

## Call for candidates to stand for elections to the Management Board of Eurochild

Brussels, December 2025

Dear Members,

**Eurochild is seeking candidatures of Eurochild Members or Candidate Members for the position of one (1) Treasurer and two (2) Ordinary members of the Management Board.**

*Candidates should not be from Ireland, United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium, Ukraine or Croatia – countries of current (standing) members of the Management Board.*

**Deadline to submit candidatures: 27 February 2026** (download the [form here](#))

### Eurochild is calling for candidates to stand for the 2026 elections to the Management Board (MB) at the next General Assembly (GA)

**At the next General Assembly on 28 May 2026, three (3) positions of the Eurochild Management Board will be open for elections:**

- **One (1) Treasurer:** Ninetta Kazantzis (Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Cyprus), is finishing her first term of 3 years, leaving her position vacant.
- **Two (2) Ordinary members:** Ulla Siimes (Central Union for Child Welfare, Finland), is finishing her first term of 3 years, and Sérgio Araújo Costa (Individual Member, Portugal) is finishing his first term of 3 years, leaving their positions vacant.

**The six (6) standing members of the Management Board, whose positions are not up for elections in 2026, are:**

**Tanya Ward** (Children's Rights Alliance, Ireland), representative of a National Partner Network, serving her 1<sup>st</sup> term as President since May 2025 until May 2028;

**Bruce Adamson** (Honorary Member, United Kingdom), serving his 1<sup>st</sup> term as Vice-President since May 2025 until May 2028;

**Macarena Cespédes** (Plataforma de Infancia, Spain), representative of a National Partner Network, serving her 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Ordinary MB Member since May 2022 until May 2028;

**Julien Van Geerstom** (Individual Member, Belgium), serving his 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Ordinary MB Member since May 2024 until May 2027;

**Vasylyna Dybaylo** (Partnership for Every Child, Ukraine), representative of a National Organisation, serving her 1<sup>st</sup> term as Ordinary MB Member since May 2025 until May 2028;

**Lucija Vejmelka** (FICE, Croatia), representative of a National Organisation, serving her 1<sup>st</sup> term as Ordinary MB Member since May 2025 until May 2028;

## Election Committee

For the 2026 elections, the 2024 Extraordinary General Assembly appointed the Election Committee comprising three (3) member representatives: **Catriona Williams** (Founding President and Honorary Member of Eurochild, United Kingdom), **Ene Tomberg** (Estonian Union for Child Welfare, Estonia), and **Mary Theodoropoulou** (Roots Research Center NGO, Greece). **Lena Sogaard** (Joint Council for Child Issues, Denmark) had to withdraw following her stepping down as President of the Joint Council. The Committee has the responsibility to seek out potential candidates, review candidatures, and formulate their recommendations to the General Assembly.

## Specific requirements towards candidates - eligibility and selection criteria

Based on Eurochild's [Statutes](#) and [Internal rules](#), considering recommendations of the Management Board and previous committees, the 2026 Election Committee defined the following criteria for the elections:

### Eligibility criteria for Management Board members:

The call for candidates is open to:

- representatives of Full or Associate Members, Associate Members who are Individuals or Honorary Members; and
- representatives of candidate members for Full or Associate Membership, individuals who are candidate members for Associate Membership or candidate members for Honorary Membership, it being understood that (i) applicants for Full Membership or Associate Membership must already be recommended by the Management Board as a candidate member and (ii) their eligibility for a Management Board position will be effective from the moment the respective decision of admission as a Member of the Association is taken by the General Assembly. Such decision of admission will in any case take place prior to the vote on the election.

To be eligible as a member of the Management Board, candidates must:

- demonstrate a commitment to the values, vision and mission of Eurochild through his/her past individual achievements in the child rights sector in Europe and/or through his/her organisation's past involvement in Eurochild activities and events;
- be available to attend meetings and to contribute time and energy to Eurochild's development (at a minimum through usually 4-6 online or in-person Management Board meetings per year, the Annual General Assembly, and through participation in the Management Board sub-committees);
- meet the profile and skills for the vacancies to be filled as established by the Election Committee.

