Annual report
2005
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Eurochild’s second year of operation coincided with quite a difficult year in EU politics. Since the Dutch and French voters rejected the Constitutional Treaty in their national referenda, the constitutional process has been shelved to allow for a ‘period of reflection’.

The ‘No’ votes also came as a blow to child right’s organisations in Europe. The Treaty would have given the EU new competences in children’s right’s protection and, by giving the EU ‘legal personality’, it would have allowed the EU to accede to international Treaties and Conventions, including the UN CRC. The proposed Treaty also incorporated the Charter of Fundamental Rights which includes several references to the children’s rights.

But despite these setbacks, there were several promising developments at EU level in 2005. Not least was the growing attention given by Heads of State across the EU to tackling child poverty. The need to prioritise certain groups, including children living in poverty, was highlighted in the conclusions to the Spring Summit in March 2005\(^1\). And in its contribution to the Hampton Court Summit of the UK Presidency, the European Commission made repeated references to the urgency of combating child poverty\(^2\).

2005 also ended with the promise of a Communication on the Rights of the Child - the initiative of Franco Frattini, EU Commissioner responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security. This Communication, expected in June 2006, will set a framework for future action at EU level to coordinate EU policy and legislation, so as to ensure compliance with the principles of the UN CRC. If adopted it could fill the gap left by the failed Treaty process, and give new competences to the EU to promote child rights within its internal and external policies.

Eurochild was well placed to monitor and influence these and other crucial developments in EU policy. In the Brussels Secretariat, Heidi de Pauw took over as full-time Secretary General in January 2005, and in July, Anja Härtwig was recruited as full-time Information and Policy Development Officer, replacing Claudia Arnold-Assakhen, part-time Information Officer. Marie Dubit continued as part-time Office Manager. Membership also grew from 25 members in 13 countries at the end of 2004 to 32 members in 16 countries by end of 2005. Two new Management Board members were recruited, bringing the total number to five. Eight members were actively involved in the Steering Group charged with monitoring and evaluating the National Action Plans on social inclusion, and Eurochild also benefited from the inputs of child poverty consultant Anne Williams.

With these human resources, and the commitment and financial support offered by the European Commission through its Community Action Programme to combat poverty and social exclusion, Eurochild has been able to deliver an ambitious work programme in 2005. Activities have centred around three key areas: monitoring and influencing policy; building membership capacity; and raising awareness. All the work is underpinned by the principles enshrined within the UN CRC. In this report, we have therefore sought to highlight how the UN CRC is reflected in our work.

2005 was an important year, not just in the wider political context, but also in the development of Eurochild. There is a clear commitment to keep child poverty high on the EU political agenda, so as to make a practical difference to the lives of children today and the adults of tomorrow.

Catriona Williams
President

1. European Council Presidency Conclusions 22-23 March 2005
2. Contribution of the Commission to the October Meeting of Heads of State and Government, 20 October 2005
Combating child poverty & social exclusion

“every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.”

Article 27 of the UN CRC

- Assessing the NAPs -

The fight against child poverty and social exclusion is at the core of Eurochild’s Work Programme and a key element of this is the monitoring of the National Action Plans on social inclusion (NAPs/Inclusion) from a children’s rights perspective. In 2004, our programme focused on the visibility of children and young people in the NAPs/Inclusion planning process across the EU-25.

In 2005, we focused primarily on the former EU15 Member States as they were required to report on implementation during this period. Our assessments centred on the implementation and impact of the plans on child poverty, to contribute to the review of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) from a children’s rights perspective. We aim to ensure NAPs/Inclusion fulfil their potential as a powerful instrument of change in the fight against child poverty and social exclusion. Our analysis drew upon the knowledge and experience of our members, especially those which themselves represent national networks.

The main conclusion remains that little progress has been made overall on recognising children and young people as actors in the NAPs/Inclusion planning process.

Child poverty in the EU – situation & indicators

Unacceptable levels of poverty and social exclusion are still experienced by children throughout the EU. According to Eurostat data from 2004, approximately 20% of children aged between 0 and 15 were at risk of poverty, compared to 16% of the overall EU population.

But there are significant differences across the EU. The Nordic countries have the lowest at-risk-of-poverty rates (6-7% 2001 figures) among households with children, whilst in Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and the UK more than one in five children is at risk of poverty (Atkinson et al 2005).

