

EU strategy on the rights of the child (2021-2024)

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

Children's rights are the human rights of all those below the age of 18. According to the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child, every child in the world is entitled to the same set of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights – irrespective of their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities, migration status, sexual orientation or any other status.

The protection of children's rights is an objective of the European Union; a guiding principle for EU institutions' actions, and for the EU Member States. The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is the legal basis for the EU action. The Charter applies to the EU institutions and bodies and the Member States when they are implementing EU law. In some areas which relate to children's rights, the EU has the competence to harmonise legislation at national level, while in others it has the power to act through other tools, such as policy coordination, or funding. Several areas of EU action also have an influence, direct or indirect, on the rights of children.

The Covid-19 pandemic, and the measures taken to respond to it, have a significant impact on children's rights.

The European Commission is preparing a new strategy on the rights of the child – and this consultation constitutes a key milestone in its preparation. The strategy will provide the policy framework for EU action on children's rights. It will present the actions (legislative, policy, funding etc.) at EU level that contribute to the protection of the rights of the child, both internally and in its external action.

The strategy will address challenges to children's rights, including in the context of the current Covid-19 pandemic, and ensure synergies with recent and upcoming policy developments. The strategy will include a list of actions for the Commission to implement in the course of the current mandate. It will also include recommendations for actions by other EU institutions and bodies, Member States and stakeholders.

The strategy will focus on several thematic areas, which could include the following priorities (non-exhaustive and non-definitive list): Child participation; Digital and Information Society; Violence against children; Health, welfare and social inclusion; Education, leisure and culture; Child-friendly justice; Migration; children affected by armed conflicts. It will also include horizontal actions to foster mainstreaming and coordination. Not all thematic areas are touched upon in this consultation, which aims at collecting more in depth input under selected topics.

The strategy will build on the 2011 EU Agenda for the Rights of the child, and other relevant policy frameworks.

The ultimate objective of the strategy is to contribute to strengthening the protection of children's rights through EU action, both in the EU and in the world.

Guidance on the questionnaire

Thank you for your contribution.

All replies as well as position papers will be published [online](#). Please read the privacy statement on how personal data and contributions will be processed.

The estimated time for completion is 30 minutes.

About you

* Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- Gaelic
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

Text

* I am giving my contribution as

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Company/business organisation
- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation
- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

* First name

Marleen

* Surname

KESTENS

* Email (this won't be published)

mkestens@ehnheart.org

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

European Heart Network

* Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the [transparency register](#). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Afghanistan | <input type="radio"/> Djibouti | <input type="radio"/> Libya | <input type="radio"/> Saint Martin |
| <input type="radio"/> Åland Islands | <input type="radio"/> Dominica | <input type="radio"/> Liechtenstein | <input type="radio"/> Saint Pierre and Miquelon |
| <input type="radio"/> Albania | <input type="radio"/> Dominican Republic | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania | <input type="radio"/> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| <input type="radio"/> Algeria | <input type="radio"/> Ecuador | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg | <input type="radio"/> Samoa |
| <input type="radio"/> American Samoa | <input type="radio"/> Egypt | <input type="radio"/> Macau | <input type="radio"/> San Marino |
| <input type="radio"/> Andorra | <input type="radio"/> El Salvador | <input type="radio"/> Madagascar | <input type="radio"/> São Tomé and Príncipe |
| <input type="radio"/> Angola | <input type="radio"/> Equatorial Guinea | <input type="radio"/> Malawi | <input type="radio"/> Saudi Arabia |
| <input type="radio"/> Anguilla | <input type="radio"/> Eritrea | <input type="radio"/> Malaysia | <input type="radio"/> Senegal |
| <input type="radio"/> Antarctica | <input type="radio"/> Estonia | <input type="radio"/> Maldives | <input type="radio"/> Serbia |
| <input type="radio"/> Antigua and Barbuda | <input type="radio"/> Eswatini | <input type="radio"/> Mali | <input type="radio"/> Seychelles |
| <input type="radio"/> Argentina | <input type="radio"/> Ethiopia | <input type="radio"/> Malta | <input type="radio"/> Sierra Leone |
| <input type="radio"/> Armenia | <input type="radio"/> Falkland Islands | <input type="radio"/> Marshall Islands | <input type="radio"/> Singapore |
| <input type="radio"/> Aruba | <input type="radio"/> Faroe Islands | <input type="radio"/> Martinique | <input type="radio"/> Sint Maarten |
| <input type="radio"/> Australia | <input type="radio"/> Fiji | <input type="radio"/> Mauritania | <input type="radio"/> Slovakia |
| <input type="radio"/> Austria | <input type="radio"/> Finland | <input type="radio"/> Mauritius | <input type="radio"/> Slovenia |
| <input type="radio"/> Azerbaijan | <input type="radio"/> France | <input type="radio"/> Mayotte | <input type="radio"/> Solomon Islands |
| <input type="radio"/> Bahamas | <input type="radio"/> French Guiana | <input type="radio"/> Mexico | <input type="radio"/> Somalia |
| <input type="radio"/> Bahrain | <input type="radio"/> French Polynesia | <input type="radio"/> Micronesia | <input type="radio"/> South Africa |
| <input type="radio"/> Bangladesh | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Moldova | <input type="radio"/> |

