



LEFT BEHIND

The impact of economic migration
on children left behind and their families

European Conference
Brussels, 2 March 2011

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

During the conference held today, experts from national and European NGOs, Ombudsmen for children from EU Member States and academics gathered and discussed about causes and consequences of economic migration, in particular its effects on children and their families, in the country of origin, where children are left behind, and in the parents' country of destination.

This has been an important event to share and acquire direct knowledge on the issue from actors involved in protection and support of children left behind and their families in different countries. It also served to present the phenomenon, in its European dimension, to the EU institutions.

The conference has been also the first important step for the constitution of the network "*ChildrenLeftBehind.eu*", whose aim is to bring together efforts and expertise from all over Europe and coordinate advocacy actions to give the right relevance to the issue in all contexts.

We, the participants of the conference, agree to the necessity to:

- Acquire data on the phenomenon on a European level, since only with consistent data there will be a deeper and more complete understanding of the issue
- Address the issue alongside and within the framework of the EU 2020 Strategy, migration policies and policies promoting work mobility, bearing in mind that workers mobility can have important social consequences that should not be underestimated
- Promote networking and common activities, partnerships and exchange of good practices in order to develop a better and shared knowledge among different actors and raising awareness in decision makers at all levels
- Underpin all actions, including EU policy decisions, to the UN-CRC principles, in particular, principles of parental guidance (art 5), family reunification (art 10), special assistance for children living separated by their parents (art 18) and for children deprived by family environment (art 20)