But few conclusions can be drawn about the overall well-being of children on the basis of relative-income indicators alone. One of Eurochild’s key recommendations from its NAPs analysis in 2005 was that “a new Primary Indicator be developed which is specific to children and young people, is non-income related, and informed by children and young people’s own perceptions of their need”. Attempts have been made at EU level to pull together complementary data on ‘material deprivation’ that provide a better picture of overall living conditions, including housing or basic necessities (Statistics in Focus 5/2005). Bradshaw and Ritakallio (2005) also ranked child deprivation according to nine different criteria. The proportion lacking three or more items ranged from 9% in Denmark to 53% in Greece.

Despite these developments we are still some way from establishing indicators to monitor poverty and deprivation levels on the basis of children’s perceptions.

1Adequate heating, annual holiday away from home, replacing worn-out furniture, afford new clothes, afford meat/fish, ask friends home, rent arrears, mortgage arrears and savings.
process. Their interests continue, for the most part, to be represented through organisations, even where innovative initiatives are in progress. This disenfranchisement of children and young people as young citizens is, in our opinion, a social injustice and contravenes art.12 of the UNCRC. It is also a missed opportunity for developing social capital.

Important related processes addressing child poverty and social exclusion - where children and young people are active participants - remain outside of the NAPs/Inclusion process. This serves to underline the perception of some children’s organisations that the NAPs/Inclusion process is largely irrelevant in the fight against child poverty and social exclusion and energies are better directed elsewhere. A cultural shift is needed to create structures that meaningfully involve children and young people at all levels, from grass roots communities to EU level.

Eurochild concluded with the following key recommendations to the EU:

• Reference to children and young people within the revised Common Objectives should be strength-ened, making a clear recommendation that Member States report on child poverty and social exclu-sion within the framework of the UN CRC, and specifying those articles to which particular attention should be paid.

• One quantifiable EU target for the reduction of children living in income poverty should be estab-lished, with a requirement to report on incremental progress towards this goal.

• A new Primary Indicator which is specific to children and young people and informed by their per-ceptions of needs, should be developed.

• “Children mainstreaming” be adopted in the NAPs/Inclusion process to ensure that: a children’s rights perspective is used to inform the design and implementation in all relevant policy areas; and policy design and implementation contribute to promotion of children’s rights.

- Review & revision of the Open Method of Coordination -

During 2005, the European Commission carried out a review of the OMC on poverty and social inclu-sion, and later published a Communication setting out a new framework for the open coordination of social protection and inclusion policies. In its response to the questionnaire on the OMC, Eurochild welcomed the impact of the OMC in raising the profile of child poverty and social exclusion. Nonethe-less, we were critical of the lack of overall visibility of children and young people in the NAPs/Incl planning process. We stressed the need to look at poverty and exclusion from the perspective of children and young people’s perspective, and the importance of adopting a “rights-based” approach to the policy-making process.

In our subsequent response to the Commission’s Guidelines for Social Protection and Social Inclu-sion, we advocated the development of children mainstreaming along the lines of ‘gender main-streaming’ and proposed the practical step of incorporating a check box on the promotion of children’s rights into the planning tool.

- Round table on poverty and social exclusion -

One of Eurochild’s key lobby points is that children and young people must be given a voice to ex-press what poverty and social exclusion means to them and how it may best be tackled. The child’s
right to be heard is acknowledged as one of the four general principles of the UNCRC, so should be an integral part of the implementation of other articles of the Convention, and a free standing right of the child.

This message was brought home through Eurochild’s contribution to the Round table on poverty and social exclusion - one of the key annual events organised within the framework of the OMC. In 2005 this was organised by the UK Presidency and it took place in Glasgow 17-18th October.

Eurochild produced a DVD showing interviews with children and young people from Belgium, UK, Germany, Hungary and the Netherlands on what poverty and social exclusion means to them. And during the workshop on children and families, the young chair of the Wales-based “Rights to Action”, network for disabled children and young people, himself a disabled young man, spoke about the need to give disabled young people the chance to meet and talk about the issues affecting them – both among themselves and with those in a position of influence. The young chair of “Who cares Scotland” also gave an important insight into the issues for children in public care.

Revised common objectives

The successful implementation of the Open Method of Coordination depends on the adoption of common objectives by all Member States. It is an important means of building a shared understanding between the Member States and the Commission.

