

Investing in Children: A challenge and task for Europe of the 21st century

Consultation meeting under the auspices of the Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Organised by the Greek Ombudsman in collaboration with the European Commission and Eurochild

Draft program

9.30 Welcome address by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Head of the European Commission Representation in Greece and the Greek Ombudsman

10.00 *The objectives of the Recommendation of EC “INVESTING IN CHILDREN: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DISADVANTAGE” and the mechanism to promote its implementation*

Presentations by:

- Julius op de Beke, Senior policy analyst, European Commission - DG Employment
- Alexander Hoefmans, Policy and legal officer, European Commission - DG Justice
- Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General, Eurochild
- Monica Gutierrez, Member of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
- Hugh Frazer, Coordinator of the Independent Network of Experts on Social Inclusion
- Member of the EU Alliance for Investing in Children

11.30 *Investing in Children in Greece: How can the principles of the Recommendation be promoted against current austerity measures and financial restraints, utilising European Structural Funds?*

Coordination: Journalist tbc.

Round table with:

- Efi Bekou, General Secretary for Welfare
- Anna Dallaporta, General Secretary for the Management of European Funds
- Kostis Papaioannou, President of the National Commission for Human Rights
- Dimitris Ziomas, member of the Independent Network of Experts on Social Inclusion
- Member of the National Network against Poverty

13.00 Lunch Break

13.30 ***"The implementation of the Recommendation, in relation to other measures for the protection of children's rights in E.U. countries"***

Round table with the participation of European Ombudspersons for Children

Coordination by Hugh Frazer, Coordinator of the Independent Network of Experts on Social Inclusion

- Tam Baille, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People (elected as next President of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children)
- Emily Logan, Ombudsman for Children, Ireland
- Vincenzo Spadafora, Ombudsman for Childhood and Adolescence, Italy
- Marc Dullaert, Ombudsman for Children, Netherlands
- George Moschos, Deputy Ombudsman for Children's Rights, Greece

15.10 ***Listening to the voice of children – promoting children participation***

Presentation by young persons - members of the Greek Ombudsman's Youth Panel

15.30 ***Challenges towards the formation of a national alliance for investing in children in Greece***

Coordination by George Nikolaidis, National Representative of Greece in Council of Europe's Program "Building a Europe for and with Children", Head of Dpt of Mental Health and Social Welfare - Institute of Child Health

Round table with representatives of Greek public agencies and NGOs

17.30 **Conclusions:** Nikos Bouzas & Natalia Papaspyrou, Researchers from the National Centre for Social Research