

Save the Children / Danish EU Presidency
Conference on

Unaccompanied Minors Arriving in Europe

Recent Developments & Practical Tools

PROGRAMME

MONDAY 18 June 2012

09:30-10:00 REGISTRATION

Conference Moderators:

Fourentza Antoniou (Danish Ministry of Justice)

Rebecca O' Donnell (Save the Children)

10:00-11:00 INTRODUCTION

- a. **Welcome - the current situation, existing challenges and goals of the conference**
Speaker: Mr. Morten Bødskov (Danish Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Justice and Home Affairs Council).
- b. **The future of unaccompanied children arriving in Europe - finding durable solutions that are in their best interests: where are we and what next?**
Speaker: Mrs. Mimi Jakobsen (General Secretary, Save the Children Denmark).
- c. **Status of the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors, recent developments and next steps**
Speaker: Mrs. Diane Schmitt (Head of Unit, EU-Commission, Home Affairs).

11:00-12:00 PRACTICAL TOOLS ON HOW TO EXAMINE THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD WHEN GRANTING RESIDENCE PERMITS OR IN RETURN PROCEDURES

- a. Introduction to checklist & inventory of noteworthy practices emerging from the ECRE/Save the Children study commissioned by the European Commission.

Speaker: Ms. Hélène Soupios - David, Project Officer, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE).

- b. Development of UNHCR/UNICEF Guidance on determining the best interests of unaccompanied and separated children in Europe.

Speaker: Mrs. Andrea Vonkeman, Senior Policy Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

- c. Restoring Family Links in third countries and Europe.

Speaker: Ms Hilde Sagon, Legal Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

- d. Return and Reintegration Programmes.

Speaker: Ms. Ana Fonseca, International Organization for Migration (IOM).

12:00-13:30 **LUNCH (AND FAMILY PHOTO)**

13:30-15:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A - NATIONAL EXPERIENCES ON EXPLORING DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS**

The panel discussion will focus on specific issues touching upon common areas where more guidance is needed. Participants are encouraged to use this platform to exchange good practices, discuss challenges and consider ongoing developments.

Exchange between participants and panel members on:

- a. Role of guardians in facilitating sustainable outcomes

Speaker: Mr. Tin Verstegen, Director of NIDOS Foundation (the Guardianship and Family Guardianship Organisation for refugees and asylum seekers in the Netherlands).

- b. National processes for exploring durable solutions

Speaker: Mrs. Stefanie Defoer, Belgian Immigration Office.

- c. Exploring family tracing projects

Speaker: Ms. Camilla Myhrer Abrahamsen, Norwegian Directorate of Immigration.

- d. Exploring voluntary return schemes as well as integration schemes

Speakers: Dr. Alexander Bollongino, Federal Ministry of Interior, Germany and Ms. Francesca Biondi, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Italy.

15:00-15:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:30-17:00 **WORKSHOPS (Participants will attend one workshop on 18 June and another workshop on 19 June 2012. An overview of participants for each workshop will be distributed).**

WORKSHOP 1: How can an effective guardianship/ representation for unaccompanied minors be established to ensure durable solutions in the best interests of the child?

- *In what way can guardians / representatives for unaccompanied minors contribute to the search for a durable solution?*
- *What kind of mandate, qualifications, training and monitoring is necessary for guardians /representatives to contribute to durable solutions?*
- *What kinds of tools are needed?*

Workshop Facilitators: Mr. Jakob Dam Glynstrup, Danish Immigration Service (rapporteur) and Ms. Anne Sander, Danish Red Cross

WORKSHOP 2: Securing durable solutions which respect the best interests of the child

- *How can Member States build processes that ensure the best interests of the child are properly considered when deciding on the final outcome for the situation of the child?*
- *Should standard operating procedures for actors engaged in the situation of the child be created to facilitate finding and implementing sustainable solutions?*
- *What tools exist for collecting information and documentation on the circumstances of the child and solutions under consideration?*
- *What are the key components of the decision making?*

Workshop Facilitators: Mrs. Andrea Vonkeman, UNHCR (rapporteur) and Ms. Francesca Biondi, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Italy.

WORKSHOP 3: How to trace family members of unaccompanied minors in order to find durable solutions

- *What are the most effective ways to trace family members of unaccompanied minors, in the EU and in their country of origin?*
- *How can tracing procedures be improved in order to strengthen cooperation between Member States and between actors in Member States and in countries of origin?*

Workshop Facilitators: Ms. Helen-Marie Fraher, EASO and Ms. Ana Fonseca, IOM (rapporteur).

WORKSHOP 4: Strengthening cooperation with third countries on return and ensuring effective reintegration of returning unaccompanied minors.

- *What are the most effective mechanisms for eliciting information on the circumstances of children in the country of return in order to ensure a safe environment for return?*

- *How to strengthen cooperation with third countries to ensure that adequate reception facilities are in place and/or subsequent care for minors, including support for reuniting with family members in the country of origin?*
- *What best practices exist on reintegration programs for returning unaccompanied minors?*

Workshop Facilitators: Mrs. Rebecca O'Donnell, Save the Children and Ms. Ophelia Elliott, UK Border Agency (rapporteur).

17:00 - **DRINKS RECEPTION AT THE PARLIAMENT**

TUESDAY 19 June 2012

9:00-9:45 a. **Insights into the experiences of the child**

Speaker: *Ms. Mozhdeh Ghasemiyani, Danish Psychologist*

b. **The children's situation from their perspective and having regard to their rights.**

Speaker: *Dr. Maria Amor Estebanez, Fundamental Rights Agency*

09:45-11:15 **WORKSHOPS CONTINUE**

(Facilitators will remain the same for these workshops; however participants are asked to join their second preference for day 2, cf. overview of participants for each workshop which will be distributed).

11:15-11:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:45-13:00 **CONCLUDING PLENARY SESSION**

a. Feedback from workshops – rapporteurs from the four workshops will present the results of their two workshop sessions in a coherent format.

b. General Summing Up of the Conference by Olivia Lind, Director and EU Representative, EU Office Save the Children and Henrik Ankerstjerne, the Danish EU Presidency, Danish Ministry of Justice.

13:00-14:30 **LUNCH**