Three overarching objectives have been set – to promote:

⇒ social cohesion, equality between men and women and equal opportunities for all through adequate, accessible, financially sustainable, adaptable and efficient social protection systems and social inclusion policies;

⇒ effective and mutual interaction between the Lisbon objectives of greater economic growth, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion, and with the EU’s Sustainable Development Strategy;

⇒ good governance, transparency and the involvement of stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring of policy.

On the specific area of eradicating of poverty and social exclusion the following 3 objectives have been set:

⇒ access for all to the resources, rights and services needed for participation in society, preventing and addressing exclusion, and fighting all forms of discrimination leading to exclusion;

⇒ the active social inclusion of all, both by promoting participation in the labour market and by fighting poverty and exclusion;

⇒ that social inclusion policies are well-coordinated and involve all levels of government and relevant actors, including people experiencing poverty, that they are efficient and effective and mainstreamed into all relevant public policies, including economic, budgetary, education and training policies and structural fund (notably ESF) programmes.

Eurochild recommended a “discrete objective relating to children and young people which is more comprehensive: ie. the prevention of child poverty and promotion of the child’s right to social integration”. This would have required Member States to acknowledge the extent and importance of child poverty and exclusion, and would have encouraged specific “cross-cutting” national strategies to tackle the issues. While this lobby was unsuccessful, the guidelines that accompany the revised Common Objectives do give prominence to the need to combat child poverty. Eurochild will continue to lobby in 2006 for the inclusion of child poverty as one of the key priorities for the National Action Plans on social inclusion in all Member States.
Demographic change

2005 saw the European Commission enter the debate around the on-going demographic changes across the EU. A Green Paper published in May 2005 drew attention to the fact that Europe is facing unprecedented change to its age composition. Falling birth rates and increasing life expectancy mean that the over 65's make up an increasing share of our population (30% by 2050) and the number of under 24s is falling steadily (23% by 2050).

The Green Paper launched a wide public debate on the future potential role of the EU in managing demographic change. Eurochild responded to this consultation because we consider the perspectives of children and young people must be integrated into any policy response adopted by the EU. In particular we stressed that the fight against child poverty and social exclusion becomes all the more acute when faced with a possible population decline. All economic and employment reforms must be considered from a social cohesion perspective so as to include all members of society, and avoid the inter-generational inheritance of poverty. We also raised concern about the over-riding emphasis on peoples’ existing and potential economic contribution, without giving due regard to care responsibilities or the fulfilment of children, young people and their families.

Communication on the rights of the child

Given that our objective is ‘to promote the welfare and rights of children and young people’, Eurochild AISBL and its members also attach great importance to the intention of the European Commission to elaborate a Communication on the Protection of the Rights of the Child. In this framework Eurochild AISBL was actively involved in the “Commission Brainstorming” on 22nd June 2005.

Eurochild’s key recommendations are that the Communication should:

1. mainstream the Rights of the Child as stated in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child
(1989) throughout all policies and activities of the European Union. In particular, special attention should be given to the participation of children (Art.12) in EU political and democratic life, especially those at risk of exclusion to ensure that all European children have equal opportunities.

2. examine the social dimension. Eurochild AISBL considers that the “strategy on the protection of children” cannot be sustainable if it does not take into consideration child poverty and social exclusion of children in the EU.

3. take into consideration the necessity for coordination between the EU and Member States, in particular that the EU plays a greater role in facilitating the exchange of good practice, data collection specifically oriented to children, and the planning and monitoring processes.

In the framework of this work, Eurochild joined the NGO ‘core group’ on the Communication on Child Rights consisting of NGOs such as Plan International, Terre des Hommes, and Euronet. Within this context Eurochild is the only network which specifically promotes the rights of the most excluded children and focuses on child poverty and social exclusion of children.

2 BUILDING MEMBERSHIP CAPACITY

Expanding the network

At the beginning of 2005, Eurochild had 25 members in 13 countries. By the end of the year this had expanded to 32 members in 16 countries. This expansion was due to promotional mailings and presentation of the network in several international meetings and events such as the World Forum on Child Poverty, held in Tallinn in September 2005.

Thirteen of Eurochild’s 33 members are themselves umbrella organisations, both at European level and national level. Umbrella member organisations in the UK (covering the separate jurisdictions of England, Scotland and Wales), and in Finland, Estonia, Germany and Cyprus are among the most influential organisations at national level in terms of influencing governments in matters affecting children and particularly in relation to children who are socially excluded. These organisations also have not for profit statutory sector members such as local authorities, municipalities, statutory health bodies and academic and professional institutions and bodies. This means that they are able to promote policy change directly to local authority level and professional networks as well as to governments.

