



SCORECARD

Assessment of the EU Presidency Performance from a Child Rights perspective

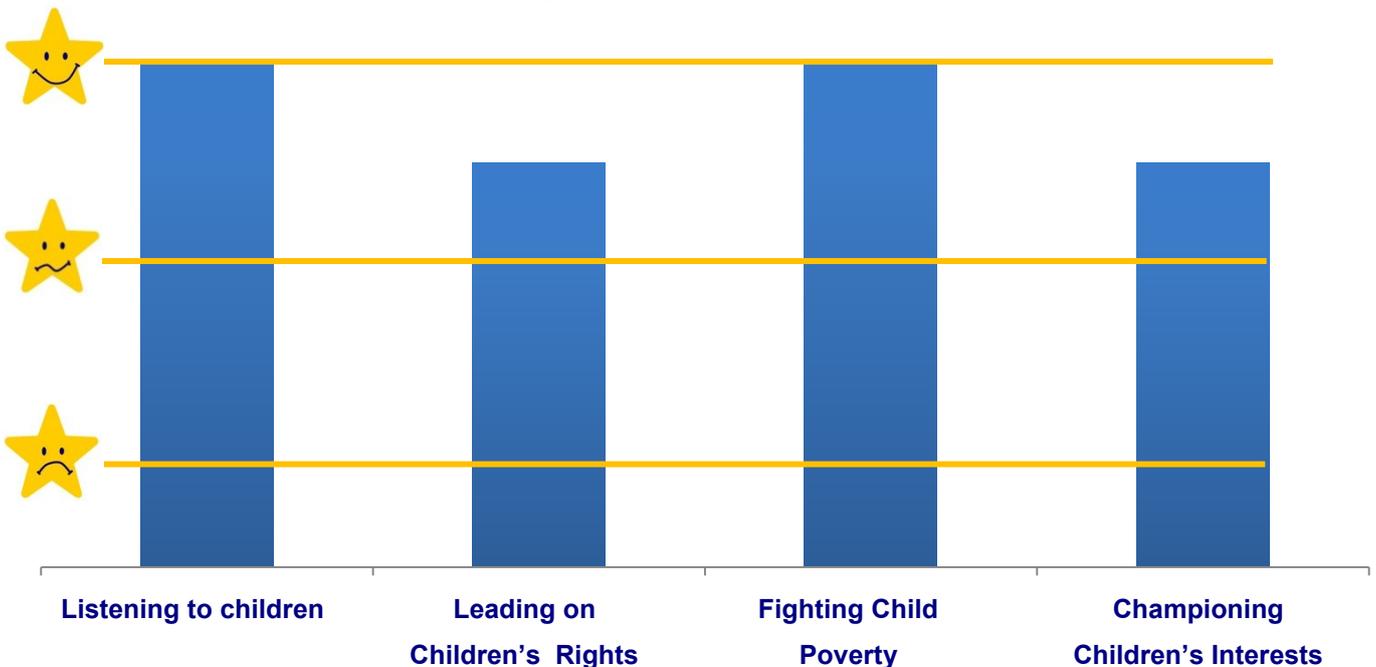
During their 6 month tenure of the EU Presidency, member states have an important responsibility to ensure the rights and welfare of children remain high on EU political agenda. Children represent 20% of our present but 100% of the future. Strong, genuine commitment to children’s rights and welfare is an investment in the future; it is also an obligation to which all Member states have signed up through their ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This is the first in a series of assessments of EU Presidencies. It assesses performance on 4 criteria:

- The extent to which they listened to, and involved children and young people themselves;
- Their vision and leadership for a strong children’s rights strategy at EU level;
- Their support for stronger action and cooperation at EU level to fight child poverty;
- The extent to which children’s interests are reflected in the broad Presidency programme.

BELGIUM'S EU PRESIDENCY

July – December 2010



 = EXCELLENT

 = AVERAGE

 = DISAPPOINTING

DID THEY LISTEN TO CHILDREN?

-  Children participated in the EU Presidency conference on child poverty and videos produced by or with children were projected before each session
-  UNICEF Belgium launched 'What do you think' report on children's experience of poverty in Belgium in the context of the Presidency
-  The Secretary of State for Social Integration and the Fight Against Poverty Philippe Courard met with children in the framework of Eurochild's End Child Poverty campaign (www.endchildpoverty.eu)
-  Young people participated in the EU Round Table on poverty and social exclusion

DID THEY LEAD ON THE EU CHILD RIGHTS AGENDA?

-  Member states (l'Europe de l'Enfance) adopted a Ministerial declaration supporting a comprehensive EU strategy on the rights of the child
-  Children's rights are mentioned in the Education Council Conclusions emphasising the need for an integrated child and youth strategy

DID THEY STRENGTHEN EU COOPERATION TO FIGHT AGAINST CHILD POVERTY?

-  The Belgian government supported the preparation of a draft Recommendation on child poverty and well-being, discussed at the EU Presidency conference on child poverty, organised in cooperation with Eurochild, UNICEF and King Baudouin Foundation
-  A declaration supporting an EU Recommendation on child poverty and well-being was signed by the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian governments (EU Trio Presidency)
-  The Communication on the European Platform against Poverty commits the European Commission to adopting an EU Recommendation in 2012
-  The final declaration of the European Year against poverty and social exclusion gives explicit priority to child poverty

DID THEY CHAMPION CHILDREN'S INTERESTS THROUGHOUT THEIR PROGRAMME?

-  Early childhood was given particular attention – through adoption of a Ministerial declaration in the l'Europe de l'Enfance meeting and as the theme of the Roma Platform conference
-  A Council Resolution on youth work was adopted calling for greater involvement of children and young people in poverty or at risk of social exclusion and the recognition of non-formal learning in youth work

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Eurochild is a network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to promote the welfare and rights of children and young people. Our aim is to voice and promote the interests of children and young people in the European Union and in particular those who are vulnerable and exposed to poverty and social exclusion. Our work is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).