EUROCHILD’S VISION

A Europe where every child grows up in an environment that nurtures their physical, intellectual, emotional, moral, and spiritual development. A European society in which children’s rights, as enshrined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), are universally understood and respected by politicians, governments, professionals, parents and guardians, and children.

EUROCHILD’S MISSION

To voice and promote the interests of children and young people in Europe, and organisations that work with them - in particular children and young people who are vulnerable and exposed to poverty and social exclusion.

EUROCHILD’S OBJECTIVES

- Ensuring a voice for children and young people and the organisations that work with them, in policy debates at EU level;
- Strengthening its network of contacts within the EU institutions, in particular the European Parliament, the relevant DGs of the European Commission and the EU Presidencies, and thus contributing to furthering EU policies on children’s rights in particular with regards to the fight against child poverty and the promotion of child well-being;
- Raising awareness among child and youth organisations at national and regional level of the wide ranging initiatives and policies at EU level that impact on children;
- Building a strong, influential network of organisations that can engage in civil dialogue at European, national and regional level to promote children’s rights and welfare;
- Developing our capacity to respond to the growing demand for cooperation with other key stakeholders including other NGOs, regional and local authorities, researchers and academic institutions, and other inter-governmental organisations.

EUROCHILD’S VALUES

Partnership. Eurochild provides a broad platform for different types of organisations with the aims of sharing of expertise and experience, and facilitating partnerships to promote the rights and welfare of children and young people.

Participation. Eurochild aims to give a voice to children and young people themselves by: encouraging and promoting good practice in participation within the member organisations; attracting peer-led groups of children and young people into membership; and involving children and young people from the membership in the network’s events and activities.

Ownership. Eurochild aims to respond to members’ needs and interests and to enable members to play an active role in delivery of the organisation’s objectives.
INTRODUCTION

2010 was a pivotal year for Eurochild.

Designated the European Year against poverty and social exclusion, 2010 provided many opportunities to raise awareness about the extent of child poverty across Europe and what needs to be done to tackle it. I’m delighted Eurochild members involved children and young people so intensely throughout the year, and that political leaders – up to Commission President José Manuel Barroso – took on board the message “nothing about us without us” by listening directly to children’s messages and experiences.

With support from the Belgian Presidency of the EU and UNICEF EU office, we have also paved the way for a future Recommendation on child poverty and well-being at EU level. We expect this to provide a policy framework that puts children’s best interest at its heart, and is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Eurochild lobbied across different parts of the EU institutions and among member states for an over-arching child rights vision to be adopted by the EU. We gained important allies throughout the year, and the long-term goal of achieving EU accession to the UNCRC appears to gather momentum.

On a personal note, I was delighted to be elected Eurochild President in June 2010. Since joining the Eurochild management board in 2008 I have seen the network grow in size and influence. As member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, I see Eurochild as having a huge responsibility to promote the UNCRC in policies and practices across Europe. I am encouraged by our members’ commitment and engagement, and the potential of the Eurochild network to provide a unique platform for learning, exchange and advocacy. The many projects developed by Eurochild members together is evidence of our important networking role.

The following pages provide a brief insight into the breadth of Eurochild’s activities and influence. We are grateful to the on-going support of the Progress programme of the European Commission, and I welcome Eurochild’s involvement in several other EU level projects. Most of all, I acknowledge our members’ commitment. At a time when the fall out of the economic crisis is impacting on members’ day-to-day work throughout Europe, we are more in need than ever of a strong collective voice for children.

Mária Herczog, Eurochild President
May 2011
## INTRODUCTION - MARIA HERCZOG

1. INFLUENCING EU POLICY & ACTION
   1. Mainstreaming children’s rights
   2. Strengthening EU action on child poverty and well-being
   3. Shaping the Europe 2020 strategy
   4. Bringing a child rights perspective in key EU policies

2. ENABLING EXCHANGE AND LEARNING AMONG MEMBERS
   1. Family policies that work best for children
   2. Community-based early childhood services
   3. What works for children in alternative care?
   4. Best practice in ending child poverty

3. SUPPORTING CHILDREN’S PARTICIPATION
   1. Listening to children’s views on poverty and social exclusion
   2. Promoting children’s participation
   3. Taking an active role in the Eurochild conference
   4. Children have their say at the Fundamental Rights Conference

4. 2010 CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD POVERTY
   1. Signing the petition
   2. Listening to children
   3. A snapshot of national-level activities

5. STRENGTHENING THE EUROCHILD NETWORK
   1. Expanding the network
   2. Developing our working structures
   3. Forging alliances
   4. Developing networking and advocacy tools
   5. Strategic plan 2011-2013
   6. Management board renewal
   7. Eurochild secretariat

6. MEMBERS

7. EVENTS

8. ACCOUNTS AND FUNDING
1. INFLUENCING EU POLICY & ACTION

MAINSTREAMING CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

With the coming into force of the Lisbon treaty in December 2009 began a new chapter on children’s rights in the EU. The Treaty makes the protection of children’s rights an explicit objective of the EU (Article 3,3) and makes the Charter of Fundamental Rights binding on member states. With this stronger legal basis for children’s rights, Eurochild and its members worked to support the European Commission in developing an ambitious EU strategy on children’s rights that would see the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) mainstreamed across EU policies and action. What did we do?