Training and information exchange

Eurochild aims to provide a platform for the sharing of expertise, experience and best practice between members across the EU. This has been achieved through consultation processes linked to specific policy debates (see above policy priorities) and member events. During 2005 the following member events were organised:

- Eurochild’s second General Assembly in May 2005
- Members’ policy forum (May 2005)
- Annual conference (November 2005)
- 2nd member’s policy forum (November 2005)

Eurochild second annual Conference focused on “The Position of Socially Excluded Children in the EU Policy process” and was attended by almost 60 participants. It provided the opportunity to
hear from the European Commission about the planned Communication on the Rights of the Child.

3 RAISING AWARENESS

During the course of 2005, Eurochild has expanded and improved the range of communication tools in order to reach the following three key objectives:

- Provide a high quality service to member organisations – including comprehensive and timely information on policy and programmes and services to facilitate exchange and dialogue between the members;
- Promote the work of Eurochild and its members to policy makers, in particular providing an outside, specialist perspective on issues relating to child poverty;
- Raise awareness among the wider interested public about the fight against child poverty and social exclusion, and in particular the European dimension.

Member services

Since April 2005, Eurochild circulates a weekly Info-Flash to its members, containing information on the latest developments at EU level in the areas of children and young people and social policy, news of funding opportunities, and an update on the activities of Eurochild and its members. These Info-Flashes are also made available via Eurochild’s website.

The revised Eurochild website, launched in December 2005, also contains a members’ room, accessible only by Eurochild’s member organisations. This provides details of the latest policy developments at EU level, links to internal documents (policy papers, meeting minutes etc.). It also enables members to share and exchange information and experiences in their fields of action.

Informing policy makers

Policy makers, including Members of the European Parliament and officials in the European Commission are included in our mailings to receive our regular monthly e-News Bulletins and bi-annual Newsletter (see below). Specific targeted material has also been prepared including:-

- Contribution to consultation on Green Paper on Demographic changes,
- Evaluation of the Open Method of Co-ordination,
- Reaction on planned Code of Conduct for civil society organisations.

Raising public awareness

Eurochild has set up a mailing database currently containing around 800 subscribers. These include politicians and information relays. Individuals can subscribe via the website. This is used to circulate the monthly e-bulletin and news of specific events e.g. the MEP reception and the Annual Conference.

The monthly e-News Bulletin reports on policy developments related to children’s issues and social policy in general and child poverty and social exclusion in particular, at an international, national and
regional level. It also informs about relevant research, publications, conferences, Eurochild AISBL positions and activities, etc. Members are encouraged to contribute to it with articles, announcements, reports...

The Eurochild Newsletter is a bi-annual publication, which is distributed in both a printed and electronic version, which has, besides an informative, also a promotional objective and will be disseminated as widely as possible. The Newsletter contains information concerning developments and activities of Eurochild and its members, as well as information from the European Commission and other institutions related to the social inclusion process.

A revised, more user-friendly version of the website was launched in December 2005. The site includes information on Eurochild, its members, its work, and relevant documents, etc. Eurochild AISBL.

Finally, Eurochild has also published contributions through relevant European and national journals. In April and in August 2005 an article from Eurochild AISBL has been published in “Children in Europe”. In October 2005 Eurochild AISBL contributed to “Webmag”, a web-based magazine concerning child care. This is a welcome regular commitment.
1 NETWORKING

Eurochild’s approach is to work closely with appropriate partners where there is a clear added-value of collaborative action. Eurochild is therefore an active member of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) and the Social Platform and works in partnership with other organisations active in the field of children’s issues, to promote the fight against social exclusion and child poverty.

As a European organisation in membership of EAPN, Eurochild took part in the EAPN-conference on the future of the Inclusion Strategy in April 2005. Eurochild presented the outcomes of a study on child poverty commissioned by the European Commission during the workshop: “Lessons learned from studies under the EU inclusion Strategy”. At a national level, many of Eurochild’s members are the leaders in the anti child poverty alliances/campaigns which bring together a wide range of agencies from the NGO and statutory sectors within their countries.

