15th European Forum
on the Rights of the Child

23 – 24
June 2025

AGENDA

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15th European Forum on the Rights of the Child 2025

23-24 June 2025, Borschette Conference Centre, Brussels

Monday, 23 June 2025

Morning session: Children's rights: building fair and resilient societies for all

8:30 – 9:30   Registration

9:30 – 11:00   **Opening exchange – The Child Call for Action**
High-level Plenary session: What do children expect from the EU? What is the EU doing for children?
- **Aleksandra, Aley, Andrea, Lukáš, Margaux**, **Mihael, Rugile**, Children from the EU Children's Participation Platform; **Yassine** and **Jan,** Young alumni of the EU Children's Participation Platform (participating in different sessions of the Forum)
- **Glenn Micallef**, Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport
- **Veronika Cifrová Ostrihoňová**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Child Rights Intergroup
- **Roberto Olla**, Head of the Gender Equality and Human Dignity Department, Council of Europe
- **Aagje Ieven**, Secretary-General of Missing Children Europe, Co-Chair of the Child Rights' Action Group

Moderators: **Children** from the EU Children's Participation Platform and **Jana Hainsworth**

11:00 – 11:30   Break

11:30 – 12:30   **Plenary session: Conversation on climate change and intergenerational fairness, a sustainable approach to children's rights**
- **Jad** and **Andrea, Children from the EU Children's Participation Platform**
- **Elisa Morgera**, UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights (video message)
- **Tanya Ward**, Eurochild President
- **Benjamin Van Bunderen Robberechts**, European Climate Pact Ambassador, Young climate activist
- **Anne Mahrer**, President of the Klimaseniorinnen
- **Marie-Cécile Rouillon**, Commission Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, Fundamental Rights Policy Unit, DG JUST, European Commission

Moderator: **Jana Hainsworth**

12:30 – 14:00   Lunch

Afternoon session: Children's rights resilience to digital, socio-economic and democratic challenges

14:00 – 15:00   **Plenary session: Building children's rights resilience in a digital world**
- **Teresa Manes**, Advocate for the fight against cyberbullying and mother of Andrea Spezzacatena, The Boy with Pink Trousers
- **Marta**, Better Internet for Kids Youth Ambassador, Portugal
- **Evin Incir**, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair of the Child Rights Intergroup
- **Glenn Micallef**, Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport
- **Leanda Barrington Leach**, Executive Director of the 5Rights Foundation
- **Martin Harris Hess**, Head of Sector, Protection of Minors online, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission

Moderator: **Jana Hainsworth**

15:00 – 15:30   Break

15:30 – 16:45   **Parallel thematic discussions**

1.   **Cyberbullying and mental health – Room 0A**
- **Marta**, Better Internet for Kids Youth Ambassador, Portugal
- **Hannah Verstoep,** Young Netizens Programme, City of Amsterdam
- **Orla McGovern**, Research Ireland Funded Postgraduate Research Scholar, School of Psychology, Dublin City University, Ireland
Moderator: **Andrea Tognoni**, Digital Services Unit, DG CNECT, European Commission

2.   **Children's rights for resilient democracy – Room 0C**
- **Adriyana** and **Jan,** Young alumni of the EU Children's Participation Platform who participated in the consultation on Democracy and Voting
- **Ilija Jerković**, Fundraising Manager, Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe
- **Marta Kuljon**, Policy Officer, Rights of the Child Team, Fundamental Rights Policy Unit, DG JUST, European Commission
Moderator: **Pierre Di Giacomo**, Democracy, Anti-Corruption, Union Citizenship and Free Movement Unit, DG JUST, European Commission

3. **European Child Guarantee – Room 0B**
   - **Ally Dunhill**, Co-Chair of the EU Alliance for Investing in Children and Director of Policy, Advocacy and Communications, Eurochild
   - **Enrico Tormen**, Advocacy Adviser, Save the Children
   - Representatives of **Member States**

