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<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 - Seminar at the European Parliament on early years services, April 2008
2,3 - General Assembly, June 2008
4,5,6,7,8,9 - Annual Conference, November 2008
By Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General

Eurochild celebrated its fourth birthday in 2008. Established in July 2004, the organisation has grown rapidly during its short existence. Starting with 25 members, the network now counts some 64 organisations amongst its members, covering 23 Members States of the European Union and some neighbouring countries.

2008 also marked the first year of our 3 year partnership agreement under the PROGRESS programme for employment and social solidarity – managed by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of European Commission. PROGRESS aims to boost the capacity of key EU networks to promote, support and further develop EU policies and objectives. PROGRESS supports Eurochild’s 3 year strategic plan which focuses on four key priorities: strengthening the network; influencing policy; disseminating information and raising awareness; and facilitating the participation of children and young people.

As a ‘key network’ funded through PROGRESS, Eurochild is directly involved in the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion – the EU’s main tool for cooperation and coordination between Member States on social policy. Therefore, a key task of the network in 2008 was to evaluate the 2 year strategy reports of member states, outlining their plans for social inclusion. Whilst we were pleased that a majority of Member States highlighted child poverty as a key priority, Eurochild members criticised the lack of real progress in reducing poverty levels and the on-going failure of policy makers to acknowledge children as citizens in their own right.

As the intensity of the current financial and economic crisis unfolds, it is evident that the work of networks such as Eurochild is becoming increasingly important. It is children who will largely bear the burden of the escalating financial debt resulting from government responses to the crisis. However, the impact of the crisis on children’s well-being receives too little attention. There is an urgent need to raise the voice of children, and to ensure that a child-centred approach is taken in all decisions that affect them. Our fifth year (2009) will no doubt be busier than ever!
Our Mission
The mission of Eurochild is to help its members promote the welfare and rights of children and young people in Europe. Eurochild supports the development and work of its member organisations by:

- sharing information on policy and practice;
- monitoring and influencing policy development at national and European level;
- creating interest groups and partnerships between member organisations;
- representing the interests of its members to international institutions;
- and strengthening their capacity through training, individual advice and support.

Our Values
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child underpins all the work of our members and the Eurochild network as a whole. We also apply a number of operational values to our activities:

- Inclusivity – involvement of members in a meaningful way;
- Child centredness – the commitment to crossing traditional organisational and disciplinary boundaries to promote the best interest of the child in a holistic way;
- Giving a voice to children and young people – by building children’s participation into our activities and those of our members.

Our Funding
For the period 2008-2010, Eurochild is co-funded by a partnership agreement with the European Commission under the PROGRESS Programme, the Community programme for employment and social solidarity. This agreement covered 85% of the running costs of the organisation in 2008.
Our Activities

The following section outlines our activities under Eurochild’s four strategic objectives. Here is a short overview:

**Priority 1: Strengthening the network**

- Expanding Eurochild’s membership
- Facilitating peer learning and exchange
- Strengthening members’ participation in Eurochild
- Supporting national networks and networking

**Priority 2: Influencing policy**

- Supporting members’ advocacy at regional and national level
- Ensuring a voice for children’s rights in EU policies on internal issues
- Building strategic partnerships

**Priority 3: Raising awareness and disseminating information**

- Providing information services to members and the wider child rights community
- Representing Eurochild at international events and meetings
- Increasing media coverage

**Priority 4: Facilitating the participation of children and young people**

- Involving children and young people in Eurochild’s activities
- Advocating for children’s participation in decision-making processes
- Facilitating peer learning and exchange on children’s participation
Expanding Eurochild’s membership

13 organisations joined the Eurochild network in 2008, bringing the total membership to 64. By increasing its membership Eurochild has extended its reach and representativeness in Europe. The membership now covers 23 of the 27 EU member states and 4 neighbouring countries. Eurochild also has several Europe-wide networks in membership that have a wider geographic coverage.

Eurochild has different types of organisation in full-membership including

- Europe-wide organisations and networks
- National umbrella organisations or networks
- National organisations
- Local organisations
- Local and regional authorities
- Children’s ombudsmen

In line with Eurochild’s values, we aim to cross traditional disciplinary and sectoral boundaries by involving all types of organisations with an interest in the rights and welfare of children and young people.
In 2008 Eurochild conducted a mapping of researchers and academic researchers active in the field of child poverty and social exclusion with a view to expanding membership and strengthening our links to research.