As a member of the Social Platform of NGOs, Eurochild has participated in several meetings organised by the Platform on social policy in Europe. In the framework of the Social Platform’s Conference on “Building social policy on fundamental rights” in October 2005, Eurochild organised a seminar on the right to education, together with three other European organisations, namely EASPD (European Association of Service Providers for Disabled People), EAEA (European Association for the education of adults) and ATD Fourth World.

The Secretary General has had regular meetings with the Secretary General of Euronet – the European Children’s Network - and joined forces with several organisations working in the area of children’s rights to influence the content of the Communication on the Rights of the Child. This ‘core group’ includes representatives from Plan International, Terre des Hommes, UNICEF, SOS Kinderdorf International, etc.

2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

As a key network funded through the Community Action Programme to combat poverty and social exclusion, part of Eurochild’s remit is to promote a wider understanding and awareness of the EU’s policy to combat child poverty. As part of this task Eurochild delivered presentations at the following events:

- Meeting of European organisations with a delegation from the Hong Kong government - June 2005.
• The **World Forum on Child Poverty** (IFCW’s 16th Annual Summit of Child Welfare Leaders), 19-22 September 2005. Eurochild was involved in several panel discussions and workshops.

• A study visit from the “Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung” of the German Land Hessen, on the theme of “Dialogue of the Generations”, 10 October 2005.

• A Seminar on the Right to Education during the Conference on Fundamental Rights by the Platform of Social NGOs, 11-12 October 2005.

• The Round Table on Poverty and Social Inclusion, UK Presidency, 17-18 October.

• European Parliament session on Childcare involving a delegation of women community activists’ from Ireland (23 November 2005).

Eurochild also participated in the following key events:

• A Round Table Discussion organised by the *Goethe Institut* Brussels on the issue “What Social Model for Europe” with Commissioner Špidla and Anne Marie Sigmund (ESC President), 13 September 2005.

• A seminar on “Tackling youth disadvantage in Europe” presenting the results of a thematic study sponsored by the European Commission, 15-16 September 2005.

• The bi-annual meeting between the European Commission and members of the Social Platform, 18 November 2005.

• A Conference to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Child Benefits system of Belgium, 24 November 2005.

• Meeting of the permanent inter-governmental group “L’Europe de l’Enfance”, which focused on “Securing better outcomes for children and young people through an integrated service”, 29 November 2005.

• A meeting between the European Commission and EU networks active in the Social Inclusion Process, 6 December 2005.

• Final conference of “Building sustainable urban communities” study, 9 December.
Eurochild is committed to the direct involvement and participation of children and young people. It is our view that the views and perceptions of children and young people must be considered in their own right, rather than being interpreted and relayed through adults. This is particularly crucial for children at risk of social exclusion, who are among the least likely to have their voices heard. Participation is not only a necessary tool to ensure better policy-making, it is also a means of empowering young people and strengthening equal opportunities.

In March 2005, 12 young people aged 13 to 15 years were able to present their views on social exclusion and how it affects their lives to Members of the European Parliament and officials of the European Commission. The event titled “Do you hear me?” took place in the European Parliament on 2nd March and involved young people from Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Finland and the UK. In the run-up to the event, the young people prepared a manifesto against discrimination which was presented to participants.

The event had an important impact on the children involved and raising awareness. On their return, the two young Estonian participants were interviewed for national radio. The Hungarian participants (one of whom was of Roma origin) have been able to maintain contact with the Hungarian MEPs whom they met during the event.

“The lack of money really limits our lives,” explained the two young Hungarian participants. “We don’t have pocket money to go to museums, do sport, buy CDs. We just can’t do what other children are doing.”

In addition to this key event, young representatives were selected through the Eurochild membership to participate in several key EU-level events:

- A young girl from Cyprus took the floor during the 4th European Meeting of People experiencing poverty which took place in Brussels on 10-11 June 2005. This year, the Luxembourg Presidency put the accent on the theme of image: the image that people experiencing poverty are giving or the image they want to give of themselves, the image that society has about people experiencing poverty.