- | | French
Southern and
Antarctic Lands | | South Georgia
and the South
Sandwich
Islands |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Barbados | <input type="radio"/> Gabon | <input type="radio"/> Monaco | <input type="radio"/> South Korea |
| <input type="radio"/> Belarus | <input type="radio"/> Georgia | <input type="radio"/> Mongolia | <input type="radio"/> South Sudan |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Belgium | <input type="radio"/> Germany | <input type="radio"/> Montenegro | <input type="radio"/> Spain |
| <input type="radio"/> Belize | <input type="radio"/> Ghana | <input type="radio"/> Montserrat | <input type="radio"/> Sri Lanka |
| <input type="radio"/> Benin | <input type="radio"/> Gibraltar | <input type="radio"/> Morocco | <input type="radio"/> Sudan |
| <input type="radio"/> Bermuda | <input type="radio"/> Greece | <input type="radio"/> Mozambique | <input type="radio"/> Suriname |
| <input type="radio"/> Bhutan | <input type="radio"/> Greenland | <input type="radio"/> Myanmar /Burma | <input type="radio"/> Svalbard and Jan Mayen |
| <input type="radio"/> Bolivia | <input type="radio"/> Grenada | <input type="radio"/> Namibia | <input type="radio"/> Sweden |
| <input type="radio"/> Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba | <input type="radio"/> Guadeloupe | <input type="radio"/> Nauru | <input type="radio"/> Switzerland |
| <input type="radio"/> Bosnia and Herzegovina | <input type="radio"/> Guam | <input type="radio"/> Nepal | <input type="radio"/> Syria |
| <input type="radio"/> Botswana | <input type="radio"/> Guatemala | <input type="radio"/> Netherlands | <input type="radio"/> Taiwan |
| <input type="radio"/> Bouvet Island | <input type="radio"/> Guernsey | <input type="radio"/> New Caledonia | <input type="radio"/> Tajikistan |
| <input type="radio"/> Brazil | <input type="radio"/> Guinea | <input type="radio"/> New Zealand | <input type="radio"/> Tanzania |
| <input type="radio"/> British Indian Ocean Territory | <input type="radio"/> Guinea-Bissau | <input type="radio"/> Nicaragua | <input type="radio"/> Thailand |
| <input type="radio"/> British Virgin Islands | <input type="radio"/> Guyana | <input type="radio"/> Niger | <input type="radio"/> The Gambia |
| <input type="radio"/> Brunei | <input type="radio"/> Haiti | <input type="radio"/> Nigeria | <input type="radio"/> Timor-Leste |
| <input type="radio"/> Bulgaria | <input type="radio"/> Heard Island and McDonald Islands | <input type="radio"/> Niue | <input type="radio"/> Togo |
| <input type="radio"/> Burkina Faso | <input type="radio"/> Honduras | <input type="radio"/> Norfolk Island | <input type="radio"/> Tokelau |
| <input type="radio"/> Burundi | <input type="radio"/> Hong Kong | <input type="radio"/> Northern Mariana Islands | <input type="radio"/> Tonga |
| <input type="radio"/> Cambodia | <input type="radio"/> Hungary | <input type="radio"/> North Korea | <input type="radio"/> Trinidad and Tobago |
| <input type="radio"/> Cameroon | <input type="radio"/> Iceland | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Tunisia |