- In January members of Eurochild’s policy working group met and discussed with the representative in the European Commission Child Rights Unit responsible for developing the strategy.
- Eurochild played an active role in the Child Rights Action Group (CRAG) – an informal grouping of child rights NGOs working internally and externally to the EU. Together with colleagues from CRAG we met with Commissioner Reding’s cabinet to put forward our ideas for the EU Strategy. On behalf of CRAG, Eurochild took part in the ‘steering group’ on children’s rights and presented examples of children’s participation at the child rights forum.
- In May Eurochild published its own position paper with its vision of the future EU strategy on the rights of the child. The paper contributed to discussions of Europe de l’Enfance (a permanent inter-governmental group on children’s rights) and in November, the group endorsed the Belgian EU Presidency contribution to the Strategy echoing many of our views.
- Eurochild responded to the public consultation Communication on the Rights of the Child carried out by the European Commission. Members of the Eurochild network took part in three consultation meetings organized by DG Justice on: child friendly justice, bullying and the most vulnerable children.
- Eurochild worked with other stakeholders in the European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, and Fundamental Rights Agency to gather support for a strong child rights mainstreaming approach in EU policy making.

Publication of the much anticipated Communication on the EU strategy on the rights of the child is expected in early 2011.

STRENGTHENING EU ACTION ON CHILD POVERTY AND WELL-BEING

Eurochild and its members are convinced of the added-value the EU can give to the fight against child poverty. In 2009 - following analysis of member states national action plans - we called for the EU to adopt a Recommendation that would set policy guidance and apply pressure on countries to prioritise children and break the cycle of poverty. 2010 gave us new opportunities to push forward this agenda.

- The European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion\(^5\) created a space for public discussion and recognition of poverty in Europe – and in particular child poverty. Our End Child Poverty campaign (see page 15) contributed to raising awareness and gathering political support.

- The Belgian government – who held the EU Presidency July-December 2010 – made child poverty a particular political priority. They organized a specific conference on the theme and gave it visibility in the annual round table on poverty and social exclusion and the Final Declaration. Eurochild and the Belgian government called for a Recommendation\(^6\) before the end of 2010. We did not achieve our goal, but a Communication on the Platform against Poverty (December 2010) commits the European Commission to adopting a Recommendation on child poverty and well-being in 2012.

TOWARDS AN EU RECOMMENDATION ON CHILD POVERTY AND WELL-BEING

Eurochild’s vision for a Recommendation on child poverty and well-being is reflected in the background paper prepared for the Belgian EU Presidency conference on child poverty. The paper highlights the multi-dimensional approach, recommending three pillars for action:

- Ensuring access to minimum resources
- Ensuring access to affordable, quality services
- Ensuring the active participation of children and young people

Under each heading, specific priorities and actions are foreseen. Importantly, Eurochild recommends to select a number of key indicators to monitor and benchmark progress across member states. The paper was developed in collaboration with UNICEF EU Office, the Belgian Presidency, and child rights expert Sandy Ruxton.

Participants at the conference discussed the recommendations in a ‘town hall’ format. The Commission is expected to draw upon the paper and conference report in drafting the future Recommendation.

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\(^5\)See the official website at www.2010againstpoverty.eu - \(^6\)See background paper: http://tinyurl.com/6bfuz8
SHAPING THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

2010 marked the end of the so-called ‘Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs’. The Commission was charged with developing a new 10-year vision and strategy for the EU. Following an open consultation, the Communication on Europe 2020 was adopted in June focusing on “smart, green and inclusive growth”. For the first time a quantitative target to reduce poverty was adopted at EU level – aiming to lift 20 million people out of poverty by 2020.

Eurochild supports the target, but called for a specific sub-target on child poverty. We contributed to discussions on the proposed ‘European Platform Against Poverty’ supporting efforts to mainstream poverty across other policy areas, and insisting on the reinforcement of activities developed under the past Social Open Method of Coordination.

BRINGING A CHILD RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE IN KEY EU POLICIES

Eurochild monitors and provides inputs to a range of EU policy areas, interacting with different EU institutions and in cooperation with other NGO partners. Here are examples of our work in 2010:

- Lobbying on the maternity leave Directive together with other members of the Social Platform\(^{10}\) probably contributed to a Parliament resolution to increase paid maternity leave to 20 weeks. This now has to be negotiated with the Council. Eurochild emphasized the importance of maternal bonding with the infant as well as WHO guidance on exclusive breast-feeding for the first 6-months to support its call for 6-months paid maternity leave.

- Work began on a Commission recommendation on early childhood education and care (DG Education and Culture). Eurochild pushed for a holistic, integrated approach to early childhood aged 0-6, more attention to quality standards and in particular training and professional development of the early childhood workforce.

EXTENDING MATERNITY LEAVE TO 20 WEEKS WITH FULL PAY

In October 2008, the Commission proposed to review the current legislation, as part of the “work-life balance” package, based on a United Nations convention\(^{11}\).

On 20 October 2010, the European Parliament voted for a minimum maternity leave of 20 weeks with full payment: 390 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) were in favour, 192 against and 59 abstained. The approved report from MEP Edite Estrela (S&D, Portugal) went beyond the European Commission’s proposal to extend the maternity leave from 15 to 18 weeks.

“Maternity cannot be regarded as a burden on social security systems, it is an investment in our future”, said rapporteur Estrela during the debate in plenary.