- A disabled young person and a young person from public care made a presentation in the child poverty workshop during the 4th European Round Table on Poverty and Social Inclusion...
Eurochild also obtained financial support from the UK Presidency of the EU to produce a DVD with video messages from the children and young people. Interviews were conducted with children from Belgium, UK, Germany, Hungary and the Netherlands.
1 BRUSSELS SECRETARIAT

In January 2005 Heidi De Pauw took over as Secretary General of Eurochild replacing Anne Williams, who was acting coordinator during the first year of Eurochild's operation. Thanks to extra funding under the Community Action Programme on Poverty and Social Inclusion of the European Commission, Eurochild was able to increase the time inputs of the Information Officer time from 5 days to 10 days per month and to take on a part-time Policy Development Officer. Anja Härtwig was recruited as Information and Policy Development Officer (a full-time post) in mid-July 2005, replacing Claudia Arnold-Assakhen, previously the part-time Information Officer.

In 2005, the Eurochild team consisted of:

**Marie Dubit, Office Manager:** (3 days a week) Marie holds a degree in History of Art and Archaeology and in Cultural Management from the U.L.B. (Université Libre de Bruxelles). Prior to joining Eurochild, she had worked in several cultural non-profit associations in Belgium, including four years as assistant to the Director of the CIVA (International Centre for Town planning, Architecture and Landscape). She joined Eurochild as Office Manager in June 2004. Marie speaks French, English, Spanish and Dutch.

**Anja Härtwig, Information & Policy Development Officer:** Anja is of Polish-German origin, and has studied in France, Germany and England. In addition to speaking fluent German, Polish, French and English, she is currently learning Spanish. She has a Masters degree in International Relations and has lived in Brussels for over 4 years, working for various NGOs, including the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and the European Federation for Inter-cultural Learning (EFIL).

**Heidi De Pauw, Secretary General:** Heidi holds a Masters Degree in Criminological Sciences from the University of Ghent and wrote a thesis on “Children, victims of ‘crimes’: a survey”. She spent a post-graduate year at the University of Patras in Greece, where she worked on the issue of Street Children. She also holds a diploma in Business Administration (EHSAL - Brussels). Prior to joining Eurochild, Heidi had worked in the Belgian Ministry of Interior on prevention issues, and later in Child Focus, the European Centre for Missing and Sexually exploited Children. Heidi is Belgian and speaks Dutch, French, English, basic Greek and German.

**Anne Williams, Child Poverty Consultant:** Anne continued to support the child poverty work programme on a consultancy basis during 2005. In this way she helped to ensure continuity and a smooth transition of responsibility for the coordination of the programme before the arrival of Heidi De Pauw and Anja Härtwig. She also co-ordinated the reporting from the evaluation of the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion from a children’s perspective.
Eurochild would also like to acknowledge the work of the interns and volunteers who supported our work in 2005. This included:-

- In April and May, Ruben worked as a trainee translator. He translated the Eurochild website into French and Spanish.
- In October, Slovakian volunteer, Mirka helped staff carry out its day-to-day work and contributed to the preparation of Eurochild second annual conference and the creation of a new website. She also spent time to identify and contact with Slovak and Czech organisations working with children.
- Mihaela from Romania and Massimo from Italy contributed to Eurochild’s work towards the end of the year. Among other things Mihaela helped with the identification and contact with Romanian organisations working with children.
- In November and December Françoise joined the team of volunteers and started supporting Eurochild AISBL to work out a press database and fund-raising strategy.

In August 2005, Heidi De Pauw announced her resignation as Secretary General of Eurochild AISBL. A new Secretary General was recruited to start in January 2006. Jana Hainsworth holds an MA in Environment, Development & Policy from the University of Sussex and speaks English, French and Spanish. Among other things, she has been European liaison officer for the international department of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and co-ordinator for the Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO).

2 MANAGEMENT BOARD

In May 2005, two new board members were elected to the Eurochild management board. The Board currently consists of:

**Catriona Williams, President**, is Chief Executive of Children in Wales, the National Umbrella agency for organisations working with and for children and young people in Wales. She has a background in social work, lecturing, research and management of children’s services. She is a member of many Welsh Assembly and UK Government working groups and Committees on all aspects of children’s lives. She has been active in the field of children’s rights, giving evidence to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on behalf of Wales and led the campaign to establish the Children’s Commissioner for Wales. She is also a trustee of the National Family and Parenting Institute (UK), Play Wales and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. Internationally as well as being President of Eurochild, she is Secretary of the International Forum for Child Welfare.

