are also sometimes detained.</p> <p>Many countries do not adopt a multidimensional approach for assessing the age and the children whom a doubt about their age is expressed, are often treated as adults. Legal guardianship systems, when they exist, are often insufficient or the delays are excessive. Children housing conditions are also a problem and do not always enable to receive the necessary education, access to leisure or quality health care.</p> <p>✓ Introductory interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Olivier Peyroux, Presentation of UNICEF sociological study undertaken by “Trajectoires” NGO, - Georges Moschos, Deputy Ombudsman for children, Greece, - Nicolas Le Coz, President of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Katja Fournier, Coordinator of the minors in exile platform, Belgium. <p>✓ <u>Discussants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guillaume Alexandre, Director General, « la Vie active » NGO, - Margaret Tuite, Commission coordinator for the rights of the child, European Commission. |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 14:30 | <p>Round table 2: Improving and accelerating the legal migration procedures: to a sustainable solution for migrant children</p> <p><i>Moderator: David Lallemand, Communication advisor for the Children's rights General delegate, French speaking community, Belgium</i></p> <p><i>Opening with a second video</i></p> <p>An analysis of the European answer to the increase of migrants' flows highlights the pitfalls of the EU migration policy. Whereas the border controls are strengthened to reduce the flow, nothing is done concerning the protection of migrant children. Although the legal instruments of the Asylum and Migration European System – as humanitarian visas, family reunion and relocation – exist, those provisions are little or even not implemented.</p> <p>Children (and professionals) are not informed enough. Yet, a child who doesn't know what to expect may make unreflected choices and consequently disappear from the system, States being unable to bring him or her the necessary assistance in that case.</p> <p>✓ <u>Introductory interventions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Fundamental rights agency (FRA), - Anne Longfield, Children's Commissioner for England, - Pascal Brice, Director General, French Office for the protection of refugees and stateless persons, - Restoring family links, Red Cross. <p>✓ <u>Discussants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jamil Addou, Coordinator of the quality center, European Asylum Support Office (EASO), - Laure Batut, member of the European economic and social committee. |
| 15:30-16:00 | Coffee break |
| 17:00 | <p>Conclusions and recommendations</p> <p><i>Discussion and adoption of the statement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jacques Toubon, Défenseur des droits, France, - European network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) representative, - Igli Totozani, President of the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM), - Marc Bertrand, President of the Association of French speaking Ombudsmen (AOMF), - Regina Jensdottir, Council of Europe Co-ordinator for the Rights of the Child |
| 18:00 | End of Conference |