



# Advocating for Children's rights: linking vision with action



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**“Vision without action is just a dream.  
Action without vision is a waste of time.  
Vision with action can change the world”**

**Nelson Mandela**



# Our vision for Europe:

**A continent built upon values:**

- ✓ **Human Rights**
- ✓ **Democracy**
- ✓ **Rule of Law**



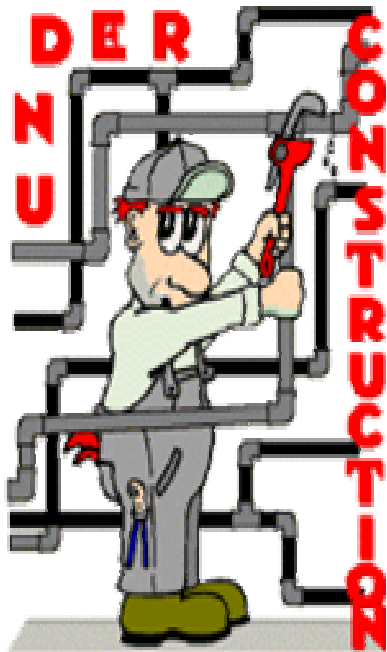
**Where more than 800 million citizens feel safe, happy and at home**



# Our action for Europe

in the field of Children's Rights includes:

- ✓ Standard setting
- ✓ Monitoring progress
- ✓ Technical assistance
- ✓ Awareness raising, training and education





# Our action for Europe

## Standard setting: main conventions

- ✓ **European Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**
- ✓ **European Social Charter**
- ✓ **European Convention for the prevention of Torture and inhuman treatments**
- ✓ **European Convention on adoption of children**
- ✓ **European Convention on the exercise of Children's Rights**
- ✓ **European Convention on contact concerning children**
- ✓ **European Convention against trafficking in human beings**



# Our action for Europe



## Standard setting:

Recommendations from our

Parliamentary Assembly, notably on:

- ✓ **A European Strategy for Children**
- ✓ **Building a society for and with children**
- ✓ **Improving the lot of abandoned children in institutions**
- ✓ **Europe-wide ban of corporal punishment**





# Our action for Europe



## Standard setting:

**Recommendations and Resolutions from our Committee of Ministers, notably on:**

- ✓ **Placement of Children**
- ✓ **Foster families**
- ✓ **Protection of children against ill-treatment**
- ✓ **Parental responsibilities**
- ✓ **Social reactions to juvenile delinquency**
- ✓ **Coherent and integrated family policies**
- ✓ **Children's participation in family and social life**
- ✓ **Rights of Children living in residential institutions**



# Our action for Europe



**Standard setting: a closer look to the rights of children living in institutions**



**Recommendation Rec (2005)  
of the Committee of  
Ministers to member States  
on the rights of children  
living in institutions**





## Recommendation Rec (2005) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the rights of children living in institutions



### Two main Principles:

- Decisions should always be taken in the best interests of the individual child
- The dignity and the Child rights should be always protected and promoted



# Recommendation Rec (2005) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the rights of children living in institutions

## Basic principles



The **family** is the natural environment: parents have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of children

Need to prevent separation: support families and address root-causes

Placement should remain an exception, contact with the family should be maintained if possible

**The placement** should be the result of a procedure with guarantees, not be longer than necessary, subject to periodic reviews, carefully monitored, and look forward to the needs and the future of the child



# Recommendation Rec (2005) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the rights of children living in institutions

## Basic principles

The **institution** should

- function according to clear and accessible public regulations and standards approved in due respect of children's rights
- receive the necessary support from the authorities in terms of trained staff and facilities

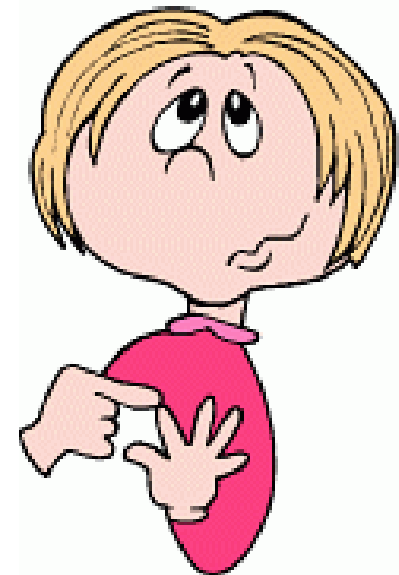




# Recommendation Rec (2005) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the rights of children living in institutions