- ◉ Canada
- ◉ Cape Verde
- ◉ Cayman Islands
- ◉ Central African Republic
- ◉ Chad
- ◉ Chile
- ◉ China
- ◉ Christmas Island
- ◉ Clipperton
- ◉ Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- ◉ Colombia
- ◉ Comoros
- ◉ Congo
- ◉ Cook Islands
- ◉ Costa Rica
- ◉ Côte d'Ivoire
- ◉ Croatia
- ◉ Cuba
- ◉ Curaçao
- ◉ Cyprus
- ◉ Czechia
- ◉ India
- ◉ Indonesia
- ◉ Iran
- ◉ Iraq
- ◉ Ireland
- ◉ Isle of Man
- ◉ Israel
- ◉ Italy
- ◉ Jamaica
- ◉ Japan
- ◉ Jersey
- ◉ Jordan
- ◉ Kazakhstan
- ◉ Kenya
- ◉ Kiribati
- ◉ Kosovo
- ◉ Kuwait
- ◉ Kyrgyzstan
- ◉ Laos
- ◉ Latvia
- ◉ Lebanon
- ◉ North Macedonia
- ◉ Norway
- ◉ Oman
- ◉ Pakistan
- ◉ Palau
- ◉ Palestine
- ◉ Panama
- ◉ Papua New Guinea
- ◉ Paraguay
- ◉ Peru
- ◉ Philippines
- ◉ Pitcairn Islands
- ◉ Poland
- ◉ Portugal
- ◉ Puerto Rico
- ◉ Qatar
- ◉ Réunion
- ◉ Romania
- ◉ Russia
- ◉ Rwanda
- ◉ Saint Barthélemy
- ◉ Turkey
- ◉ Turkmenistan
- ◉ Turks and Caicos Islands
- ◉ Tuvalu
- ◉ Uganda
- ◉ Ukraine
- ◉ United Arab Emirates
- ◉ United Kingdom
- ◉ United States
- ◉ United States Minor Outlying Islands
- ◉ Uruguay
- ◉ US Virgin Islands
- ◉ Uzbekistan
- ◉ Vanuatu
- ◉ Vatican City
- ◉ Venezuela
- ◉ Vietnam
- ◉ Wallis and Futuna
- ◉ Western Sahara
- ◉ Yemen
- ◉ Zambia

- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Denmark
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Saint Helena
- Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Zimbabwe

*** Publication privacy settings**

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

A. General questions

1. Over the past 10 years, the overall situation of children's rights has:

| | Significantly declined | Slightly declined | Not changed | Slightly improved | Significantly improved | I don't know |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| In your region | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| In your country | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| In the EU | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Outside of the EU | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

2. To what extent the following population groups /professional sectors are aware of children's rights:

| | Good | Satisfactory | Not good | I don't know |
|--|------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| | | | | |






| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Children | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Parents and families | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Government | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Educators | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Health-care professionals | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Social services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Judiciary | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Law enforcement | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Migration authorities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| IT/digital sector | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Media | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| General population | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