\(^{10}\)www.socialplatform.org - \(^{11}\)See ILO’s Maternity Protection Convention (2000): http://tinyurl.com/6ct9q9j
Members of Eurochild’s family and parenting support thematic working group took part in the first study visit organised by Eurochild on 26-30 April. Initiated by One Family Ireland and pioneered by Eurochild as a new tool for mutual learning and information exchange, members from Bulgaria, Finland, Ireland, The Netherlands, Flanders and Wales led their national delegations on a five-day visit to Sweden and Denmark, participating in a full programme of round table policy debates and project visits in Stockholm, Malmo and Copenhagen.

Sweden and Denmark were selected as host countries because of their low child poverty levels, positive child outcomes and high levels of labour market participation amongst mothers, including lone mothers. The key objective of the study visit was to gain a good understanding of their family policies and how they interact in practice with labour market policies to enable parents to participate in the labour market, care for their children and have a good quality of family life. We focused on the most vulnerable families – the low skilled, immigrant families, lone parent families - and how they are supported to achieve and sustain economic and social inclusion.

Following the study visit, Eurochild published two reports. The first provides an overview of family policies in Sweden and Denmark, identifying critical factors for success and recommendations for policies at local, regional, national and EU level. The second reports on how four of the participating delegations – Bulgaria, Finland, Ireland and The Netherlands/Flanders – have used lessons learned from the study visit in their actions to influence policy and practice in their own countries.

The experience and knowledge gained from the study visit was shared with a nationwide working group on parental leave in which two of our delegate members take part. […] Improvements to the parental leave system, mostly to the length of leave, are expected.

Lassi Lainiala, Family Researcher, The Family Federation of Finland

The study tour has strengthened our contacts and relationships with policy-makers thus making the network better positioned to influence policy and practice on children and family issues.

Dani Koleva, Policy Director, National Network for Children, Bulgaria

We learned a lot from the study visit - on universal service provision and interagency protocols - and have used this in our advocacy activities. […] The study visit gave us “ammunition” to challenge perceptions!

Stuart Duffin, Welfare to Work Manager, One Family Ireland
COMMUNITY-BASED EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Eurochild’s fourth Members’ Exchange Seminar (MES) took place in Tallinn, Estonia from 30 September to 1 October 2010, hosted by the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, a founding member of Eurochild. The focus was on the role of community based services and quality in early years services. Thirty-four participants from 14 countries attended representing Eurochild members from NGOs, research and training bodies, trade unions, child and family focused networks as well as national and municipal policy organisations.

Members’ Exchange Seminars provide an opportunity for members to gain a greater understanding of one another’s ways of working through exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas. Recommendations from seminars also feed into Eurochild’s advocacy work to influence policy at European and national levels.

This MES focused on community-based Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) for two main reasons: firstly, the involvement of parents and the wider community has been often pointed out as a crucial factor for ensuring quality in ECEC provision. This is one of Eurochild’s key goals for consideration by EU institutions. Secondly, in recent years Eurochild members have been asking for support and information on community-based ECEC initiatives and were keen to have an opportunity to exchange practice and share their experiences.

WHAT WORKS FOR CHILDREN IN ALTERNATIVE CARE?

‘Children in alternative care’ are the focus of Eurochild’s newest thematic working group. It began work in 2009 with a Members’ Exchange Seminar hosted in Prague, focusing on the links between children in care, poverty and social exclusion. To get a clear picture of the situation of children in alternative care in each EU member State, Eurochild launched a national survey. The result was an impressive summary of the available data for 30 countries. The survey provides a unique resource for practitioners, campaigners and policy makers as regards the situation of children who are among the most vulnerable in Europe today.

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Armed with this statistical resource, Eurochild organised a meeting in the European Parliament\(^{15}\) and called for:

- EU leadership to adopt common definitions and improve the collection of comparable data on children in alternative care;
- Immediate action to support the de-institutionalisation of children;
- A ban on the institutionalisation of babies (0-3 years);
- Greater emphasis on training and recognition of the children’s workforce;
- Political commitment to end child poverty;
- Support for the application of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children across all EU member states;
- Direct involvement of children, young people and their families, both in decision-making processes that affect them directly and in the development of alternative care policies and services.

Prior to the annual conference in Örebro, Sweden, members of this thematic working group organised a one-day exchange meeting to share good practices and experience. The British Adoption and Fostering organisation in the UK shared their work on how the carer-child relationship can transform outcomes for children placed in foster care. Italian member L’Albero della Vita focused on training of educators working in children and family protection, emphasising the development of the educators’ self-awareness. Finally, the Danish Association of Group Homes shared their work on Accreditation for Residential Homes and Group Homes emphasising the need to focus on what is best for the people in care. Ultimately, as its Director Geert Jørgensen explained, “it’s all about the children: we have to evaluate their experience of the institution.”

**BEST PRACTICE IN ENDING CHILD POVERTY**

Eurochild’s annual conference in Örebro, Sweden, in November 2010, gathered some 180 participants from 26 countries including policy makers, NGOs, service providers, local authorities, academics and young people themselves. Workshops and study visits in and around Örebro showcased good practice examples of how municipalities, NGOs, families & children and researchers are working together to end child poverty.

