



## Press release

### **Why involve us? Children's participation in the policy-making process**

**European Parliament, room EAS 170 (Eastman building)  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2006 (2-4pm)**

In advance of the publication of the **Communication on the Rights of the Child**, to be released by the European Commission on the initiative of Commissioner Franco Frattini in July 2006, **Eurochild<sup>AISBL</sup>** has the pleasure to invite you to a reception to take place at the **European Parliament** on **7 June 2006** (2-4 pm).

On this occasion, a group of 16 children and young people at risk of social exclusion from 6 European countries (Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Latvia, Portugal, UK) will present their experiences of participating in the political decision-making process at a local or national level. The children are coming from several different types of participation projects, such as the Children & Youth Board in the UK that are actively involved in defining the UK government's youth policy; the youth migration service in Lübben, Germany, where children from migrant backgrounds are helping to promote voluntary service and active citizenship; the Children's Parliament in Cyprus, elected through school councils from across the country; and others.

The children will make a presentation, followed by a panel discussion. The event will take place with the support of Ms Lissy Gröner, Member of the European Parliament (PES, DE). Speakers will include representatives of Directorates General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities as well as Justice and Home Affairs, and MEPs from different political groups as keynote speakers.

Eurochild AISBL strongly supports the view of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child stresses on the importance of children's participation in decision-making processes concerning them (Article 12). This event represents a unique opportunity to expose their views and concerns at the European level.

There will be the possibility of interviews with Eurochild representatives and invited officials after the event

For further information please contact Anja Härtwig, Information and Policy Development Officer, at Eurochild on +32 (0)2 511 70 83 or [info@eurochild.org](mailto:info@eurochild.org).

***Eurochild AISBL** is an international network of organisations, who are working in and across Europe to improve the quality of life of children and young people. Our work is based on the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The fight against child poverty and social exclusion is at the heart of our work programme. Eurochild AISBL is funded within the Community Action Programme to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion of the European Commission.*

#### **Eurochild**

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