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LIMITE

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations
Subject: Presidency outcome paper - Rights of the Child

Delegations will find attached the Presidency outcome paper on the Rights of the Child as discussed during the FREMP meeting on 5 September 2025.

Presidency Outcome Paper: FREMP Meeting on the Rights of the Child

The FREMP meeting on September 5 focused on the Rights of the Child with a specific focus on preventing and combatting violence against children. The meeting began with a presentation from the Commission's Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, who provided an update on the Commission's work under the Strategy on the Rights of the Child. This was followed by a presentation from Child Helpline International, highlighting the vital role of child helplines in protecting children and supporting victims of violence. Following these presentations, Member States engaged in an exchange of views, sharing their national experiences, initiatives, and legislative developments aimed at preventing and combating all forms of violence against children.

1. Presentation by the Commission on the Rights of the Child

Following a brief introduction from the Presidency, the Commission's Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, Marie-Cécile Rouillon, presented an update to the Commission's ongoing work in relation to the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and Council Conclusions on the same subject. The Commission highlighted, amongst other initiatives, its work on the *Call to Action* from the EU Child Participation Platform, which gathers calls from children directed at EU decision-makers.

In order to deliver on the strategy, the presentation emphasized the importance of advancing the objectives outlined in the Commission's Recommendation on Integrated Child Protection Systems. This recommendation aims to encourage Member States to strengthen and further develop their child protection systems,

while making use of EU tools in terms of legislation, policies and funding. Ultimately, child protection must be positioned as a global priority.

The Commission also presented several key recommendations to Member States for achieving these objectives. These included, among other measures, developing national plans to combat violence against children, establishing prevention, early warning, detection and monitoring mechanisms, data collection on violence against children, and an integrated approach on child protection within other Commission, such as the upcoming EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, the Directive on violence against women and domestic violence and the Victims' Rights Directive.

Finally, the Commission presented examples of EU support to Member States in protecting children, including both in terms of technical support and funding opportunities.

2. Presentation by Child Helpline International on violence against children

Child Helpline International, a global network dedicated to strengthening child protection, supports over 150 child helplines across more than 130 countries. It offers support by coordinating knowledge, data and good practices, and advocating for the rights of children and young people to policymakers and decision-makers. In 2024, it received over 7 million contacts, and offered counselling to over 3.5 million children.

The presentation focused on how Child Helpline International operates across EU countries, and provided information on domestic violence against children. Child Helpline International presented statistics showing how many children in the EU contact helplines due to violence at the home. Notably, aside from bullying, the most common forms of reported violence against children in Europe in 2020-2024, were psychological and physical violence, neglect and sexual violence.

The presentation drew particular attention to how technological developments present both a valuable tool and a major risk factor. Children are particularly

vulnerable when interacting with AI, for example. However, integrating AI and Machine Learning into call centre management software could be used to improve data collection and reach more children in need.

3. Exchange of views between Member States

Member States broadly supported the idea for an exchange of experiences on preventing and combating violence against children. Several countries shared their experiences on developing national action plans, cooperating with civil society organisations, and enacting legislation to criminalise not only corporal punishment, but also psychological violence and the victimization of children as witnesses to violence.

Below follows the Presidency's summary of Member States contribution to the meeting submitted both orally at the Working Party as well as in writing based on the question posed in WK 9893/2025.

- Written comments received from AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FR, HR, HU, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK.
- Oral comments in FREMP 5/09/2025: SE, IE, CY, DK, LT, BE, FR, ES, CZ, SI, LV, LU, SV, AT, PT, DE, HR.

Question 1: Does your Member State have a national strategy or other equivalent integrated policy focused on protecting children from violence and ensuring effective coordination across relevant sectors? In connection to this, has the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child been a useful and inspirational framework in the development of such strategy or other equivalent integrated policy?

Several Member States have a specific national strategy or programme focusing on protecting children from violence and ensuring effective coordination across relevant sectors (BG, CZ, CY, EL, ES, FR, HR, HU, LU, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK).

While AT, BE, IE, LT, SE and SI do not have a national strategy per se, they remain

committed to protect children from violence. A number of Member States explicitly stated that the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child has functioned as a framework or inspiration in establishing the national strategies for protecting children from violence (CZ, DE, EL, ES, HU, IE, LU, LV, PT, RO).

Question 2: Have you taken specific measures to ensure better detection and data collection of violence against children?