\(^{15}\)See Eurochild event “Europe’s children in care – What role for the EU?”: http://tinyurl.com/67v84e4
Here are just some of the highlights of the annual conference\textsuperscript{16}:

- The Foundation Apprentis d’Auteil (France) presented how they support families whose children have been taken into care to be reunited with their children.
- The Resource and Research Centre for Early Childhood Care and Education (Belgium) presented an action research project aimed at improving accessibility of child care provision to ethnic and cultural minorities (especially for children between 0 and 3 years).
- Single Parent Action Network (UK) showcased examples of innovative services for children and families developed in partnership that are leading to better outcomes.
- The Public Health & Health Improvement department at the Greater Glasgow National Health Service (Scotland, UK) demonstrated how they have implemented the Australian ‘Triple P’ (Positive Parenting Programme) in partnership with health, education, social work, culture and sport services and the police.
- Il Grillo Parlante (Italy) presented the care and education activities provided for families and children in the Petriano municipality and Marche region in Italy, including a project aimed at the integration of children and families of migrant background.

\textsuperscript{16}See Eurochild’s Annual Conference 2010 website: http://tinyurl.com/3q77f2z
LISTENING TO CHILDREN’S VIEWS ON POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Children’s empowerment is one of Eurochild’s key policy messages for fighting child poverty and well-being. It is at the heart of what our members do and what the network aims to achieve. That is why children’s participation played a central role throughout our 2010 activities linked to the European Year against poverty and social exclusion (see pages 15).

In July, 33 young people from 10 countries gathered in Brussels to discuss child poverty and social exclusion in their countries and what can be done to make things better. They met with representatives of the different EU institutions, including many Members of the European Parliament. Philippe Courard, Secretary of State for Social Integration and the Fight against Poverty – and the holder of the EU Presidency at the time - invited the children to the famous Belgian landmark the ‘Atomium’ where they had an open and frank discussion.
PROMOTING CHILDREN’S PARTICIPATION

Whilst children’s right to be heard is one of the general principles of the UNCRC, there are lots of misconceptions about what it means in practice. Policy makers are often wary of children’s participation, not understanding its true value or purpose. That is why Eurochild decided to publish the book ‘Valuing Children’s Potential – How Children’s Participation Contributes to Fighting Child Poverty and Social Exclusion’.

The book offers concrete case studies collected from members and partners on how participation contributes to:

1. a better understanding of poverty,
2. improving the development, implementation and monitoring of services,
3. improving policies for children and supporting other peer groups of children.

Introductions by academic experts give more compelling arguments about why children’s participation is so important.

TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE EUROCHILD CONFERENCE

Young people took an active part in Eurochild’s Annual Conference in Örebro. Seventeen young participants came together from the following organisations:

Children’s Forum of Latvia,
St Johannis GmbH Germany (member of the YES Forum),
Västmanlands Läns Landsting Sweden, Cyprus Children’s Parliament, supported through the Youth in Action Programme of the European Union.

This year they were guided by a drama specialist who supported their creation of a show presented at the closing session of the conference. See next page what some of the young people said about the experience.

"I found a lot of friends from other nations. It was very good for me that I got to know these people... It was a nice week. Short, but nice."
Lars, Germany

"I did learn something and I feel I’ve been part of something important which is really good. I had the opportunity to do this show and to affect some people with it."
Therese, Sweden

"Young people from different European countries came together like a family and worked on different problems and issues that we experience in our countries. This part was very impressive and interesting for me because I got a lot of new ideas."
Renata, Latvia

**CHILDREN HAVE THEIR SAY AT THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS CONFERENCE**

Eurochild helped organise a children’s workshop as a side event of the Fundamental Rights Agency’s (FRA) international conference “Ensuring Justice and Protection for all Children”. The workshop focused on the issue of ensuring justice and protection for separated, asylum-seeking children.

Thirteen children and young people took part, including three young adults who are members of the Separated Children in Europe Programme’s (SCEP) Youth Network. The young people had different migratory experiences: eight were external migrants to Europe, one had migrated within Europe, four had not migrated but were part of a forum of young people that had discussed issues associated with migration.

The young people delivered their messages at the opening of the Fundamental Rights Conference. Among the audience was Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding, the Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Yanghee Lee, and Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency Morten Kjaerum.
Do not force me to live with adults that are not my family because I don’t feel safe and they can’t help me! I am not a criminal – do not put me in detention because it is not a safe place for a child and it makes me feel frightened, depressed and sad!

Do not make me wait a long time for a decision about my stay because it makes me worried and I need to get on with my life just like other children! I want you to respect my background so that I can keep my identity and feel good about myself!

I want governments to accept that they should protect me! I want you to listen to me - I want you to stand in my shoes!

I want to be allowed to go to school so that I can learn because education is important! Do not assess my age unless you really think it is necessary because I need to be protected as a child!

I want to have a good guardian who will understand my situation and stand up for me and help my dreams come true! Do not make me repeat my story again, again and again because it upsets me and makes me unwell!

Find their video on Eurochild’s YouTube channel: http://tinyurl.com/66bvjhx
4. 2010 CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD POVERTY

SIGNING THE PETITION

Throughout 2010 Eurochild ran its End Child Poverty campaign as part of the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion. Thanks to our members, the campaign website www.endchildpoverty.eu is accessible in 16 languages. We collected some 14,000 signatures for the petition and many individual messages. Some 2,700 fans followed our regular Facebook updates.

The campaign was backed by several key influential figures (“Champions”) like the Latvian Minister for Welfare, Uldis Augulis, the Belgian Secretary of State, Philippe Courard and the Swedish Minister of Health and Social Affairs, Maria Larsson.

The petition asked European leaders “to do everything possible to end child poverty”. We called for EU action in 5 areas, stating this should be formalized in a Recommendation on child poverty and well-being. The European Commission committed to adopt such a Recommendation in 2012 thanks to pressure from Eurochild and other stakeholders.