3. Which of the following should be a priority for action in your country? 1 star = least important, 8 stars = top priority

| | |
|--|---|
| Child participation in the political and democratic life | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Digital and information society | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Violence in all its forms | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Welfare, health and social inclusion | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Education, leisure and culture | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Child-friendly justice | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Mainstreaming child rights in all actions | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Coordination among relevant actors | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |

4. Which of the following should be a priority for EU action? 1 star = least important, 8 stars = top priority

| | |
|--|---|
| Child participation in the political and democratic life | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Digital and information society | <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Violence in all its forms | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| | |

| | |
|---|--|
| Welfare, health and social inclusion |  |
| Education, leisure and culture |  |
| Child-friendly justice |  |
| Mainstreaming child rights in all actions |  |
| Coordination among relevant actors |  |

5. What areas should EU action focus on, to foster the protection of children's rights?

between 1 and 5 choices

- Introduce new or revise existing EU legislation
- Enforce and monitor the application of EU legislation
- Enhance the mainstreaming of children's rights in all relevant EU policies
- Draft or review specific framework(s) in key policy areas
- Help Member States and third countries implement their obligations under the UNCRC
- Provide funding for projects on children's rights inside and outside the EU
- Gather data on children's rights
- Capacity-building and training for professionals
- Information and awareness-raising campaigns, including for children
- Strengthen cooperation and coordination between Member States
- Provide for mutual learning between EU Member States and third-countries
- Collaborate with civil society organisations and international organisations

6. Please further explain your choices above:

1500 character(s) maximum

EU action should focus on all the areas listed above, which are mutually enhancing and all required if the EU is to effectively protect children's rights.

Children's rights commitments must translate into practice and contribute to the improvement of children's daily lives. Article 24 EU Charter mandates that 'children shall have the right to such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being', and that 'in all actions relating to children, whether taken by public authorities or private institutions, the child's best interests must be a primary consideration'. This provision implements Article 3(1) UNCRC which is interpreted extensively by the CRC Committee. It requires that policymakers should prioritize possible solutions which are in the child's best interests.

The best interests of the child principle requires that the EU explain how it has respected the right to have the best interests of the child considered as a primary consideration, including how it has been weighted against other considerations, at all stages of the policy process. This increases the burden on States (and

consequently the EU) to ensure that they move away from mere rhetoric and engage with actual evidence when balancing competing rights and interests, using children’s rights impact assessments and children’s rights impact evaluations. Importantly, longer-term child development considerations should be prioritised over short-term economic considerations.

7. Covid-19 has significantly impacted children and their rights. How could child rights and child protection be better embedded in response mechanisms to the pandemic, and to emergency situations in general.

2000 character(s) maximum

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the number 1 killer in the EU. Therefore the EU must recognise the importance of promoting good health and preventing diseases throughout the life course. Underlying CVD conditions increase the risk of suffering and dying from COVID-19. The pandemic increases the urgency to regulate the commercial determinants of health effectively. All children should be able to access online services and participate in the digital environment, whilst ensuring that their access and participation does not entail the infringement of any of their rights. This is all the more so as the food industry have been shown to ‘capitalize’ on a public health pandemic by engaging in marketing activities detrimental to public health. Effective cross-border regulation and enforcement of such regulation must ensure that the best interests of the child are upheld as a primary consideration.

The internal market shall work for the sustainable development of Europe. The extent to which harmful cross-border marketing is regulated at EU level is a question of political will. It also represents a leadership failure of the EU not to have used the tools at its disposal to try and convince reluctant Member States of the need for harmonized cross-border marketing restrictions (in particular but not exclusively for unhealthy food) and their enforcement (e.g. tobacco) to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market, whilst protecting children from harm and therefore ensuring a high level of public health protection. The adoption of an EU Children’s Rights Strategy in times of COVID-19 offers the EU yet another opportunity to regulate harmful marketing effectively by protecting all children (0-18) from exposure to such marketing and putting their best interests at the heart of its health, consumer and internal market policies.