**Facilitating peer learning and exchange**

Thematic working groups were set up to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences between members on specific thematic priorities. The purpose is to facilitate peer learning whilst also feeding into the development of Eurochild’s policy positions.

The thematic working groups carried out the following activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working group</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early years education and care</td>
<td>Seminar in European Parliament on improving the well-being of young children in Europe: the role of early years services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption of a background paper on the role of early years services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fed into Eurochild’s position on early years’ symposium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and parenting support</td>
<td>Meeting in April 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fed into Eurochild positions on demographic change and reconciliation of family and working life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Members Exchange Seminar hosted by Children in Wales involved 15 members. Three members presented good practice examples of participation. Young people led workshops on participation in family life; educational systems; community and political life; and participation of young people at risk of exclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in alternative care</td>
<td>Set up on the initiative of members following the General Assembly 2008.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strengthening members’ participation in Eurochild

Eurochild consolidated its working structures to ensure greater member participation in governance and policy work. (see chart below)

The management board was expanded to 6 members. The Policy Working Group – defined as the ‘think tank’ for Eurochild’s policy work - involved 8 members. Some 25 members took part in the Policy Forum.

A key part of Eurochild’s work is to feed into the EU’s Open Method of Coordination on Social Inclusion and Social Protection (Social OMC). In 2008, Member States submitted their 2 year national strategy reports on social inclusion and social protection, outlining their strategic priorities and policy responses to the problem of social exclusion. Thirteen Eurochild member organisations carried out a detailed analysis of their respective member state reports. This helped to feed into Eurochild’s report “Ending child poverty in the EU”.

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Supporting national networks and networking

In October 2008, Eurochild organised a seminar in Greece in cooperation with the office of the Greek Ombudsman for Children, George Moschos, member of the European Network of Children’s Ombudsmen. This one-day event brought together 54 Greek NGO’s in the field of children and human rights, with the purpose of strengthening cooperation among children’s NGOs in Greece. Five new members from Greece joined the Eurochild network following this event.

Eurochild’s fifth Annual Conference took place on 5-7 November in Budapest, under the title “Including Children: a child rights approach to child well-being”. The conference was co-hosted by our member organisation, the Family, Child and Youth Association (FCYA) from Hungary. It was attended by over 200 international and Hungarian participants. Among them were 20 young people from Germany, Wales, Cyprus and Hungary, who discussed their views together with the other participants during an interactive panel.

During the event, Eurochild focused on four themes that are considered to be crucial in preventing social exclusion and poverty among children and young people in Europe:

- Early childhood development - quality services for all;
- Family & parenting support - helping to deliver children’s rights in deprived neighbourhoods;
- Young people leaving alternative care - key challenges and framework for action;
- Protecting children’s best interest in anti-poverty strategies.

Each of these themes was explored through workshops during the conference.

What our members say?

“Through Eurochild we know what’s happening in other countries and we have a voice at EU level”

“Eurochild facilitates networking exchange and collaboration. We have new partners as a result of our participation in the network.”
Supporting members’ advocacy at regional and national level

The Social OMC is potentially a powerful instrument for change. However, pressure from stakeholders on governments to take the process seriously is crucial. That’s why Eurochild supports its members to get involved in both the development and evaluation of the national strategy reports on social inclusion and social protection.

In July 2008, Eurochild prepared a standard letter for members to send to their respective Social Protection Committee member, urging them to build on past work such as the recommendations from the child poverty and well-being report, and the periodic reports on implementation of the UNCRC. Members were encouraged to use a standard toolkit to evaluate the national strategy reports. Thirteen members submitted their analysis using this toolkit.

Eurochild Policy Briefings are a new service offered to members. These clearly outline policy developments at EU level and why they are important for national and regional policy. Guidance on what action can be taken by members is also provided.