In January 2011 our “Young Ambassadors” handed over the petition to European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, Commissioner for Social Affairs László Andor and several Members of the European Parliament.
LISTENING TO CHILDREN

Many of our messages on the campaign website came from children and young people themselves.

"The EU should put more money towards cultural programmes (choirs, bands, theatre groups, etc.) that would give every child a chance to be a part of the whole society. This would minimise social exclusion and strengthen our unity!!!"
Elza, 18, Latvia

"What we need to fight child poverty: Life, peace, home, friendship, love, affection, toys, food, laughter, adventure, hugs, health, clothes, joy and light..."
Joao, 17, Portugal

"I wish that all children are happy."
Fanny, 10, Belgium

In November, young people from the organisation Den Tube based in Leuven Belgium took part in a train rally to promote the campaign. They met with media and other children’s organisations in Brussels, Cologne and Copenhagen.

A SNAPSHOT OF NATIONAL-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Many members promoted the campaign locally and nationally. Children and young people in many countries like Portugal, Hungary, Latvia and Croatia took the initiative to promote the campaign among their peers. Many met with politicians and spoke to the media.
Over the course of 2010, the Eurochild management board approved 15 new applications for full membership and 11 applications for associate membership.

At the end of 2010 Eurochild counted 94 full members and 29 associates. Our members cover all 27 EU member states and 8 neighbouring countries (see page 23 for a list of members).

**DEVELOPING OUR WORKING STRUCTURES**

In 2010 Eurochild’s Policy Working Group became the Policy Steering Group (PSG). It was more than a name change. The new Terms of Reference emphasise the role of the PSG as a ‘high level steering group’ giving direction to Eurochild’s work on child rights, child poverty and the wider EU institutional agenda such as the Europe 2020 Strategy and Presidency agendas. It provides a vital link to members’ policy knowledge and experience in individual member states.
Four Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) continued to play an active role in Eurochild’s policy influencing and members’ exchange and learning in 2010. The groups bring together members with knowledge and expertise in specific thematic areas. They use a combination of working methods, such as membership exchange seminars and study visits (see Section 2 on Enabling exchange and learning among members).

The Secretariat provides regular updates on relevant EU policy developments, events, and publications.

The groups focus on:

- Early Childhood Education and Care
- Family and Parenting Support
- Child and Youth Participation
- Children in Alternative Care

**FORGING ALLIANCES**

Eurochild worked with many partners and allies throughout 2010 to support a common effort.

Particular highlights include:

- Within the NGO coalition on the European Year 2010 Against Poverty and Social Exclusion, Eurochild contributed to the lobby for a strong political legacy to the European Year and the active involvement of civil society in policy development;

- Eurochild helped to coordinate the Child Rights Action Group – an informal group of child rights NGOs based in Brussels – which worked closely together to influence the upcoming Communication on children’s rights;

- Eurochild joined the European Expert Group on deinstitutionalisation promoting the transition from institutional to community- and family-based care. The group brings together networks working with different client groups affected by institutional care: the elderly, the disabled, mentally ill, and children. It focuses in particular on ensuring a redirection of structural funds away from the renewal of institutional care towards more personalised, empowering models of care.
Eurochild was approved as member of the NGO Group on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Geneva.

Catriona Williams, former President of Eurochild, was elected as Vice-President of the Platform of European Social NGOs (Social Platform). We took an active part in the working groups on fundamental rights and social policies.

**DEVELOPING NETWORKING & ADVOCACY TOOLS**

Eurochild provides a range of services to its member organisations.

This includes:

- A weekly information newsletter (“Info Flash”) providing updates on the latest policy developments at EU level, members news, events, and funding opportunities.
- Policy briefings are prepared by the Eurochild secretariat to support the advocacy work of members. They provide an outline of key policy developments at EU level and their relevance to national and regional action aimed at promoting the rights and welfare of children and young people.
- Lists of key contacts at national level that have a say in key areas of EU policy making.
- A detailed breakdown of the different activity areas in which Eurochild members are active.

**STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2013**

2010 saw the end of our first 3-year partnership agreement with DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. The Eurochild management board and secretariat developed a new 3-year strategic plan with inputs from members. It was approved in October 2010.

**Outline of objectives of strategic plan**

Eurochild aims to voice and promote the interests of children and young people in Europe and in particular those who are vulnerable and exposed to poverty and social exclusion. Our work is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
Eurochild’s nine working objectives are grouped under the four overall objectives of the Progress Programme (2007-2013)

→ **Improving Eurochild’s organisational capacity**

1. Improve network performance and make best use of human resources
2. Build membership to ensure geographical representation across the EU, strong regional and national influence, and more engagement in Eurochild activities and working structures
3. Develop income generating activities and secure Eurochild’s long-term financial sustainability

→ **Voicing the concerns and expectations of Eurochild members to influence policy at EU and national levels**

4. Increase the visibility and effectiveness of Eurochild as the principal NGO interlocutor at EU level on the rights and welfare of children and young people
5. Build Eurochild’s expertise and influence in policy areas identified as being of priority concern to Eurochild member organisations
6. Ensure the voices and concerns of children and young people themselves are heard and taken into account in the development of Eurochild’s advocacy work

→ **Strengthening Eurochild’s advocacy skills to reinforce EU social objectives at EU and national level**

7. Increase members’ understanding and engagement in the development, implementation and monitoring of European policies that impact on children and young people exposed to poverty and social exclusion