Several Member States described detection and data collection as objectives of their national strategy. Further, several Member States collect data from services and institutions in contact with children, such as schools, public administration as well as courts. For example, for EL, HU, LV and SI, coordination across sectors is an integral part of detection and data collection. In EL, the coordination takes place between the justice, health education and social welfare sectors. LV, as an example, has implemented an interinstitutional cooperation programme, “Child’s House”, which, among other objectives, aims to coordinate and ensure exchange of information between competent authorities. DE, HR and HU have specific obligations for competent authorities and/or other service providers relating to data collection and reporting. BE, EL, ES, FR, PT and SK provided a detailed explanation of their methods in data collection, including through close cooperation with CSOs. DE, EL, ES and FR (also) use surveys to collect data.

DE, AT, ES and LU are currently implementing specific measures on better detection and data collection. For example, in AT, an independent Quality Assurance Office for Child Protection began operating in April 2025, with a goal to award a quality seal to institutions with certified child protection concepts. DE is funding a new research centre on child sexual violence whose main task is to prepare and conduct a survey on students’ experiences of all forms of violence. Some Member States however recognize the need to continue efforts in this area. For example, LU recognizes the need to improve the quality, harmonisation and disaggregation of data.

Question 3: How do you cooperate with and support relevant civil society organisations, in addressing all forms of violence against children? How do you work with the national child helpline, as a low-threshold entry point into the national child protection system for children and young people to prevent violence and provide a safe place to report?

Member States recognize the important role of civil society organisations (CSO). For example, AT, EL, FR, HR, HU, LU, NL and SE noted that awareness raising, and capacity building are often done through cooperation with CSOs. Similarly, information sharing between CSOs and state actors is vital to ensure a coherent approach to protecting children against violence. Some Member States, such as AT and HU, involve the national police, particularly when it comes to raising awareness among children and young people on the recognition of crimes. AT, DE, ES, LU, SI and SK fund CSOs to support their effective operation. BE, CZ, CY, DE, FR, IE, EL, HU, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI and SK noted that they have helplines for children and young people. CZ, HU, LV and SI further specified that their helplines are free and constantly available. DE, SI and SK offer financial support for the operation of the child helplines. BE, DE and PL have extended the services of the helplines to parents. DK noted a very positive cooperation with the national child helpline, including in relation to data collection.

Question 4: Is there a national ban on corporal punishment in all settings, including at home? Even if there is a national ban, do you experience that corporal punishment is still socially acceptable in your society as a whole or in parts of it? If so, how do you address this?

There is a national ban on corporal punishment in all settings in AT, BG, CY, DK, EL, ES, FR, DE, HR, HU, IE, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO and SI. To date, BE is yet to adopt explicit legislation prohibiting corporal punishments in all settings. CZ has recently adopted an amendment (effective from 1 January 2026) to their Civil Code, clearly stating that corporal punishment of children is unacceptable in the upbringing of children. CZ, DE, ES, EL and LV recognise that there is still some

level of social acceptance for corporal punishment. For instance, ES reported that much of society is unaware of the reality of violence against children and tolerates certain forms of violence. To address social acceptance, Member States cooperate with NGOs and CSOs to raise awareness and conduct training for parents and teachers. More specifically, in DE, parents are offered child and youth welfare services to help them cope with conflicts. In LV, the government and various NGOs have regularly launched public awareness campaigns that promote non-violent and positive disciplining methods. Moreover, schools, social services and law enforcement offer parents educational programs to teach them effective, non-violent parenting skills.

Question 5: Is there data available on the prevalence of domestic violence against children in your Member State? Is this issue being systematically monitored – for example, through trends in criminal proceedings or via regular data collection in collaboration with schools, local authorities, or other relevant stakeholders?

AT, CZ, CY, EL, HR, HU, LU, LV, NL, PL and SE reported that they have official and regular data collection. Data is collected through a variety of sources, including police crime statistics (AT, CZ, EL, HU, LV), healthcare facilities, schools, youth welfare offices, services providing care for minors (DE, LU, CZ) and other national authorities (CZ, EL, FR, HU, NL, PL, PT). DE publishes official statistics annually, FR publishes figures on domestic violence against minors, ES conducts an annual evaluation report, which is public and contains the available statistical data on violence against children, and HR publish an annual report on domestic violence. NL have a specific website, where regional and national data on the occurrence of domestic violence against children can be found. CZ, EL LU, PT and RO recognise the need to improve the structure of their current data-collection model. EL recognised that further cooperation among schools, local authorities, social services and law enforcement is needed to improve early detection and the accuracy of data. Similarly, RO noted that different reporting channels make it difficult to fully grasp the magnitude of violence against children.