## Specific Rights of children

- to be placed only if need be, on the basis of a multidisciplinary assessment which is periodically reviewed and for which the Child views are sought
- to maintain regular contacts the family and other significant people
- to be placed with siblings when possible
- good quality health care, education, training
- respect of dignity and physical integrity





## Recommendation Rec (2005) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the rights of children living in institutions

### Specific Rights of children



- to privacy, including access to a person they trust and to a competent body for confidential advice
- to be prepared for active and responsible citizenship
- to participate in decision making processes
- to be informed about children's rights and the rules of the institution in a child-friendly way
- to make complaints to an identifiable, impartial and independent body



# Recommendation Rec (2005) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the rights of children living in institutions

## Guidelines and Quality standards for institutions

- Close to the child's environment, in small family-style living units
- Individual care plan preparing for living outside
- Organisation of staff allowing for
  - Quality and stability of living units and adequately remunerated staff (professional and trained staff)
  - Multidisciplinary team-work and diversified staff
- Functioning according to a code of ethics
- Accredited, registered, monitored (by external authority)
- With procedures for effective sanctioning of infringements to children's rights



# Our action for Europe

## Monitoring implementation:

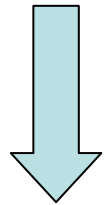
- ✓ European Court of Human Rights
- ✓ European Committee of Social Rights
- ✓ Commissioner for Human Rights
- ✓ Advisory Committee of the framework convention on national minorities
- ✓ European Commission against racism and intolerance (ECRI)
- ✓ European Committee for the prevention of torture
- ✓ European Roma Forum
- ✓ Reports by NGOs



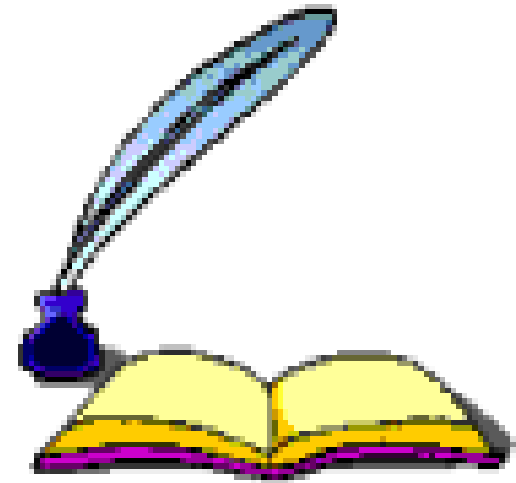


# Renewing commitments

Third Summit of Heads of  
State and Government  
(2005):



Confirmed commitment to the  
protection of children's rights







In April 2006:

Launching of the Programme **Building a Europe for  
and with children** and its three-year Campaign on  
**Children and violence**



CHILDREN AND VIOLENCE  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROGRAMME

ENFANCE ET VIOLENCE  
PROGRAMME du CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



## Building a Europe for and with children

- **Promotion of children's rights through**
  - Improving Legislative frameworks and setting new standards if necessary
  - Elaborating comprehensive policies that integrate all children needs and address rootcauses of children distress
  - Reviewing and building institutional framework
  - Launching awareness campaigns, producing education material and providing training
  - Promoting networks and exchange of good practices
- **Promotion children's participation and**
  - Ensure children's access to information
  - Develop children's consultation and participation



# Fighting violence against children

## How?

**A core objective:** protecting children

**An aim:** help States to implement standards

### **Five specific objectives**

- Involving children
- Ensuring implementation of standards
- Framing strategies for action in various settings (family, schools, residential institutions, community)
- Framing national prevention strategies
- Making proposals for strategies at local level



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**With your commitment  
and support:**



**We are getting closer to our  
vision!!**