→ **Mainstreaming cross-cutting issues into our work**

8. More balanced representation of women and men, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities in the Eurochild working structures
9. Increase attention to children with disabilities, children of ethnic minority and migrant background and gender issues within Eurochild’s work

**MANAGEMENT BOARD RENEWAL**

2010 was a year of change in Eurochild’s governance. Representatives of three founding members of Eurochild, active in the management board since Eurochild was established in 2004, came to the end of their two terms of office. Catriona Williams, Chief Executive of Children in Wales stepped down as President but continues in an advisory capacity to ensure continuity. Ninetta Kazantzis of the Pan-Cypriot Coordinating Committee for the Welfare and Protection of Children stepped down as Treasurer. Ninetta remains Chair of the Thematic Working Group on child and youth participation. Ene Tomberg from the Estonian Union for Child Welfare stepped down as Secretary.
The 2010 management board comprises:

Ms Maria Herczog, Family Child Youth Association, Hungary, President

Ms Pauline Leeson, Children in Northern Ireland, UK, Treasurer

Ms Ulrike Wisser, Child and Youth Welfare Association, Germany, Member

Ms Marie Gustafsson, Örebro Regional Development Council, Sweden, Member

Ms Kelig Puyet, SOS Children’s Villages International, Member

Mr Ivano Abruzzi, Albero della Vita, Italy, Member

**EUROCHILD SECRETARIAT**

The Eurochild Brussels secretariat employs 6 staff:

- Secretary General: Jana Hainsworth
- Policy Officer: Mafalda Leal
- Policy Officer: Agata D’Addato
- Information and Communications Officer: Björn Becker
- Membership Officer: Marie Dubit
- Office and Events Manager: Monique Kesteloot (since June 2010)

The Secretariat hosts trainees on a regular basis to support the policy and information and communication work.

- Policy assistants: Reka Velenyi (until February 2010); Lilia Kamenow (from September 2010)
- Communications assistants: Maurizio Molinari (until February 2010); Malin Sennevall (from September 2010)
Eurochild also relies on external consultants. In particular we would like to acknowledge:

- Anne Williams, consultant for the family and parenting support study visit and follow-up
- Vibeke Bing and Inge Marie Nielsen as hosting coordinators in Sweden and Denmark respectively
- Margaret Kiernan, consultant on early years community based services
- Mieke Schuurman, author of book on ‘Valuing Children’s Potential’
- Reka Velenyi, coordinator for the youth meetings in Brussels and Örebro
- Tamsin Pearce, Cristine Sudbrock, and Bastian Küntzel of the International Falcon Movement, facilitators for the children’s meeting on child poverty and exclusion
- Antoon Cox, video editor for the children’s meeting
- Maurizio Molinari, Information and Communications consultant
6. MEMBERS

A. FULL MEMBERS

Albania
The Children’s Human Rights Centre of Albania - CRCA

Austria
Vorarlberger Kinderdorf GmbH

Azerbaijan
Daycare Centre “Children of Street” “Ishiqli Ev”

Belgium
Expoo - Flemish Expertise Centre on Parenting Support

Bulgaria
“National Network for Children” Association; For our Children; People to People International - Plovdiv; Social Activities and Practices Institute

Croatia
Society “Our Children” Opatija; 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

Czech Republic
In the Interest of the child, the Civic Association

Denmark
Family and Evidence Center Denmark; Joint Council for Child Issues (Bornesagens Fællesrad); LOS- National Organisation of Residential Homes, Group Homes and Special Schools

Estonia
Estonian Union for Child Welfare; Tallinn Children Support Centre

EU wide
Diversity in Early Childhood Education and Training; Dyslexia International - Sharing expertise; Europe’s Children Our Concern; European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education; European Network of Masters in Children’s Rights; European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation Youth; Home-Start Worldwide; International Foster Care Organisation; International Step by Step Association (ISSA); SOS Children’s Villages International

Finland
France
Association Samuel Vincent; Fondation des Orphelins Apprentis d’Auteuil

FYR Macedonia
First Children’s Embassy in the World - Megjashi

Germany
Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe; Journeys, distance, adventure; Youth Empowerment Partnership Programme (YEPP)

Greece
“Iliachtida” Association for Children and Family; Association for the Psychosocial Health of Children and Adolescents - Connect Helpline; European Network of Women - Greece; PRAKSIS - Programs for the Development of Social Support and Medical Cooperation; Roots Research Center NGO; Social and Education Action

Hungary
Family, Child, Youth Non-Profit Association; Former State Fostered Children’s Association; National Association of Large Families

Ireland
Arts for Peace Foundation (Ltd); Children’s Rights Alliance for Ireland; One Family; Start Strong; Tigh Fili (“Poets House”)

Italy
Amici dei Bambini; Education, School and Family Services - Ferrara City Council - Bambini in Europa Documentation Centre; Fondazione L’Albero della Vita ONLUS; Patrizio Paoletti Foundation

Latvia
Children’s Forum of Latvia

Luxemburg
Ombuds - Comité for the Rights of the Child

Malta
Foundation for Social Welfare Services; Commissioner for Children’s Office

Poland
Association for Children and Youth with Special Needs “One World”; Nobody’s Children Foundation

Portugal
CEBI - Foundation to Communitarian Development; Fundaçao de Solidariedade Social Aragao Pinto

Romania
Association P.A.V.E.L.; Fara Foundation; Federation of NGOs Romania; Romanian Health Psychology Association

