

20th November 2014: Opportunity for children to speak to EU leaders

Call for nominations for child delegation to Brussels 19-21st November

Background & Purpose

In the framework of the [EU Alliance for Investing in Children](#), Eurochild proposes to support the participation of 3 children at the Convention of the European Platform against Poverty (EPAP) on 20th November in Brussels. This year EPAP falls on international children's day, when we celebrate the UNCRC's 25th anniversary, therefore it is an important opportunity to remind EU leaders of our key messages:

- Children are individual rights holders and have the right to be heard and to be involved in all decisions that affect them;
- The European Union can and must show leadership in respect and promotion of children's rights;
- To effectively address rising levels of poverty and social exclusion within Europe, the EU must prioritise children and ensure all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The expected role & contribution of children

The children¹ will have a speaking slot right at the start of the EPAP convention which will be attended by the 3 leaders of the European Union: the President of the European Commission (Claude Juncker); the President of the European Council (Donald Tusk); the President of the European Parliament (Martin Schultz). The children's speech will open the EPAP.

After the opening, the children may participate in the convention and/or organize a participatory activity of their choice. For example, we could envisage facilitating a 'children's corner' where the children have the opportunity to interview and have photographs with some of the participants – which will include public decision-makers.

From 17.30-19.30, the Alliance on Investing in Children organizes a side event on Invest in Children: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage. Depending on the interest and availability of the young people, a role could also be foreseen within this mini-conference.

Additionally, other child rights organisations are trying to confirm a short CRC anniversary event with a high representative of the Commission, with the participation of other children, including

¹ Whilst we propose to invite 3 children, the European Commission is keen that only one child speaks at the opening ceremony. This is still to be negotiated.

from outside Europe. The concrete date (19 or 20 November) and time of this meeting still needs to be confirmed but children coming to the EPAP could potentially also be involved – depending on their willingness and availability. It is expected all children would meet previously for 1,5 – 2 days to prepare.

Profile of the young people

The three participants must be under 18, and ideally 13-15 years old. The participants must have experience of engagement in participatory activities at home as well as some public speaking experience. The participants must be able to demonstrate how they will prepare for this opportunity and use the experience to further children's rights and child participation at home. Ideally the accompanying organization should be able to ensure media work before, during and after the event, and support the children to share the experience with their peers, child rights activists and professionals.

Logistics

Eurochild will cover all the travel and accommodation costs for up to 2 nights stay in Brussels, for 3 children and 2 accompanying adults. The children are expected to arrive by early afternoon 19th November and participate in the conference on 20th November. The contribution to the side event which finishes at 19.30 is subject to negotiation. Obviously we are sensitive to the children's school attendance during this time, and understand that they may need to leave earlier in order to attend school on Friday 21st November.

Selection process

We invite proposals from interested organisations by 2nd October 2014. The proposal must include the names and profiles of the young people likely to attend, plus a description of how this opportunity will build on their past experience and the experience of the accompanying organization. It should also include a description of how the organization and young people will publicise this experience and share it on their return home.

Please send you submission to: Mafalda.Leal@eurochild.org