



Terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Child and Youth participation (MJ-S-CYP)

1. **Name of Group:** Ad hoc Advisory Group on Child and Youth participation (MJ-S-CYP)
2. **Type of Group:** Ad hoc Advisory Group
3. **Source of terms of reference:** Committee of Ministers on the proposal of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ)

4. Terms of reference:

Having regard to:

- Resolution Res (2005) 47 on committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14 December 2005 at their 951st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies);
- The Declaration and the Action Plan adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the member states of the Council of Europe at their Third Summit (Warsaw, 16-17 May 2005), in particular Chapters 3.2 "Building a Europe for children" and 3.4 "Developing youth co-operation" of the Action Plan;
- The Council of Europe's conventions, resolutions and recommendations relevant to participation, in particular the European Convention on the Adoption of Children (revised, 2008), Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (2007), European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights (1996), Recommendation R (98) 8 on children's participation in family and social life, and Recommendation Rec(2004)13 on the participation of young people in local and regional life;
- The Strategy for the years 2009–2011 for the programme "Building a Europe for and with children" adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 27 November 2008;
- The final Declaration of the 8th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth (Kyiv, 2008) and the Committee of Ministers' Resolution CM/Res(2008)23 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe;

Under the authority of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) and in relation with the implementation of Project 2003/DG4/16 "Youth participation and democratic citizenship" and Project 2009/DG3/2031 "Protection, provision and participation for children in Europe", of the Programme of Activities, the Group is instructed to:

- i. implement national policy reviews focusing on child and youth participation and develop a concept and methodology in this respect;
- ii. elaborate guidelines on child and youth participation at local, national and European levels;
- iii. examine the possibility to update existing recommendations of the Committee of Ministers on children's and young people's participation and influence in society, or envisage the possibility of a new recommendation on this subject;
- iv. examine the relevance of developing educational and training tools with the aim of enabling children and young people to exercise their participatory rights.

5. Composition of the Group:

5.A. Members

The Group shall be composed of ten specialists in child and youth participation to be appointed as follows:

- i. Three experts to be appointed by the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ);
- ii. Three representatives of non-governmental child and/or youth organisations to be appointed by the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ);
- iii. Three independent experts on child and youth participation to be appointed by the Secretary General;
- iv. One experts to be appointed by the Steering Committee for Education (CDED).

The Council of Europe shall bear the travel and subsistence expenses of these ten experts.

5.B. Participants

- i. The Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe may each send a representative to the meetings of the Group, without the right to vote and at the charge of the corresponding budgetary articles of the Council of Europe.

5.C Other participants

- i. The European Commission may send a representative to meetings of the Group, without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses;
- ii. UNICEF may send a representative to meetings of the Group, without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.

5.D. Observers

The European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) may send a representative to the meetings of the Group, without the right to vote. The Council of Europe budget will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of this representative.¹

6. Working methods and structures:

In carrying out its terms of reference, the Group shall:

- i. hold two meetings every year;
- ii. within the limits of available budgetary appropriations and in order to expedite the progress of its work, call, if necessary, on the services of consultants;
- iii. where appropriate, ensure participation by children and young people in aspects of its work which concern them through specific consultations, including by electronic means;
- iv. work in close co-operation with other relevant Council of Europe bodies and other international institutions and organisations.

Once a year, the Group shall prepare, through the Joint Council on Youth, a report for the attention of the Committee of Ministers.

7. Duration:

These terms of reference will expire on 31 December 2011.

¹ In dispensation to Article 3.4 of Resolution Res(2005)47