Serbia
Association for Development of Children and Youth – OPEN CLUB
**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); Vallecas Out-of-School Coordination Project

**Sweden**
JUNIS; Örebro Regional Development Council

**The Netherlands**
Netherlands Youth Institute

**Ukraine**
EveryChild Ukraine

**United Kingdom**
Action for Children; British Association for Adoption and Fostering; Children and Families Across Borders; Children England; Children in Northern Ireland; Children in Scotland; Children in Wales; Children’s Rights Alliance for England; Core Assets Ltd; Department of Applied Social Research, University of Bedfordshire; National Children’s Bureau; Parents Advice Centre; Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People; The Early Years Organisation

**B. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

**Albania**
Ms Suela Kusi Drita

**Belgium**
Ms Dale Kabasinskaite

**EU wide**
Alliance for Childhood European Network Group

**Finland**
Ms Leena Andonov; Ms Maarit Kuikka

**France**
Mr John Bennet; Mr Philippe Roux; Mrs Anne Williams; Ms Florence Grandvalet

**Greece**
Ms Gella Varnava-Skoura
MEMBERS

**Hungary**
Parliamentary Commissioner for Civil Rights in Hungary and Ombudsperson for Children

**Iceland**
Centre for Children and Family Research

**Ireland**
Mr Hugh Frazer; Mr Seamus Mannion

**Italy**
CIFA

**Lithuania**
Mr Dainius Puras; Ms Laima Nausedaité

**Moldova**
EveryChild Moldova

**Poland**
Department of Applied Sociology and Social Work - University of Lodz

**Portugal**
Mr Sergio Araújo

**Spain**
Fundación Montessori sin Fronteras

**Sweden**
ICU - I see You Interest in Children, Youth and their Understandings; Mr Tapio Salonen; Ms Vibeke Bing

**The Netherlands**
Eigen Kracht Centrale

**United Kingdom**
Mr Emmanuel Sherwin; Mr John H. Mc Kendrick; Mr Mathias Urban; Mr Peter Johnstone

**C. HONORARY MEMBER**

**Belgium**
Mr Eugene Verhellen
7. EVENTS

Eurochild participated as a speaker or exhibitor in the following events, represented by staff of the Eurochild Secretariat or member organisations. Eurochild’s own events are highlighted in bold.