Ensuring a voice for children’s rights in EU policies on internal issues

Eurochild is the voice of its member organisations in Brussels. We respond regularly to consultations and provide inputs to on-going policy developments. Here are just some of the highlights:

- Key messages: Early Years Symposium (October); Round Table on Active Inclusion (October), Demographic Forum (November);
- Open consultations: Social Reality Stocktaking (February); Family and working life reconciliation measures (April), migration and education (December), Fundamental Rights Agency work programme and report (October);
- Policy positions: Child rights strategy (October); parental leave and maternity leave directives (November).
Building strategic partnerships

Sometimes our voice alone is not strong enough. That’s why Eurochild is an active member of two important platforms at EU level.

- The European Anti-Poverty Network campaigns against all poverty and social exclusion. Many of Eurochild’s members are also members of the national EAPN networks. Eurochild actively contributes to the social inclusion working group, and joined the steering group for the 2010 European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion set up in 2008 to help coordinate the work of NGOs during the year. (www.eapn.org).
- The Social Platform is the largest civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. Eurochild is active in the social policy working group and has contributed to its work on services of general interest and the Fundamental Rights Agency (www.socialplatform.org).

Eurochild has also continued to work with the informal alliance of NGOs collaborating to follow-up the EU’s commitment to a child rights strategy (Child Rights Action Group – CRAG). In 2008 we contributed to a joint position on the child rights strategy and recommendations on child participation.

What our members say?

“Policy briefings are useful. They help us follow what’s going on at EU level and put pressure nationally”

“We’re quite new to advocacy. We are encouraged by the work of Eurochild”

“Involvement in the NAPs helped to build our capacity in understanding and influencing national policy”
Our Activities

3. Raising awareness and disseminating information

Providing information services to members and the wider child rights community

A highly valued service of Eurochild to its members is the Info Flash. Distributed weekly, this provides a brief update on Eurochild news, members’ news and policy and funding opportunities at EU level.

The monthly e-bulletins are provided for a wider audience. Anybody can sign up via the Eurochild website. In 2008 the number of recipients reached 2,700. The news includes an update on what’s going on at Member State level as well as the latest developments at EU level.

Eurochild launched a new look for its newsletter in 2008. The newsletter includes more articles from members and a spotlight, focusing on specific thematic priorities. This issue focused on the situation of Roma children in Europe.

Representing Eurochild in international events and meetings

At any time of year there are a huge number of events happening across the EU of interest to Eurochild and its members. We cannot attend all of them. However, by involving its member organisations Eurochild was represented at 17 events throughout 2008, including:

- PCCWPC (Cyprus) represented Eurochild in the Stockholm conference of the Council of Europe, September;
- Children in Wales (UK) represented Eurochild in a conference of the Association for a New Education, Germany, October;
- Association Samuel Vincent (France) represented Eurochild in the French Presidency event “Forum on Social Experimentation in Europe”, December;
- Amici dei Bambini represented Eurochild in the conference of the European Federation for Street Children, Verona, December.
To help members represent Eurochild, the Secretariat provides a detailed background to each event and a standard reporting form.

**Increasing media coverage**

In July the Eurochild Secretary General was interviewed for Europarl TV. This TV channel is a new initiative of the European Parliament and provides daily updates on debates. Eurochild was also interviewed for radio programmes in Malta, France and Belgium.

Following the Eurochild Annual Conference in Budapest in November 2008, some 13 articles in various on-line and print journals were registered. The Family, Child and Youth Association (also a Eurochild member) was also interviewed for several radio channels.

**What our members say?**

_We’re very pleased with the info flash. We forward some of the links to our members and we’re happy to be able to publicise our events through Eurochild_"

_“The info flash helps us understand what’s happening at EU level. It’s a useful tool”._
Our Activities

4. Facilitating the participation of children and young people

Involving children and young people in Eurochild’s activities

Eurochild took its first steps to mainstreaming children’s participation in its activities and events in 2008.

Eurochild member, Children in Wales, lead a Youth in Action project involving young people from Germany (YES Forum), Cyprus (Children’s Parliament), Hungary (Large Family Association), and Wales (Funky Dragon). The young people had participated in a 5-day programme in Cardiff in September, culminating in the Eurochild’s members’ exchange seminar on child and youth participation, where they lead workshops. In November, the young people participated in the Eurochild Annual Conference, leading the panel discussion.

Advocating for children’s participation in decision-making processes

Eurochild advocates for children’s participation in decisions that affect them – in line with Article 12 of the UNCRC.

