



Strasbourg, 28 July 2008

Dear colleagues,

The Programme “Building a Europe for and with Children” was launched in April 2006 in Monaco to strengthen the Council of Europe’s work on the rights of the child.

Under the Swedish presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (May-November 2008), it is suggested that a new strategy for the years 2009-2011 be developed under the heading “Protection, provision and participation for children in Europe”, a direct reference to the rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Against this background, Sweden and the Council of Europe are jointly organising a **high level Conference on 8–10 September 2008, in Stockholm** to be opened by Her Majesty Queen Silvia. Three parallel seminars (focusing on Child-Friendly Justice, Child Participation and Violence against Children) will be held on 8 September while the conference will continue with high-level plenary sessions 9-10 September.

The aim of the Conference is twofold. Firstly we wish to take stock of the achievements and experiences so far gained under the Programme “Building a Europe for and with Children”, highlighting initiatives at national and international levels that have brought about progress in the promotion of the rights of the child. The second aim is to look into the future and to identify the parameters of the new Council of Europe strategy in this field.

With this letter **we would like to invite you to present your project and actively participate in our seminar on Meaningful and Sustainable Child Participation** as you have been informed in the previous e-mails from the secretariat.

Preparing your presentation

Please note that each project will be given 15 minutes for presentation as well as 5 minutes for direct questions and feedback from the floor. Following the presentations there will be 45 minutes for a more detailed discussion with all the projects.

See the attached seminar programme for further details on the order of project presentations.

About the objectives of the seminar:

The Conference will review the progress achieved by the programme “Building a Europe for and with children” since its inception and outline a new set of objectives

for 2009-2011. The seminar on child participation could inter alia invite the Council of Europe:

1. to draft **guidelines** on child participation which would take into account previous work of the Council of Europe and positive examples at local, national and international level.
2. to **facilitate the contact** between existing and new networks in its member states
3. to develop a **pilot project on e-participation** for children

With reference to the objectives we are inviting you to target the key factors for success in your project and also the challenges and possible obstacles, setbacks etc. you have tackled during your work. We would also be willing to get your ideas and your contribution to the possible Council of Europe guidelines on child participation through your project.

Practical Information

Your travel between the address quoted above and the meeting place (Stockholm), will be borne by the Council of Europe on the terms specified in the enclosed rules. The Council of Europe and the Swedish Government Offices will cover the travel and accommodation costs of **max 3 persons/project (max 2 adults)** while all main meals will be provided free of charge throughout your stay. In line with the attached rules, the remainder of the per-diem will cover any miscellaneous expenses you may have. Should you feel that it is extremely necessary that 4 members attend, please contact Ms Maarit Kuikka (contact details below) immediately and we will consider your proposal.

You are requested to arrange your journey by the most economical route, using if possible tickets at reduced rates (Pex, excursion, etc.). Your travel expenses will be reimbursed **only** upon presentation of documentary evidence of the sum actually paid (invoice, copy of credit card slip, etc.). **If an invoice is provided, this must be the original document issued by the travel agency or airline that issued the ticket.** This evidence of the expenditure together with the relevant travel tickets (plane, train, etc.) should be attached to the completed claim form for reimbursement. All these documents should be returned to the Secretariat at the beginning of the meeting.

If no public transportation is used, travel expenses will be reimbursed according to Article 6. of the enclosed rules. Specific travel-related risks are covered by an **AIG EUROPE** insurance policy (number **2.004.761**), which provides cover for persons up to their 76th birthday. The following help line **AIG EUROPE Assistance 24 Hours** can be called in case of need: **(32) 3 253 69 16**.

To **register** for this event and to make your hotel registration please proceed to our Registration website (www.respoint.se/itp/event/children) and in the "Registration" section, please enter the following:

Usersid children
Password happy2008

Please provide us **by August 15 at the latest** with the:

- names;
- titles;
- contact information of the participants;
- information on technical equipment you will need for your presentation.

For the young participants we will also need information regarding their:

- gender;
- age;
- special requirements (if any).

We are also asking the young participants to bring a document of consent from the parents/guardians:

- to participate in the Stockholm conference;
- to be photographed for possible media or other related purposes.

Please make sure that the young participants have an insurance to cover the possible illness or accident during the trip.

For any further question, please contact Ms Maarit Kuikka (tel.: +33 (0) 90 21 48 29; fax: + 33(0)3 90 21 52 85; e-mail: maarit.kuikka@coe.int).

We look forward to seeing you in Stockholm,

Yours sincerely,

Elda Moreno

Head of Division
Children's Rights and Family Policies

Please find attached the following documents:

- Seminar Program
- Seminar Outline
- Council of Europe rules on reimbursement