B. Participation in the EU political and democratic life

8. To what extent do you agree with the following statements

| | Fully agree | Partially agree | Partially disagree | Fully disagree | I don't know |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Participation of children in the political and democratic life should be encouraged through EU action | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| The EU should become closer to its child citizens, including through adapted communication | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| EU institutions should consult children directly in policy making and programming | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| The EU should support child participation at the local and national level | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Child participation only matters at the local and national level, not at the EU level | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

9. What are the main challenges to ensuring child participation in the political and democratic life in the EU?

at most 3 choice(s)

- Children are not seen as citizens who have a right or the capacity to participate
- Lack of political will
- Lack of adequate expertise and know-how
- Lack of financial resources
- Difficulty to include different groups of children/ not all children have access to channels of participation

10. Which mechanism(s) should the EU develop?

at most 4 choice(s)

- Child advisory board(s)
- Children's Parliament(s)
- On-line consultations
- Ad-hoc meetings with children
- Regular consultations on upcoming legislation, policy making and programming
- Dedicated child-friendly information and campaigns
- EU competition on child participation (for schools, municipalities etc.)
- Initiatives through schools on the EU and children's rights
- Funding for child participation at local and national level

C. Digital information and society

The implications of the digital age for children's rights are manifold and ever changing. Examples are: the right to privacy and to be forgotten; the right of access to information and the right to education; the right to be safeguarded from abuse; the right to freedom of expression and the right to be heard. EU actions include the [European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children](#) - with EU funding to the [Safer Internet Centres](#) network and the [Alliance to better protect minors online](#), the [Digital Education Action Plan](#), the [2018 Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#) and data protection compliance via [GDPR](#), as well as the potential regulatory framework on artificial intelligence (White Paper on Artificial Intelligence of 19.2.2020).

11. To what extent do you agree with the following statements

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | Fully agree | Partially agree | Partially disagree | Fully disagree | I don't know |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| The European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children should be renewed | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| The EU legislation in this field adequately caters for the protection of children's rights | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The EU plays a key role in fostering protection of children's rights in the digital environment | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| IT companies should play a bigger role in ensuring the protection of children's rights in the digital environment | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Children need to be involved in designing and regulating the world of new technologies, where they are the main users | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

12. What should EU action focus on, in order to foster the protection of children's rights in the digital environment?

at most 4 choice(s)

- Introduce new or revise existing EU legislation
- Enforce and monitor the application of EU legislation
- Draft or review specific policy frameworks
- Provide funding (e.g. for Safer Internet Centres)
- Gather data on children's use of new media, and the impact on their rights
- Capacity-building and training for professionals
- Information and awareness-raising campaigns, including for children
- Strengthen cooperation with IT companies
- Facilitate the participation of children to the creation of new technologies

D. Violence against children

To tackle violence against children, the EU adopted – amongst others - the [2011 Directive on sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children \(including child pornography and child prostitution\)](#), the [2011 Directive on trafficking in human beings](#), the [Victims' Rights Directive](#), the 2020 EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse, and the [2008 EU guidelines on children in armed conflict](#). In addition, it co-funds Safer Internet Centers, and EU legislation established the 116 000 hotlines for missing children and the 116 111 child helplines in almost all EU Member States.

13. Which of the following should the EU focus on to help fight violence against children?

at most 4 choice(s)

-

Further elaborate and promote the 2015 Principles on Integrated Child Protection Systems

- Support Member States in improving the collection of data on children affected by all types of violence
- Support cooperation and exchange among actors at national and EU level involved in the fight against violence
- Set up a Member States expert group on violence against children
- Support funding of assistance programmes in development and cooperation, assistance to the neighbourhood and humanitarian aid
- Focus on online violence, and all forms of violence related to new technologies
- Focus on gender-based violence, including harmful practices, also outside the EU
- Further promote and support the existing European child helpline and hotline for missing children
- End and prevent violence against children affected by conflicts

