



High Level Presidency Conference on Child Support in the Context of the Child Guarantee

Prague, 7th and 8th July 2022

WHO IS WHO



Iris ABRAHAM

Communications & Fundamental Rights Adviser at the Cabinet of the Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka Šuica, European Commission.

Prior to her current post, she led the communications and outreach work of the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis. Iris' experience in European and international affairs includes work with UN peacekeeping, in post-conflict reconstruction, conflict and crisis management, electoral assistance, human and children's rights, international broadcast media and communication, and global strategic partnership-building. She also lectured on the history and politics of the modern Middle East.



Pernilla BARALT

Executive Director of UNICEF Sweden

Pernilla has a broad experience of working with child rights issues both nationally and internationally. As Secretary of State to the Minister of Children, the Elderly and Equal Opportunities, Pernilla has been responsible for the bill to make the Convention on the Rights of the Child into Swedish law, for Sweden's contribution to the global partnership against violence against children, and for the establishment of a national children's rights delegation. Pernilla has also held leading positions within the EU Commission in Brussels and Stockholm and has been Secretary-General of the think tank Global Challenge.



Vincenzo BASSI
President of the Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe

Vincenzo Bassi is a lawyer, barrister at the Italian Supreme Court, with a PhD in Constitutional Law and European Constitutional Law. Vice-President of the Italian Catholic jurists' association and Member of the Board of the Italian Forum of Family Associations, he has been the President of the Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe since October 2019.



Marie-Louise COLEIRO PRECA
President of Eurochild

Former President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca is also the Chair of the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, working with and for children in Europe and beyond. She is an eminent speaker, a strong advocate of children's rights and passionately promotes child participation, ensuring children attain their aspirations.



Renato CURSI
Executive Secretary of Don Bosco International

Mr Corsi is the liaison office of the Salesians of Don Bosco at the European Institutions. PhD candidate in Youth Studies at the Salesian Pontifical University, Rome. The Salesians of Don Bosco promote social inclusion and integral human development of children and young people through education in 135 countries of the world, including 20 EU Member States.



Pamela DALE
Regional Advisor for Social Policy and Economic Analysis for UNICEF's Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO)

She is responsible for providing technical and programmatic analysis, advice, and operational support for UNICEF's activities on social protection, child poverty, public finance for children, and local level governance and decentralized social service delivery. She was the Social Protection Specialist for UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa regional office and worked with the UNICEF Somalia country office. She also worked with the World Bank in positions dealing with social protection and migration.



Šimon DUDA
Deputy Chairman, Highschool Assembly of Prague

Grew up in a cabin, deep within the woods. Spent 7 years in social services, visiting a psychiatrist and a psychotherapist. Despite all of this and experience with a violent father, he persevered. Contributes into many newspapers, such as Praha Školská and Diplomat. He writes and produces music, plays the piano and the French horn. He paints and regularly participates in painting courses. He enjoys photography and plans to join a competition in film photography. Currently, he is working on a book and plans study of psychology.



Dr Michael Falzon
Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights, Malta

A lawyer and a politician. He joined the Bank of Valletta in 1979. Dr Falzon graduated as a Notary in 1989 and as a Lawyer in 1991. He also obtained the international qualification as an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (ACIB). He served for the Malta Labour Party as the Election Manager, International Secretary and Deputy Leader for Party Affairs. He was repeatedly elected to the Parliament.



Pavla GOMBA
Executive Director of UNICEF Czech Republic

Appointed in 2000. Before, she worked as the Business Analyst for the Dutch Chamber of Commerce and the Royal Danish Embassy in Prague. She was a member of the Audiovisual Regulatory Board and the Czech Committee for Child Rights within the Government Council for Human Rights. She is a member of the Executive Board of NROS (Civil Society Development Foundation). She provides mentorship for the Business Leaders Forum a Business Professional Women Prague organizations. She ranks among the most influential women in the Czech Republic.



Katarina IVANKOVIĆ KNEŽEVIĆ
Director for Social Rights and Inclusion in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Her area of activity is modernisation of social protection systems and wider social policies fostering social and labour market inclusion through the European Pillar of Social Rights



and other social policies of the EU. She was a State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Pension System of Croatia responsible for the ESF and other EU instruments for human resources development. She has specialized in human rights, gender equality, social policy and employment, especially labour market policies.



Sven IVERSEN
Vice-President of COFACE Families Europe

COFACE Families Europe promotes the well-being, social inclusion and security of families in the EU, based on non-discrimination and equal opportunities between all kinds of family forms. In his daily life Sven Iversen works as General Manager of the Association of German Family Organisations (AGF).



Ingrid Maria JOHANSEN
Chief Executive Officer of SOS Children's Villages International

SOS Children's Villages International is the umbrella organisation for the global federation. It is also member of Social Platform. Ms Johansen's career in the NGO and civil society sector spans nearly 20 years, from coordinating projects to leadership positions in the boardroom. Ms Johansen joined SOS Children's Villages from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), where she was a member of the International Board.