**Nineta Kazantzis, Treasurer**, is an Educational Psychologist and works full time at a Private High School. As a volunteer, she is a board member of the Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children (PCCPWC) working towards the full implementation of the UNCRC in Cyprus. At the European level, PCCPWC are members of Eurochild AISBL and EAPN (founding members of the EAPN Cyprus Network in September 2005) and recently applied to become members of ECOSOC. We are also members of the International Forum for Child Welfare. At a local level Nineta is President of the Limassol Committee for the Welfare of Children, an NGO that provides services to abandoned children (House of the Child) and financial support to single mothers and young people engaged in further education.
Ene Tomberg, Secretary, is a qualified paediatrician and worked for many years in the children’s hospital. For the past 12 years she has been working at the Tallinn City Government being responsible for health care. She lectures on child health and welfare at the University of Tallinn and the Tallinn Pedagogical Seminar. In 2003, she completed a Master’s at the University of Tallinn on the topic “Experience of child abuse among school children in Estonia and opportunities to provide help”.

Ene was a founder of the Estonian Union for Child Welfare and a president of the Union in 1995-2000. She is currently a member of the Council, and represents the Estonian Union for Child Welfare in the Supervisory Board of the Estonian Health Insurance Fund. She was a board member of EFCW, and is currently secretary in the management board of Eurochild AISBL.

Ulrike Wisser has worked for 16 years in the Brussels branch of BBJ, the Consulting Agency for Youth Welfare service organisations. Based on her experience and knowledge about European policies relevant to the child and youth welfare sector she became President of the AGJ committee on “child and youth(welfare)policy in Europe”. In this role she often represents the German member of Eurochild, AGJ (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe) on different occasions in Eurochild development and strategic work.

Maarit Kuikka works for the Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland as international affairs officer. CUCW is a coalition consisting of 85 member organisations and 35 local authorities (municipalities). The main aim of the organisation is to speak in the best interests of the child, to influence child policy and to bring together different actors and organisations in the field of child welfare. Before she was appointed to CUCW in 2002 had Maarit worked both in the public sector in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and in various NGOs. After graduating from the University of Tampere where she studied international relations, Maarit was selected to participate in an EU training organised by the Ministry of Finances after Finland became a member in EU.
VI. OUR MEMBERS

By order of country

EU wide

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e-mail: info@toekan.be
www.toekan.be // www.changetout.be