In relation to the EU’s social inclusion agenda, we advocate for participation as an important means of empowerment and poverty prevention among children and young people. It can also help to improve policy making by better understanding the experiences and challenges faced by children and young people who are themselves living in poverty.
In the EU’s children’s rights agenda, Eurochild made a number of recommendations together with other NGOs with the expectation that this will feed into the EU’s ad-hoc working group on children’s participation.

Facilitating peer learning and exchange on children’s participation

This year’s members’ exchange seminar took place in Cardiff on 2nd October. It focused on child and youth participation and involved presentations from 3 Eurochild member organisations on their experiences of participation (UK, Ireland and Finland). The workshops focused on participation in family life, in schools, in public life and on the participation of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Young people from the youth exchange project facilitated the workshops.

What our members say?

_The exchange of good practice in Eurochild helps a lot. We have launched a process of involving children directly in our activities and in our decision-making as a result of the influence from Wales and other countries._
In 2008, the General Assembly passed a resolution to expand the Eurochild Management Board from 5 to 6 members. Elections for 3 ordinary members took place at the GA.

**President**
Catriona Williams, Children in Wales, United Kingdom

**Secretary**
Ene Tomberg, Estonian Union for Child Welfare, Estonia

**Treasurer**
Ninetta Kazantzis, Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Cyprus

**Members:**
Ulrike Wisser, Child and Youth Welfare Organisation, AGJ, Germany (re-elected)
Maarit Kuikka, Central Union for Child Welfare, Finland (until June 2008)
Maria Herzog, Family, Child and Youth Association, Hungary (from June 2008)
Marie Gustaffson, Örebro Regional Development Council, Sweden (from June 2008)
The Eurochild Secretariat has five paid staff members.

**Secretary General**
Anne Williams, January-June (maternity leave cover)
Jana Hainsworth, June-December

**Information & Communication Officer**
Anja Härtwig, January-July
Kata Dozsa, July-December

**Policy Officer**
Mafalda Leal, January-August
Patricia Hoyos, September-December (maternity leave cover)

**Membership Officer (part-time)**
Marie Dubit

**Office and Events Manager**
Kristina Van Lierde, January-July (part-time)
Alexandra Van Kervel, August-October
Katrin Lamaille, October-November
Veronica Calvo, November-December

Eurochild is particularly grateful to the trainees and students who gave valuable support to the delivery of Eurochild’s work programme. They included:
Agata D’Addato, October-December
Solen Droy, March-August
Maija Liakka, November-December
Nataliya Nikolova, July-August
Emily Wakelen, July
Our Members

Full Members

Albania
Children Today Center; The Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania - CRCA

Austria
Vorarlberger Kinderdorf GmbH

Azerbaijan
Daycare Centre "Children of Street" "Ishiqli Ev"

Bulgaria
Social Activities and Practices Institute.

Croatia
Sto Koluri Split, Association for Health Protection, Social Care and Children's rights; Union of Societies "Our Children" Croatia.

Cyprus
Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence; Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children.

Denmark
Department for Children’s and Juvenile Affairs of the City of Aarhus; Joint Council for Child Issues (Bomesagens Fællesrad)

Estonia
Estonian Union for Child Welfare; Tallinn Children Support Centre

EU wide
Aflatoun, Child Savings International; Dyslexia International - Tools and Technologies; Europe's Children Our concern; European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education; European Network of Masters in Children's Rights; European Network of Women - Greece; European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation Youth; International Step by Step Association; SOS Kinderdorf International - International Continental Office for Western Europe.

Finland

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
First Children’s Embassy in the World - Megjashi

France
Association Samuel Vincent
**Germany**
Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe

**Greece**
"Iliachtida" Association for Children and Family; Association for the Psychosocial Health of Children and Adolescents - Connect Helpline; Panhellenic Association of members of one parent families; PRAKSIS - Programs for the Development of Social Support and Medical Cooperation; Roots Research Center NGO.

