

## Seminar

# Reflecting on Child Participation in Public Decision – Making

The child has the right to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting him or her and to see his or her views being given due weight.

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Children may express their views freely. Such views shall be taken into consideration on matters which concern them in accordance with their age and maturity.

Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Involving children in decision-making at individual, family, organisation and policy level in society is key to realising their rights.

Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)



Illustration: Eric Puybaret - Council of Europe

**2 July 2019**

**Portuguese Parliament  
Senate Room**

Sponsor:



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**9:30 – Reception of participants**

**10:00 – Opening session**

*José de Matos Correia*

Vice President of the Portuguese Parliament

*Ana Sofia Antunes*

Secretary of State for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

*Anders Erdal*

Ambassador of Norway to Portugal

*Susana Ramos*

Coordinator of the National Focal Point of EEA Grants Portugal

*Odete Severino*

Vice-President of the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People

Member of the Bureau of the Council of Europe Committee for the Rights of the Child

**10:30 – Conference**

**Analysis of Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

*Raquel Tavares*

Senior Officer of the Bureau of Documentation and Comparative Law of the Public Prosecutor General’s Office

**Moderator:**

*Alexandra Pimenta*

Director of Legal Affairs, Directorate-General for European Affairs - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal

**11:00 – Coffee Break**

**11:15 – Round Table**

**The importance of Participation**

*Joana Marques Vidal*

Former Prosecutor General for the Portuguese Republic

*Armando Leandro*

Retired Judge of the Supreme Court

*João Martins*

“Better Internet for Kids” Youth Ambassador to the European SchoolNet

*Catarina Oliveira*

“Better Internet for Kids” Youth Ambassador to the European SchoolNet

*Ana Guerreiro*

Independent Consultant on the Rights of the Child

**Moderator:**

*Isabel Rodrigues*

President of the Azorean Commission for Childhood

**12:15 – Conference (with graphic recording)**

**Implementing Article 12 in Public Decision–Making**

*Bragi Guðbrandsson*

Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (Iceland)

**Moderator:**

*Alexandra Pimenta*

Director of Legal Affairs, Directorate-General for European Affairs - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal

**12:45 – Questions and Answers**

**13:00 – Lunch Break**



**14:30 – Conference**

**The Participation of Children in Public Decision–Making —  
A review of European practices**

*Mieke Schuurman*

Senior Policy and Advocacy Coordinator on Children’s Rights & Child Participation – Eurochild

**Moderator:**

*Alexandra Pimenta*

Director of Legal Affairs, Directorate-General for European Affairs - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal

**15:30 – Round Table**

**International Experiences regarding Children’s Participation —  
Norway and Ireland**

*Olive McGovern*

Principal Officer in the Youth Reform, Strategy & Participation Unit of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs of the Ministry for Children and Youth Affairs of Ireland

*Eivind Pedersen*

National Coordinator of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Municipalities and County Governor Offices in Norway

**Moderator:**

*Bjørn Bredesen*

Former Deputy Director-General of the Ministry for Children and Families of Norway

**16:15 – Round Table (with graphic recording)**

**The Role of the Parliament in the Promotion of Policies for the  
Protection of Children’s Rights in Public Decision–Making**

*Luís Leite Ramos*

Member of the Parliament, Member of the Portuguese Parliamentary Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

*Edite Estrela*

Member of the Parliament, Member of the Portuguese Parliamentary Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

*Elza Pais*

Member of the Parliament, President of the Portuguese Parliament Subcommittee for Equality and Non-discrimination

**Moderator:**

*Virginia Brás Gomes*

Former Chair of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**16:45 – Conclusions and way forward**

**What needs to be done?**

*Odete Severino*

Vice-President of the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People

Member of the Bureau of the Council of Europe Committee for the Rights of the Child

**17:15 – Closing session**

*Ana Catarina Mendes*

Member of the Parliament, President of the Portuguese Parliamentary Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe