

Brussels, 25th October 2004

Children at-risk-of-poverty: Eurochild assesses National Action Plans on Social Inclusion

19% of the children aged between 0 and 15 are at-risk-of-poverty in the former 15 EU member states and 18% are at risk in the 10 new member States. Hence, the European Council (in Nice) stressed "*the need for Member States to set targets in their National Action Plans for significantly reducing the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2010*". Catriona Williams, president of Eurochild AISBL, said: "The long term implications of children in poverty not only affect the individuals, but also costs the countries vast sums of money in the long term, for example excessive health and welfare expenditure".

Assessing the impact of NAPs/Incl in the EU Member States from the point of view of children and young people and their carers is a key element of Eurochild's work programme. Therefore, Anne Williams, acting Secretary General of Eurochild AISBL will present a Synthesis Report presenting this assessment, at the occasion of the conference "**Combating Child Poverty in Europe - Making it a Reality**", organised by Eurochild Aisbl, on Tuesday, 26th October 2004, from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, in Bedford Hotel, 135-137 Rue du Midi 1000 Brussels.

The conference further aims to:

- explore the issues of combating child poverty at both national and European levels;
- examine how the National Action Plans can be developed to ensure that there is sufficient focus on children and young people and to include their views
- highlight some of the lessons that can be drawn from the success of work in countries across Europe

Key speakers include, Hugh Frazer, National Expert, Social Protection & Social Inclusion: Policy Co-ordination Unit, European Commission, who will intervene on "*Child poverty: a key priority for the European Union's social inclusion process*" and Professor Jonathan Bradshaw, UK national expert adviser on the National Action Plans will present "*Indicators of child poverty and deprivation in the EU*".

Eurochild's AISBL Child Poverty Work Programme

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. Eurochild AISBL has therefore developed an Assessment Framework designed to facilitate a consistent approach to the assessment of the visibility of children and young people in the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion. It covers the area of children and young people's participation in the planning process and the extent to which the needs and rights of children and young people are taken into account in the following key policy areas: education, health, housing, culture, sport and leisure, family Welfare, youth, justice.

About Eurochild

Eurochild is the 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).

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