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Vogelenganstraat 76
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finland</th>
<th>Hungary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mannerheim League for Child Welfare</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mannerheimin Lastensuojeluliitto&lt;br&gt;Toinen linja 17, 00530 Helsinki&lt;br&gt;P.O. Box 141, 00531 Helsinki&lt;br&gt;Finland&lt;br&gt;Tel. +358 75 32451&lt;br&gt;Contact: Mrs Eeva Kuuskoski&lt;br&gt;e-mail: <a href="mailto:eva.kuuskoski@mll.fi">eva.kuuskoski@mll.fi</a>&lt;br&gt;www.mll.fi</td>
<td><strong>Family, Child, Youth Priority Non-Profit Association</strong>&lt;br&gt;Maros u. 6/a&lt;br&gt;1525 Budapest pf 41&lt;br&gt;Budapest XII&lt;br&gt;Hungary&lt;br&gt;Tel: +36 1 225 35 25&lt;br&gt;Contact: Dr Maria Herczog&lt;br&gt;e-mail: <a href="mailto:herczog@mail.datanet.hu">herczog@mail.datanet.hu</a>&lt;br&gt;www.csagyti.ngo.hu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland</strong>&lt;br&gt;Armfeltintie 1&lt;br&gt;00150 Helsinki&lt;br&gt;Finland&lt;br&gt;Tel: +358 9 329 60 11&lt;br&gt;Fax: +358 9 329 60 99&lt;br&gt;Contact: Ms Maarit Kuikka&lt;br&gt;e-mail: <a href="mailto:maarit.kuikka@lskl.fi">maarit.kuikka@lskl.fi</a>&lt;br&gt;www.lskl.fi</td>
<td><strong>KEK Vonal Gyermekkrizis Alapitvany</strong>&lt;br&gt;Deres u. 11&lt;br&gt;1124 Budapest&lt;br&gt;Hungary&lt;br&gt;Tel: +36 1 354 10 30&lt;br&gt;Fax: +36 1 354 1029&lt;br&gt;Contact: Ms Eva Kerpel&lt;br&gt;e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@kek-vonal.hu">info@kek-vonal.hu</a>&lt;br&gt;www.kek-vonal.hu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pesäpuu Ry - Centre of Expertise in Child Welfare</strong>&lt;br&gt;Kauppakatu 18 C 35&lt;br&gt;40100 Jyväskylä&lt;br&gt;Finland&lt;br&gt;Tel: +358 14 3322 500&lt;br&gt;Fax: +358 14 3322 550&lt;br&gt;Contact: Mr Raili Bäck –Kilianmaa&lt;br&gt;e-mail: <a href="mailto:raili.back@pesapuu.fi">raili.back@pesapuu.fi</a>&lt;br&gt;www.pesapuu.fi</td>
<td><strong>National Association of Large Families / Nagycsaládosok Országos Egyesülete (NOE)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Március 15. tér 8. I/1.&lt;br&gt;1056 Budapest&lt;br&gt;Hungary&lt;br&gt;Tel: +361 317 49 09&lt;br&gt;Fax: +361 317 45 63&lt;br&gt;Contact: Mrs Zsuzsa Kormosné Debreceni&lt;br&gt;e-mail: <a href="mailto:kormos.zsuzsa@noe.hu">kormos.zsuzsa@noe.hu</a>&lt;br&gt;www.noe.hu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Germany</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ireland</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugendhilfe (AGJ)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Child and Youth Welfare Association&lt;br&gt;Mühlendamm 3&lt;br&gt;10178 Berlin&lt;br&gt;Germany&lt;br&gt;Tel: +49 (0) 30 400 40-200&lt;br&gt;Fax: +49 (0) 30 400 40-232&lt;br&gt;Contact : Mrs Heike Völger&lt;br&gt;e-mail: <a href="mailto:heike.voelger@agj.de">heike.voelger@agj.de</a>&lt;br&gt;www.agj.de</td>
<td><strong>One Family</strong>&lt;br&gt;2 Lower Pembroke St&lt;br&gt;Cherish House Dublin 2&lt;br&gt;Ireland&lt;br&gt;Tel: +353 (0)1 66 29 212&lt;br&gt;Contact: Mrs Karen Kiernan&lt;br&gt;e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@onefamily.ie">info@onefamily.ie</a>&lt;br&gt;www.onefamily.ie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Greece</strong></td>
<td><strong>Barretstown</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Panhellenic Association of Members of One Parent Families</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ikareion 34&lt;br&gt;11854 Athens&lt;br&gt;Greece&lt;br&gt;Tel/Fax: +30 210 95 70 591&lt;br&gt;Contact: Ms Theodora Tsitsipa&lt;br&gt;e-mail: <a href="mailto:tsitsipa@yahoo.gr">tsitsipa@yahoo.gr</a></td>
<td><strong>Barretstown</strong>&lt;br&gt;Barretstown Castle&lt;br&gt;Ballymore Eustace&lt;br&gt;Co Kildare&lt;br&gt;Ireland&lt;br&gt;Tel: +353 (0) 45 864 115&lt;br&gt;Fax: +353 (0) 45 864 197&lt;br&gt;Contact: Ms Terry Dignan&lt;br&gt;e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@barretstown.org">info@barretstown.org</a>&lt;br&gt;www.barretstown.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arts For Peace Foundation</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Gate House&lt;br&gt;Ballynure</td>
<td><strong>Arts For Peace Foundation</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Gate House&lt;br&gt;Ballynure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eurochild AISBL Annual Report 2005

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Fax: +32 9 223 64 93
e-mail Eugeen.verhellen@pandora.be
### VII. FINANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>INCOME STATEMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accounts receivable</strong></td>
<td>1,300</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred expenses</strong></td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash &amp; Bank</strong></td>
<td>98,662</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100,077</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td>200,416</td>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Own funds</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Grants</strong></td>
<td>Payroll</td>
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<td><strong>EC</strong></td>
<td>99,159</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Financial expenses</strong></td>
<td>115</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>537</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>For 2005</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200,416</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Trade Account payables</strong></td>
<td>36,421</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Trade accruals</strong></td>
<td>6,532</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other payables</strong></td>
<td>14,385</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social liabilities</strong></td>
<td>7,320</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
<td>64,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100,077</td>
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</table>
Eurochild AISBL is an international non-profit making association, which aims to promote the rights and welfare of children and young people at European and national level. The work of Eurochild AISBL is underpinned by the principles enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This Annual Report has been produced with the financial support of the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Commission.