Skills and profiles of eligible candidates, established by the Election Committee

**All Management Board members** are expected to demonstrate the following personal competencies:

- Strong children's rights background and commitment
- Solid senior management experience at the highest level to include:
  - organisational leadership, governance and strategic planning
  - management of organisational finances and fundraising
  - management of organisational human resources systems
  - policy influencing
- Understanding of the function and responsibilities of governance

- Good presentational and political skills and ability to effectively advocate for Eurochild and represent Eurochild at high level external events
- Strong aptitude for collaboration, cooperation and networking

In addition, the **Treasurer** is expected to demonstrate the following skills:

- Experience in financial management, including budgeting and forecasting
- Experience in fundraising strategy
- Experience in ethical leadership

#### Additional eligibility criteria based on Eurochild's revised rules

- The call for candidates is also open for former Management Board members, if a waiting period of two and a half (2,5) years has expired, counting from the day following the expiration of their second three (3) years term mandate previously served in the Management Board.
- Individuals who are Associate Members or Honorary Members are not eligible to a Management Board member position if they are also affiliated to a Member organisation that already has a representative in the Management Board.

#### The elections, based on desired MB composition, set out in Eurochild's rules

The composition of the Management Board should reflect the geographical spread of membership of the Association and the diversity of the categories and types of membership. In addition, it seeks to achieve a good balance of knowledge, skills and experience among the Management Board members and a diverse composition in terms of gender, age, nationality, ethnic and religious background of said members. In the light of the foregoing, **for the Management Board composition the following shall apply:**

- **One third (1/3) or more of the total number of Management Board members are representatives of National Partner Networks (NPNs).** - *In the extended MB of 9 members, this means at least 3 NPN representatives. This quota is currently not filled as only two (2) of the standing members of the MB are NPN representatives.*
- **Not more than fifty percent (50%) of the total number of Management Board members are representatives of the same type of membership.** - *Membership types are National Partner Networks, National Organisations, International Organisations/Networks; Academic and Research Institutions, Public/Statutory Bodies, Child and Youth-led Organisations and Individuals. In an MB of 9 members, none of these types should have more than 4 representatives. Standing members of the MB include 2 representatives of NPNs, 2 National Organisations, and 2 Individual members. The election procedure will be defined in a way to respect the quotas in the composition of the MB.*
- **Each Management Board member needs to represent a different European country, the latter being determined on the basis of the location of the registered office of the Member the Management Board member represents or, in case of an individual, on the basis of the location of its main residence.** - *Therefore candidates from Ireland, United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium, Ukraine or Croatia - countries of current (standing) members of the Management Board - are not eligible this year. In case candidatures received from more than one person from the same country, the election procedures will be defined in a way to respect this quota in the composition of the MB.*

#### Further information about expected time commitment of Management Board Members

Members of the Management Board are expected to fully participate in MB meetings (4-6 times a year in-person or online) and provide inputs into the decision-making processes. This includes active participation in at least one of the Management Board sub-committees (by email or video calls) in between the MB meetings. The MB currently has sub-committees on governance and finances & fundraising, and child participation.

To find out more about the positions, including roles and responsibilities, or the election procedure, please read Eurochild's [Statutes](#) and [Internal rules](#).

Prospective candidates can also contact the current Management Board members or the Secretariat for more information.

## Timeline for candidatures and election process

### 1) Submission of candidatures: *December 2025 – 27 February 2026*

Interested candidates are kindly requested to **submit the completed and signed candidature forms (download from [here](#))** along with supporting information to Claire.boutry@eurochild.org with "Candidature for 2026 MB elections" in the subject line, **by 27 February 2026**.

### 2) Review of candidates: *1 March 2026 – 15 April 2026*

The Election Committee will review and approve candidatures according to the agreed management board composition and criteria.

*The Elections Committee could request interviews with candidates, on a scheduled time suitable to both parties. They might also contact referees of candidates, if that is agreed in the application form.*

### 3) Announcement of candidates: *May 2026*

Information on each eligible candidate, along with the report of the Election Committee and other background documents for the Annual General Assembly, will be circulated to members and made available on the Eurochild website on the "members' room" page.

### 4) General Assembly and elections: *28 May 2026*

The Annual General Assembly will be held online on 28 May 2026. The election will take place during that meeting.

## Contact for any questions about this call or the election process:

Claire Boutry, Governance, Membership and HR Officer (Claire.boutry@eurochild.org)