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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: The Child Guarantee - equal chances for every child
Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find attached the conference conclusions on the above subject, with a view to the meeting of the EPSCO Council on 6 December 2021 (Any Other Business item).

The Child Guarantee – Equal Opportunities for Every Child

9 November 2021

CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

Prepared by the Slovenian Presidency and Eurochild

- Council Recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee is **an important mechanism, which can guide Member States** in their efforts to reduce poverty and social exclusion of children in need by providing them an effective access to the set of key services.
- **Strong political commitment, ambitious national action plans and strong governance** at national level are needed to ensure effective implementation of the Council Recommendation.
- Transparency, participation of all stakeholders, including children themselves, and openness about what works and what does not are all key elements of **good governance**.
- For successful implementation of the Council Recommendation establishing the European Child Guarantee, **we need short term goals as well as long term goals**.
- **Costs of inaction are greater than costs of action.** Non-action has short term and long-term consequences that are harmful for children and for the society. There are a lot of intersection between poverty and other dimensions of children's lives; namely mental health, physical health, education results. All efforts to combat poverty and social exclusion are therefore mutually reinforcing.
- **Child poverty is family poverty and vice versa.** This means that we cannot fulfil children's rights without reinforcing the support system around them – their families. In addition, the fight against child poverty and social exclusion should also go beyond family policies and services (education, health, culture and leisure, access to the digital environment...). And this requires an effective and efficient enabling policy framework.

- There are many existing mechanisms and indicators that can help us monitor the progress towards 2030. A Child Guarantee **monitoring framework should be robust and enable better targeting and policy design**. It might not be possible to measure all focus areas of the Child Guarantee in the short term by all Member States, but by sharing good practice, Member States can learn from each other and overcome some of the difficulties they perceive.
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