Marian JUREČKA
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Czechia

For many years, he had focused on agriculture, serving also as the Minister of Agriculture in 2014–2017. Was elected repeatedly to regional assembly of the Olomouc Region and to the Parliament. In 2020, he became the chair of KDU-ČSL party. After 2021 Parliamentary elections, he was appointed to his current post. For many years, he has been active in the charity field. He has been a member of the Charita Olomouc Council since 2017.



Juraj KÁČER
State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Slovakia

Appointed in April 2022. He is responsible for issues related to social insurance, pension savings, European Funds, employment and legislation. Previously, he was the Director-General of the Social Insurance Agency. He was also Deputy Mayor of the City of Bratislava. Mr. Káčer has been active in municipal politics for over 20 years. He is still serving as the deputy of Bratislava – Dúbravka district.



Afshan KHAN
UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, and the Special Coordinator for the Refuge and Migrant Response in Europe

Ms Khan has been an international public servant for over 30 years. She was the Director of Emergency Programmes for UNICEF, and she has also held other senior positions. Ms Khan has extensive field experience. She also has broad United Nations-wide expertise. From 2012 to 2014, Ms Khan was the CEO of Women for Women International. In that role, she was responsible for setting the strategic vision and mobilizing the necessary resources for women rebuilding their lives after war.



Franca LOCATI
Chair Working Group Children and Young People of Eurocities, City of Milan, Education department

She has a long experience in co-designed projects with European funds dedicated to children, with a focus on strategies and policies for refugees, migrants and vulnerable families inclusion.



Lucía LOSOVIZ ADANI
Director General for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, Ministry for Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, Spain

Experience of more than 20 years in International NGO, rights of the child, advocacy, international cooperation, and humanitarian aid. She has held positions as Country Coordinator in Argentina and head of the Department of Cooperation and Humanitarian Action at Save the Children Spain.



She has worked as a consultant on human rights, child protection and policies at Espirales Consultoría de Infancia. Before she was appointed to the current post, she held the position of Head of Local Policies for Children and Participation at UNICEF Spain.



Massimiliano MASCHERINI
Head of Unit ad interim, Social Policies, Eurofound

He joined Eurofound in 2009 as a research manager, designing and coordinating projects on youth employment, NEETs and their social inclusion and on the labour market participation of women. In 2017, he became a senior research manager in the Social Policies unit leading new research on monitoring convergence in the EU. Previously, he was scientific officer at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. He holds PhD in Applied Statistics. He has been visiting fellow at the University of Sydney and at Aalborg University and visiting professor at the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.



Jan MILOTA
IQ Roma servis

He is a field social worker in the Brno organization IQ Roma servis. He's been supporting households in housing need for a long time on their way to stable and dignified housing. He is also a founding member of the Platform for Social Housing. He focuses mainly on supporting families with children in housing need. Since 2019, he has also been working in the Platform for Social Housing as a local consultant



Monika NAVICKIENĖ
Minister of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania

Appointed in 2020. Since 2016, she has been a member of the Parliament. As a minister, she actively contributes to the work of developing a modern welfare model in Lithuania with a key focus on the areas of employment policy, the integration of vulnerable groups in society, availability of services according to individual needs and increasing the coverage and adequacy of social benefits. She initiated a number of meetings and joint statements and is strongly committed to providing continued support to Ukraine and its people.



Zdislava ODSTRČILOVÁ
Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Czechia

Appointed in 2022. As Deputy Minister, she is in charge of social services, family policy and social and legal protection of children. She is also Deputy Mayor of Valašské Meziříčí, CEO of social enterprise 1. Valašská Diakonická. She was director of Charita Valašské Meziříčí and of Diakonie ČCE centre in Valašské Meziříčí, both are charity organizations.



Jan PAVELKA
Peer consultant, Youth Advisory Board member, LUMOS

He studies at Newton University and Masaryk University. He is also a member of Jak Dál? z.s., where he works as a lecturer for the Judicial Academy. In the past, he was elected to National Parliament of Children and Youth as a vice-president.



Eliška PETRUSOVÁ
Youth Advisory Board member, LUMOS

She studies law at Masaryk University. She is a member of LUMOS Youth Advisory Board. During pandemic she was part of organisation Amalthea as lector for children.



Dr Shannon PFOHMAN
Policy and Advocacy Director at Caritas Europa

She oversees the advocacy work of the European network. Prior to her current post, she was the Deputy Director of Policy at the European Network against Racism. Some of her other jobs were with the Confederation of German Trade Unions and as a migration researcher in Berlin.



Dragoș PÎSLARU
Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament

Romanian economist and politician, member of the European Parliament since 2019. He obtained a PhD in economic sciences with a thesis held at the National Institute of Economic Research within the Romanian Academy. Dragoș is also a member of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, and a Subcommittee member on Tax Matters. He was the co-rapporteur of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). One of the flagship provisions that Dragoș introduced in the RRF is the structure of the six pillars.



Jolien POTESMANS
National Advocacy Advisor of SOS Children's Villages Belgium

Her non-governmental organisation supports children who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care. She is defining advocacy priorities and conducting advocacy actions to influence durable change in laws, policies and practice for the benefit of this target group in Belgium. Currently she advocates for sibling rights, small-scale family care and trauma-sensitive practices. Jolien previously worked on human rights of refugees at Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles.



Peter POWER
Executive Director of UNICEF Ireland

He has held numerous leadership positions in the private sector, public life and civil society. A qualified solicitor, Peter was Minister of State for Foreign Affairs from 2008 to 2011 when he represented Ireland at international level including the UN and the OECD. Previously Peter chaired the Government's Committee on Child Protection which proposed a referendum on incorporating Child Rights into the Irish Constitution.



Signe RIISALO

Minister of Social Protection of the Republic of Estonia

Appointed on 26 January 2021. She has been a member of the Estonian Reform Party since 1994. Before being elected to the Parliament in 2019, she had worked at the Ministry of Social Affairs for 25 years. She holds degrees in economics, social work, law and finished postgraduate studies in social pedagogy and child protection.



Charlotte SACHSE

Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Austria

Charlotte Sachse currently is the deputy Head of the EU Policy Coordination Department in the Ministry and deputy member in the Social Protection Committee (SPC). Prior to that she worked in Brussels at the Permanent Representation of Austria in the field of Social Affairs for 10 years.



Nicolas SCHMIT

European Commissioner responsible for Jobs and Social Rights

Appointed in December 2019. He was elected to the European Parliament for the social-democratic Lëtzebuerger Sozialisteschen Aarbechterpartei in May 2019. From 2009 to 2018, he was the Minister for Labour and Employment in the Luxembourgish government. In 2004, he was appointed Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Immigration. In 1998-2004, he was the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the EU in 1998.



Kristýna SEINEROVÁ

Member of the Presidium of the Children and Youth National Parliament, Czech Republic

She studies at a humanities-oriented grammar school. Since 2019, she has been chairperson of the Prague Children and Youth Parliament. She is also on the board of the Children and Youth Parliament of the Czech Republic.



Dorota SIENKIEWICZ
Senior Policy Coordinator, EuroHealthNet

Dorota Sienkiewicz is a public health advocate with almost 15 years of policy and advocacy experience at a European, national and global level with a strong interest in health equity, poverty and social exclusion, early years and vulnerable groups, mental health, gender policies, as well as food systems. As EuroHealthNet's Senior Policy Coordinator, Dorota leads the Policy Platform, providing policy advice and intelligence to the Partnership, developing consultation responses, liaising with EU institutions, its strategic and expert groups, and EU public health and social rights stakeholders.



Ylva SPERLING
Director of Save the Children, Co-chair of the EU Alliance for Investing in Children

Over the last 20 years, she has worked to further children's rights in both humanitarian and development contexts, as well as enhance their protection in Europe. She joined Save the Children in 2014 and has since then held various advisory and management positions.



Kamila ŠAFFKOVÁ
Advisor for families, Women for Women

She has work experience with young drug-addicted people and homeless people. She also worked at diagnostic institute for youth, where she gained experience with work with teenagers and whole family system. Then she joined Women for Women, which focuses on help for children and their parents. In the beginning the focus was on help for single parents with housing and psychosocial care. She worked predominantly with women endangered by loss of housing and by domestic violence. In 2019, a new project Service for Family was launched which focuses on divorcing parents. Kamila leads the project and focuses on education and family mediation.



Klára ŠIMÁČKOVÁ LAURENČÍKOVÁ
Government Commissioner for Human Rights

Chair of the Committee for the Rights of the Child, a member of the Government Council for Human Rights and a member of the Committee for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women of the Government Council for Gender Equality. She is the head of the Czech Expert Society for Inclusive Education. She is



also the coordinator for the children's mental health agenda in the Mental Health Reform Unit at the Ministry of Health. She is a recipient of the Committee of Goodwill – Olga Havel Foundation award for promoting quality and openness in education systems and activities in the area of transforming the system of care for children at risk.



Martina ŠTĚPÁNKOVÁ
Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Czechia

As Deputy Minister since 2019, she has been in charge of European Funds and International Cooperation. After graduation (Faculty of Law), she joined the Human Rights Department of the Office of the Government. Between 2006 and 2014, she worked in the non-governmental sector. In 2014, she was appointed Director of the Human Rights Section and subsequently Deputy Minister for Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Legislation in the Office of the Government. From June 2018 to March 2019, she was the Government Commissioner for Human Rights.



Dubravka ŠUICA
European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography

Appointed in 2019. She served for two terms as the first female mayor of Dubrovnik and was awarded the 2006 World Mayor Award. Mrs Šuica served as a Member of the Croatian Parliament and Vice-Chair of the EU Integration Committee. Between 2004 and 2009 she was a Board Member of the Union of the Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Republic of Croatia. She was the Vice-President of Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. From 2013 to 2019 was a Member of the European Parliament. Since 2012, she has been the Vice-President of EPP Women.



TRAN Viet Anh (Antonín)
Czech Republic

He studies grammar school in Cheb. His family origin is from Vietnam but he was born in Czechia. He has been a member of Presidium of the Regional Parliament of Children and Youth of the Karlovy Vary Region for more than a year now, thanks to which he got to the council of the Parliament of Children and Youth of the Czech Republic.