**Hungary**
Family, Child, Youth Non-Profit Association; KEK Kev Konal Gyermekkrizis Alapitvany; National Association of Large Families

**Ireland**
Arts for Peace Foundation (Ltd); Barretstown; Children's Rights Alliance; One Family.

**Italy**
Amici dei Bambini; Istituto Degli Innocenti

**Latvia**
Latvian Save the Children

**Luxemburg**
Ombuds - Comité for the Rights of the Child

**Malta**
Foundation for Social Welfare Services; Ms Carmen Zammit - Commissioner for Children

**Portugal**
CEBI - Foundation to Communitarian Development

**Romania**
Association P.A.V.E.L.

**Slovakia**
National Centre for Equal Opportunities

**Slovenia**
Association for Children and Parents SEZAM; Ecological-Cultural Association for a Better World; Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia - Child Observatory

**Spain**
Federació d'Entitats d'Atenció a la Infancia i a l'Adolescència (FEDAIA)

**Sweden**
Örebro Regional Development Council.
Our Members

The Netherlands
Netherlands Youth Institute

United Kingdom
Barnardo's Northern Ireland; Children England; Children in Northern Ireland; Children in Scotland; Children in Wales; National Children's Bureau; Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People; The Early Years Organisation

Associate members

Belgium
Ms Dale Kabasinskaite

Bulgaria
Bulgarian Child Development Initiatives

Czech Republic
Mr Chris Gardiner; Mrs Tereza Tesarova.

Denmark
Villum Kann Rasmussen Foundation

Finland
Ms Maarit Kuikka

France
Fondation des Orphelins Apprentis d'Auteuil; Mr John Bennet; Mrs Anne Williams.

Iceland
Centre for Children and Family Research

Ireland
Mr Hugh Frazer

Poland
Department of General Sociology - University of Lodz

The Netherlands
Eigen Kracht Centrale

United Kingdom
Mr Emmanuel Sherwin

Honorary member

Belgium
Mr Eugeen Verhellen
### Finances

#### BALANCE SHEET

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<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade accounts receivable</td>
<td>6,285</td>
<td>2,771</td>
<td>1,033</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
<td>6,443</td>
<td>2,667</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred expenses</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,066</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued incomes</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Bank</td>
<td>50,111</td>
<td>41,026</td>
<td>141,046</td>
<td>98,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets total</strong></td>
<td><strong>63,686</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,627</strong></td>
<td><strong>144,146</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,077</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity (own funds)</td>
<td>16,781</td>
<td>18,043</td>
<td>4,008</td>
<td>5,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC grants</td>
<td>-33,426</td>
<td>-66,950</td>
<td>67,701</td>
<td>29,855</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>80,331</td>
<td>95,534</td>
<td>72,438</td>
<td>64,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Account payables</td>
<td>39,955</td>
<td>82,051</td>
<td>30,218</td>
<td>36,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade accruals</td>
<td>10,881</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>1,551</td>
<td>6,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other payables</td>
<td>3,374</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17,181</td>
<td>14,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social liabilities</td>
<td>23,121</td>
<td>12,183</td>
<td>23,488</td>
<td>7,320</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities total</strong></td>
<td><strong>63,686</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,627</strong></td>
<td><strong>144,146</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,077</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Finances

### Income statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership and other revenues</td>
<td>68,828</td>
<td>62,147</td>
<td>27,569</td>
<td>34,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>416,243</td>
<td>281,705</td>
<td>220,420</td>
<td>157,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>29,128</td>
<td>30,341</td>
<td>13,630</td>
<td>8,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interests</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>404</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income total</strong></td>
<td>514,199</td>
<td>374,425</td>
<td>261,815</td>
<td>200,416</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                      |        |        |        |        |
| **Expenditure**      |        |        |        |        |
| Operating expenses   |        |        |        |        |
| (excluding interim)  | 280,184| 217,004| 112,391| 100,606|
| Payroll (including interim) | 234,308| 142,008| 143,467| 99,159 |
| Taxes                | 775    | 1,448  | 115    |        |
| Financial expenses   | 969    | 561    | 452    | 537    |
| Exceptional          | 43     | 5,613  | 0      |        |
| **Expenditure total**| 515,460| 360,390| 263,371| 200,416|

| **Operating result** | -1,262 | 14,035 | -1,556 | 0      |
Eurochild is an international network of organisations working in and across Europe to improve the quality of life of children and young people. Eurochild’s work is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC).

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The views expressed by Eurochild do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.