



Agenda

High-level Conference

“No Child is Left Behind: Promoting Child Well-Being and Combating Child Poverty”

Lefkosia (Nicosia), Cyprus

20-21 May 2026

DAY 1 - 20 MAY, 2026	
14:00 – 15:00	Finger Food
15:00 – 15:45	Opening Speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr Clea Papaellina - Deputy Minister of Social Welfare (5') ➤ Ms Roxana Mînzatu - Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness (10') ➤ Mr Hristo Petrov - Chair of the EMPL Working Group on the European Child Guarantee (10') ➤ Ms Ninetta Kazantzi - President of the Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children (5') ➤ Children representatives (10') – Representatives of the Cyprus Children’s Parliament
15:45 - 16:00	Setting the Scene: Integrated Policy Making for Child Wellbeing as a tool for combating child poverty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr Olivier Thévenon - Head of Child Well-Being Unit of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development OECD (15')
16:00 – 17:00	Eradicating Child Poverty and Social Exclusion: Tackling Structural Drivers of Child Poverty through Family Support Systems <p><i>Panel: Moderator - Mr. Jiri Svarc - Head of Unit for Social Policies, Child Guarantee and the Social Protection Committee</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms Fauzaya Talhaoui - Member of the Committee of Regions (7') ➤ Ms Maria Rossidou - Social Welfare Services Representative, Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare of Cyprus (7') ➤ Dr Despina Cochliou - Assistant Professor of Social Work, University of Nicosia (7') ➤ Ms Anna Riatti - UNICEF Representative to Romania (7') ➤ Mr Enrico Tormen - Advocacy Advisor, Save the Children (7') <p>Q&A</p>
17:00	Family Photo
18:00 - 22:00	Cultural Event (Cyprus Museum) and Dinner (Paparouna Meze Restaurant)

DAY 2 - 21 MAY, 2026

9:30 - 9:35	<p>Welcome and Wrap Up of Day 1</p> <p>Introduction of Day 2 of Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr Yiannis Nicolaides - Permanent Secretary of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare of Cyprus
9:35 - 11:00	<p>Investing in the Early Years: Ensuring Inclusive Child Services for Children in Need</p> <p><i>Panel: Moderator - Dr. Despina Cochliou - Assistant Professor of Social Work, University of Nicosia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr Konstantinos Makris - Children First Observatory (7') ➤ Ms Sabine Saliba - Secretary General of Eurochild (7') ➤ Ms Jessica Harmer - CEO of SOS Children's Villages (7') ➤ Mr Ioannis Vassiliades - Director of the Welfare Benefits Administration Service, Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare of Cyprus (7') ➤ Mr Martino Serapioni - Senior Research Coordinator, COFACE Families Europe (7') <p>Q&A</p>
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 12:40	Safeguarding the Best Interest of Every Child: How Member States can Operationalize the Strengthened European Child Guarantee



	<p><i>Panel: Moderator - Dr. Mario Nava - Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms Aleksandra Gajewska - State Secretary of Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy of Poland (10') ➤ Ms Sarah El Hairy - High Commissioner for Children in France (10') ➤ Ms Elena Perikleous - Commissioner for Children's Rights in Cyprus (10') ➤ Mr Rubén Pérez Correa - Secretary of State for the Ministry of Youth and Childhood of Spain (10') ➤ Ms Hanna Vseviiov - Deputy Secretary General for Social Affairs of the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia (10') <p>Q&A</p>
12:40 - 13:00	<p>Conclusions – General Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr Mario Nava - Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion ➤ Mr Yiannis Nicolaides - Permanent Secretary of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare of Cyprus
13:00 - 14:00	<p>End of Programme – Lunch Buffet</p>



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