

Brussels, 28th February 2005

**Invitation to the reception
“Can you Hear me?”**

“Can you hear me?” is an event, where 12 young people aged between 13 and 15 years coming from Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Hungary and the United Kingdom will explain to Members of the European Parliament and representatives of the European Commission what social exclusion means to them & make recommendations for change.

The reception will be held on 2nd March 2005 from 17.00 to 19.00 in the Members Room of the European Parliament in Brussels.

The reception takes place at the eve of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, which will prepare a communication to the Spring Council (22-23 March 2005) largely taken up with the mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy. One clear common objective set by this strategy was “to move towards the elimination of social exclusion among children and give them every opportunity for social integration”.

Where do we stand five years after the adoption of the Lisbon Strategy? 19% of the children aged between 0 and 15 are at-risk-of-poverty in the former 15 EU member states and 20% are at risk in the 10 new member

The reception is organized by Eurochild AISBL with the support of Mrs. Eluned Morgan, Member of the European Parliament.

Eurochild is an active network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to 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 (UNCRC).

Eurochild AISBL is currently pursuing a work programme to contribute to the fight against child poverty and social exclusion. A key element of the programme is the assessment of the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion from the perspective of children and young people.

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