

Eurochild Annual Conference: Don't miss the opportunity - Stop child poverty now

One in five European children lives in poverty. In Romania and Bulgaria, the percentage goes up to one in three. And nine out of ten European citizens believe the EU must do something to tackle poverty, including child poverty.

On the eve of the European Year 2010 against Poverty and Social Exclusion¹, Eurochild organises its 6th annual conference in collaboration with member organisation, the **Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children (PCCPWC)**, with a focus on "Monitoring child well-being, better policy and practice". The conference will be held in Cyprus, from 11 to 13 November 2009.²

Investing in children to eradicate poverty

For a Europe without poverty, ending child poverty is the most sensible place to start. To reach this ambitious goal, a child-centered approach is essential: an approach which focuses on children's rights rather than charity; an approach which values and responds to children's own views and experiences.

The **President of the Republic of Cyprus, Dimitris Christofias**, will participate in the opening ceremony reaffirming his country's commitment to children's rights and welfare. The forthcoming **Spanish and Belgian EU presidencies** will be represented by respectively **Juan Carlos Mato**, from the Spanish Ministry of Health and Social Policy and by **Philippe Courard**, Belgian Secretary of State for Social Integration and the Fight against Poverty. **Vladimir Spidla**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, will address the audience with a video speech from Brussels. Other keynote speakers include Cypriot Minister of Labour and Social Insurance **Sotiroula Charalambous**, Eurochild president and Chief Executive of Children in Wales **Catriona Williams**, and **Ninetta Kazantzis**, President of the Cypriot PCCPWC and Treasurer of Eurochild.

A conference to influence the future EU agenda on child poverty and well-being

Breaking the cycle of inter-generational inheritance of poverty is a key objective of the EU's agenda on social inclusion. Continual monitoring using common indicators are crucial to keep member states on track. But the indicators we have so far on income poverty and material deprivation do not tell us much about children's overall well-being – their health, their relationships, their leisure activities, their environment, their feelings, their sense of identity and their confidence in the future.

This conference is an opportunity to share good practice on child well-being indicators and to help shape the EU's future agenda in this field.

Several workshops will look at how these indicators are used to monitor the impact of public policy and to improve services for children and families. Special attention will be given to how children and young people are given a voice in the development and use of indicators. Youth from Ireland, Estonia, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary and Cyprus will participate in the event to share their views and experiences.

For further information, please contact Eurochild's Information and Communications Officer **Björn Becker** (Tel.: 0498 53 00 53)

Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General
Eurochild³ - Avenue des Arts 1-2, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 211 05 53 - Fax: +32 (0)2 511 72 98 - bjoern.becker@eurochild.org -
www.eurochild.org

¹ Find more information on the Website of the European Commission at www.ey2010againstpoverity.eu

² Find more information about Eurochild's Annual conference at www.eurochild.org

³ Eurochild is a network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to promote children's rights and improve the quality of life of children and young people. Eurochild's work is underpinned by the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.