

Nicosia, 25 November 2015

## The European Commission marks Universal Children's Day with a panel on Children's Rights

The European Commission will mark Universal Children's Day with a panel discussion on Children's Rights on Friday, 27 November at Naci Talat Foundation in Nicosia, from 14:00 to 16:15. The EU is committed to the protection of children's rights and the panel will bring together experts from the Social Services Department, academics, children's rights advocates and practitioners from SOS Children's Village, to emphasise the importance of protecting children's rights.

The aim of the event is to improve knowledge about the EU's policy on child protection, to discuss social services for children and to share real life examples from EU countries, and the Turkish Cypriot community on how child protection is approached and how children's rights are advocated. The EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child as well as regulations in the Turkish Cypriot community related to children's rights will also be discussed.

An EU funded mapping report prepared by the Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation in 2012 highlights the fact that the violation of children's rights including child labour and lack of protection for children accused of offences. Mentally and physically disabled children, migrant children, orphans, and refugee children are in the high risk group in terms of children's rights violations.

### **Background:**

Children make up one third of the world's population and one fifth of the population of the EU. Children's rights form part of the human rights that the EU and EU countries must respect. The Treaty of Lisbon introduced an objective for the EU to promote children's rights. Moreover the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU guarantees the protection of children's rights by EU institutions, as well as by EU countries when they implement EU law. Within this framework the Commission helps to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of the child in all internal and external EU actions and policies with an impact on them. The Commission is also guided by the principles set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by all EU countries. As laid down in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), a child is any human being below the age of 18.

Participation in the panel on Children's Right is free, however, pre-registration is necessary.

Interested individuals can get more information on these events on the EU Infopoint Facebook page f/abbilgi or by contacting the EU Infopoint: [info@abbilgi.eu](mailto:info@abbilgi.eu), 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Sokak, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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