14. Based on your professional experience, does violence particularly affect certain groups of children?

at most 4 choice(s)

- Girls
- Boys
- LGBTI children
- Children in migration
- Children with disabilities
- Children belonging to an ethnic minority
- Children in care
- Children at school
- Street children
- Children in poverty
- Children in the online space
- Children living in conflict-affected countries/humanitarian settings
- I don't have professional experience related to this

E. Justice & Migration

In the area of child-friendly justice, a [Directive on procedural safeguards for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings](#) was adopted in 2016. Child victims are also a focus of the [2012 Victims' Rights](#)

[Directive](#). A recast of Brussels IIa Regulation was adopted in 2019 to make cross-border family proceedings cheaper and faster for children and their families. The [2020 EU Justice Scoreboard](#) provides a comparative assessment of national developments on child-friendly justice.

In 2017, the Commission issued a [Communication on the protection of children in migration](#). The EU migration acquis contains special provisions for children, such as the [2003 Family reunification Directive](#), the [Dublin Regulation](#), the [2013 Reception conditions Directive](#) or the [2013 Asylum Procedure Directive](#).

15. Do you see gaps in EU legislation on child-friendly justice, or issues in its implementation? What further legislative action, if any, should the EU take in this field?

2000 character(s) maximum

16. Where should the EU act first, to contribute to child-friendly justice systems?

at most 4 choice(s)

- Introduce new or revise existing EU legislation (where it is competent to legislate)
- Enforce and monitor the application of EU legislation
- Draft or review specific policy framework
- Provide funding for authorities and other actors involved in the justice system
- Gather data
- Capacity-building and training for professionals, also outside the EU
- Information and awareness-raising campaigns, including for children
- Strengthen cooperation and coordination at EU level and between Member States

17. The 2017 Communication on the protection of children in migration remains the framework for EU action in this field. What parts of the Communication have not progressed enough in your opinion, and where would you suggest efforts be concentrated in the future?

2000 character(s) maximum

18. Are there other priorities (which are not included in the 2017 Communication) which you would like EU action to focus on?

1500 character(s) maximum

Further information

If you wish to add further relevant comments or information, please do so here:

2000 character(s) maximum

We regret the absence of references to the child-consumer, and the imperative for the EU to protect the rights of all children-consumers (0-18). The EU has extensive competences in the area of internal market and consumer policy. We call on the EU to address the commercial determinants of health and regulate all forms of marketing which are detrimental to children.

Harmful marketing infringes many of the rights enshrined both in the UNCRC and in the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (the EU Charter), including (but not limited to) the right to health, the right to privacy, the right to be free from economic exploitation, and the right to have the best interests of the child considered as a primary consideration in all policy areas.

We call on the EU to adopt an evidence-driven, child-rights based approach to the regulation of all forms of harmful marketing which negatively affect children's rights, including the marketing of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, unhealthy food and breastmilk substitutes, energy drinks, gambling services, and slimming/weight management/cosmetic products and treatments whose consumption entails specific public health concerns. Bearing in mind the twin obligation resting on the EU to mainstream children's rights and ensure a high level of public health protection in all its policies, we call on the EU to regulate all forms of cross-border harmful marketing to protect all children (up to 18) from exposure to such marketing on all cross-border media (broadcast, digital, print, packaging and sponsorship of events of cross-border appeal).

The EU should entrust the regulation of harmful marketing to DG Health rather than other Commission DG, and recognise – at last – that Codes of Conduct have failed to protect children from exposure to harmful marketing and adopt instead EU-wide legally binding provisions to this effect.

We have not commented on questions that do not relate to our area of expertise.

Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as additional evidence supporting your responses, or a position paper. The uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire.

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

1d2fd9b2-3c81-4314-a14d-9b2542554fe4/Collective_EU_Consultation_Response_FINAL.pdf

Contact

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