- 21 January, Madrid, European Commission: Opening conference European Year 2010
- 21-22 January, Berlin, DG Employment: The Federal Foundation Mother and Child for pregnant women in emergency situations
- 27 January, Brussels, European Commission: Working Group on the establishment of EU indicators in the field of youth
- **27 January, Brussels, Eurochild: Europe’s children in care – what role for the EU?**
- 28 January, Florence, ChildONEurope: Early childhood education and care (ECEC) services and promotion of social inclusion
- 11-12 February, Berlin, Institute of Social Work and Social Education and the German Association for Public and Private Welfare: Promoting parental skills in Europe - Instruments and effects
- 22 February, Brussels, DG Employment: The impact of crisis on Member States’ ability to respond to the challenges of demographic change
- 26 March, Brussels, COFACE: The role of social protection in the fight against poverty and social exclusion: which safety net for families
- 26 March, Brussels, DG Employment: Promoting family-friendliness at workplace through awards, audits and labelling schemes
- 29-30 March, Sarajevo (Bosnia), Vesta: European standards and experiences and possibilities of its application for improving the status of children in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **26-30 April, Sweden & Denmark, Eurochild: Study tour of the Thematic Working Group on Family & Parenting Support**
- 10-11 May, Stuttgart (Germany), Cities for Children: 4th Annual Conference
- 25-28 May, Lisbon, University of Lisbon: Research of Families in Europe - critical review
- 26 May, Milan, Fondazione Albero della Vita: Round table on left-home children
- 31 May–4 June, Brussels, European Foundation Centre: European Foundation week
• 2 June, Brussels, DG Employment: Integration of lone parents into the labour market
• 3-4 June, Valencia, ENSA: Regional actions to protect children from social exclusion and poverty
• 10-12 June, Limassol (Cyprus), European Anti-Poverty Network: General Assembly
• **22-23 June, Brussels, Eurochild: General Assembly and Policy Forum**
• 24-26 June, Brussels: Couleur Café Festival
• 1 July, Brussels, DG Employment: How to measure extreme poverty in the EU
• **11-16 July, Brussels, Eurochild: Children’s Meeting on child poverty & well-being**
• **2-3 September, Marche-en-Famenne, Belgian EU Presidency / UNICEF / King Baudouin Foundation / Eurochild: EU Presidency conference on child poverty & well-being**
• 9 September, Antwerp, Flemish Community: The European and international policy agendas on children, youth and children’s rights
• 14-15 September, La Hulpe, Belgian EU Presidency: EU coordination in the social field in the context of Europe 2020
• 24 September, Brussels, European Anti-Poverty Network / Belgian Anti-Poverty Network / Belgian EU Presidency: Adequate minimum income
• 28-29 September, Ghent, Belgian EU Presidency / Flemish Community: Inclusion in and through education: breaking the cycle of disadvantage
• 30 September-1 October, Newcastle (UK), Eurocities, Eurocities conference on child poverty
• 30 September-1 October, Paris, Défenseur des enfants: Précarité et protection des droits de l’enfant
• **12 October, Brussels, Eurochild: Book launch - Valuing Children’s Potential**
• **13 October, Nimes (France), Association Samuel Vincent / Eurochild: Journée d’information**
• 13-16 October, Budapest, Alliance for Childhood: Childhood in Balance
• 14 October, Brussels, European Commission: Child Rights Forum
• 17 October, Brussels, Various organisers: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
• 18 October, Brussels, Flanders European Liaison Agency: Social Inclusion Regional Group event on child poverty
• 18-19 October, Brussels, Belgian EU Presidency: 9th Round table on poverty & social exclusion
• 19-20 October, Brussels, European Commission: Building together a society for all - A circus against exclusion
• 20 October, Liege (Belgium), CPAS de Liege: Journée de l’Insertion
• 20 October, Brussels, ENSA/Veneto Region/SIRG: Family and reconciliation policies as means to tackle poverty and exclusion
• 20-22 October, Florence (Italy), Italian NGO Group for the CRC: 6th NGO Forum for national child rights coalitions
• 26-30 October, Brussels, Dynamo: 2nd International Forum of Social Street Workers
• 28-29 October, Riga (Latvia), DG Employment: Baltic Solidarity days
• 28-31 October, Brno (Czech Republic), Visegrad Governments: Foster Care Conference “Children belong to family”
• 28 October, Düsseldorf (Germany), NRW Ministry of Social Affairs: European Municipalities against Poverty
• 3-5 November, Örebro (Sweden), Eurochild: 7th Annual conference Brighter futures - Building effective partnerships to end child poverty
• 4-5 November, Brussels, Social Platform: Annual Conference on Care
• 16 November, Brussels, Belgian EU Presidency / French speaking Community: L’europe de l’enfance (Ministerial meeting)
• 18-19 November, Brussels, SOS Children’s Villages International: Breaking the poverty cycle – Strengthening families and communities
• 19 November, Brussels, EY2010 Coalition: Human Ring around the European Parliament
• 22-23 November, Brussels, DG Employment: Third European Demographic Forum
• 22 November, Lisbon, Instituto de Apoio à Criança: Encontro Anual Rede Construir Juntos
• 22 November, Brussels, European Economic and Social Committee: Joint Hearing with the EY2010 NGO Coalition
• 26-27 November, Bucharest, WHO Europe: Intergovernmental conference to endorse and launch the Better Health, Better Lives declaration
- 29 November, Lisbon, CEBI Foundation: Pensando a pobreza
- 1 December, Brussels, DG Enlargement: TAIEX study visits - workshop on children
- 7-8 December, Brussels, Fundamental Rights Agency & Belgian EU Presidency: Fundamental Rights Conference on child friendly justice
- **9 December, Brussels, Children in Scotland/ Eurochild: Working for Inclusion - End of project conference**
- 16-17 December, Brussels, Belgian EU Presidency: Closing Conference of the European Year
## 8. ACCOUNTS AND FUNDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME STATEMENT</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>42,385</td>
<td>23,225</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC Progress grant</td>
<td>702,727</td>
<td>553,371</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other grants</td>
<td>35,246</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sources of income</td>
<td>130,083</td>
<td>113,243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interests</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,984</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income total</strong></td>
<td><strong>910,441</strong></td>
<td><strong>691,824</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenses (excluding interim)</td>
<td>528,272</td>
<td>388,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll (including interim)</td>
<td>372,681</td>
<td>310,190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial expenses</td>
<td>1,955</td>
<td>925</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure total</strong></td>
<td><strong>902,957</strong></td>
<td><strong>699,310</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING RESULT</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,484</strong></td>
<td><strong>-7,486</strong></td>
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## BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade accounts receivable</td>
<td>31.673</td>
<td>17.160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
<td>4.203</td>
<td>11.203</td>
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<tr>
<td>Progress grant</td>
<td>123.064</td>
<td>98.714</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred expenses</td>
<td>858</td>
<td>13.752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued incomes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Bank</td>
<td>48.248</td>
<td>39.086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets total</strong></td>
<td><strong>208.047</strong></td>
<td><strong>179.915</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity (own funds)</td>
<td>16.779</td>
<td>9.295</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC grants</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed liabilities</td>
<td>1.200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>190.068</td>
<td>170.620</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade Account payables</td>
<td>114.547</td>
<td>136.684</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade accruals</td>
<td>32.340</td>
<td>3.809</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other payables</td>
<td>18.843</td>
<td>1.200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social liabilities</td>
<td>24.338</td>
<td>28.926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities total</strong></td>
<td><strong>208.047</strong></td>
<td><strong>179.915</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MEMBERSHIP

Eurochild is open to all organisations and individuals with an interest in the rights and welfare of children and young people in Europe and a commitment to the full implementation of the UNCRC. Full members can include non-governmental organisations, statutory bodies, academic and research institutions and professional associations. Associate membership is primarily targeted at individuals.

Membership benefits:

1. Representation and promotion of members’ interests and experiences to the EU institutions and recognition as being part of an influential network in the field of children’s rights and welfare;

2. Information and support to enable members to develop their policy capacity to strengthen their influence at national and regional levels;

3. Opportunities to share good practice on design and delivery of high quality services to children, young people and families, and to form interest groups and partnerships with other organisations across Europe working in specific fields;

4. Targeted information on policy and practice developments, funding and partnership opportunities, events and news from across Europe related to children’s rights and welfare.

For more information about membership, go to the “join us” page of our website or contact our Membership Officer at membership@eurochild.org.

Editor : Jana Hainsworth

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