

Eurochild elects new management board

Europe's largest umbrella network on children's rights and welfare agrees a new ambitious programme to help put children first

"Across the EU one in five children lives at-risk-of poverty. Seven out of ten of them will end up as adults living at-risk-of poverty."

"In the face of massive public debt difficult decisions need to be made, but we strongly believe that investment in children – and the earlier the better – has to be sustained and reinforced."

"Europe's future depends on the extent to which its children grow up happy, healthy, well-educated, safe and self-confident. Breaking the chain of poverty in childhood can generate massive savings in the future."

These are just a few of the messages from Eurochild's General Assembly and Policy Forum, during which a new ambitious 3-year programme was agreed and a new management board elected.

Maria Herczog (Family, Child & Youth Association, Hungary) takes over as President of Eurochild from Catriona Williams, Chief Executive of Children in Wales. Maria is well-known in the child rights field. She was elected as member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2007 and is re-running for election this year. She has been member of the European Economic and Social Committee since 2004 as a civil society representative, and chair of the Hungarian Economic and Social Council. Maria is joined on the board by Pauline Leeson (Children in Northern Ireland, UK) (Treasurer); Marie Gustafsson (Örebro Regional Development Council, Sweden) (Secretary); Kelig Puyet (SOS Children's Villages International), Ivano Abruzzi (Albero della Vita, Italy) and Ulrike Wisser (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder und Jugendhilfe, Germany).

Eurochild now counts 92 full members from across 32 European countries. The platform includes NGOs working and for children and families, as well as public bodies and research institutions committed to the rights and welfare of children. The 3-year strategic plan aims to ensure a strong, influential voice that promotes the interests of children in EU policy debates and to support member organisations in their efforts to promote children's rights and welfare at a national and regional level.

As stated by out-going President, Catriona Williams, *"I am honoured to have been able to contribute to Eurochild's growth and influence over the last 6 years. I'm convinced the network will go from strength-to-strength in the coming years"*.

Maria Herczog expressed her willingness to continue the good work, adding *"Coming from Hungary, I think this election is also symbolic for civil society in our region which is still so under-represented in decision-making structures at EU level. I look forward to serving the network over the coming years."*

END

Press release

More information

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Eurochild is a network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to promote children's rights and improve the quality of life of children and young people. Eurochild's work is underpinned by the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



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