   Moderator: **Stefan Iszkowski**, Team Leader, Social Policies and Child Guarantee Unit, DG EMPL, European Commission

16:45 – 17:15 **Plenary session – Taking stock of key messages from the first day**

   Moderator: **Jana Hainsworth**

19:00 **Networking dinner** – with an artistic live performance

Tuesday, 24 June 2025

Morning session: Building child rights resilience for safer societies

09:00 – 10:45 **Advancing child protection for safer societies**
Opening exchange with young persons and professionals

- **Lisa-Marie Schaumburg**, Missing Children Europe Youth board member
- **Mariam,** SOS Children's Villages young representative
- **Glenn Micallef**, Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport
- **Nicolas Duprez**, Pedagogic Director of the Sequoia Programme, SOS Children's Villages Belgium

High-level Plenary session: Advancing child protection for safer and more resilient societies

- **Najat Maalla M'jid**, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (video message)
- **Ewa Kopacz**, Vice-President of the European Parliament, European Parliament's Coordinator on Children's rights
- **Elina Pekkarinen**, Chair of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children
- **Benoît Van Keirsbilck**, Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Moderator: **Jana Hainsworth**

10:45 – 11:15 **Break**

11:15 – 12:30 **Parallel thematic discussions**

1. **Connecting better child protection and child-centred justice – Room 0A**

- **Teodor,** Young Justice Transformer, Child-friendly Justice European Network
- **Martine Comte**, Former French judge and President of CODASE association
- **Anne Kayser**, Secretary of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child, Council of Europe
- **Cédric Foussard**, Global Initiative on Justice with Children Coordinator, Terre des hommes Lausanne Foundation

Moderator: **Mariama Diallo**, Coordinator, Child-Friendly Justice European Network

2. **A child-protective approach to migration – Room 0B**
   - **Stela Grigoras**, Child Protective Specialist, Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF
   - **Terry Smith**, Manager, European Guardianship Network
   - **Federica Toscano**, Senior Advocacy Adviser, Save the Children

   Moderator: **Isabela Atanasiu**, Policy and Legal Officer, Asylum Unit, DG HOME, European Commission

3. **EU Network for Children's Rights – Child protection in action at national and local levels** (Member States representatives only) – **Room 0C**
   - **Representatives of Member States only**
   - **Rights of the Child Team**, Fundamental Rights Policies Unit, DG JUST, European Commission
   - **Astrid Podsiadlowski**, Head of Sector Social Rights, Focal Point Rights of the Child, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
   - **Sandra Aigner-Accardo,** Project Manager, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
   - **Chris Archoudis**, Seconded National Expert, Rights of the Child Team, Fundamental Rights Policy Unit, DG JUST, European Commission
   - **Bairbre Meaney**, Head of the Participation, Play and Recreation Unit in the Department of Children, Disability and Equality, Ireland

   Moderator: **Marie-Cécile Rouillon**, Commission Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, Fundamental Rights Policy Unit, DG JUST, European Commission

12:30 – 14:00   Lunch

Afternoon session: Global challenges of children's rights and conclusions

14:00 – 15:15   **High-level Plenary session: The global response to children's rights violations**

- **Virginia Gamba**, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary- General for Children and Armed Conflict (video message)
- **Iryna Postolovska**, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine for the European Integration
- Member of the **European Parliament**
- **Bertrand Bainvel**, UNICEF Representative to the European Union Institutions and Director of UNICEF Partnerships Office in Brussels
- **Chege Ngugi**, Africa Regional Director, ChildFund International
- **Stella Ronner- Grubačić**, Deputy Managing Director for Values and Multilateral Relations, European External Action Service

Moderator: **Jana Hainsworth**

15:15 – 15:30   **Concluding remarks**

- **Ingrid Bellander-Todino**, Head of Unit of the Fundamental Rights Policy Unit, DG JUST, European Commission
- **Ms Anita Hørby**, Head of Division and National Child Guarantee Coordinator, Denmark
- **Jan**, Young Alumni of the EU Children's Participation Platform