

# IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILDHOOD IN EUROPE

draft  
INVITATION

**Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament (QoC)**

**MEP Anna Hedh  
MEP Kostas Chrysogonos  
MEP Deirdre Clune  
MEP Arne Gericke  
MEP Nathalie Griesbeck  
MEP Karin Kadenbach  
MEP József Nagy  
MEP Evelyn Regner  
MEP Julie Ward**

This session will be hosted by:

**MEP Younous Omarjee (Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic  
Green Left, **France**), and  
MEP Molly Scott Cato and MEP Jean Lambert (Group of the Greens / European Free  
Alliance, UK)**

55th session:

## **'PROSPERITY WITHOUT GROWTH: A VISION OF A LASTING PROSPERITY FOR ALL'**

The presentation will be given by **Professor dr. Tim Jackson**, Professor of Sustainable Development and Director of the Sustainable Lifestyles Research Group (SLRG) at the University of Surrey, UK and author of the book '**Prosperity without growth, Economics for a Finite Planet**'.

**Time:** Tuesday 17 November 2015 from **13.00 until 15.00 hours**

**Location:** European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels, Altiero Spinelli, Room **ASP6D128**

**Entrance:** We will gather at the Entrance at Place Luxembourg at **12.30** hours and enter together into the building. Please be in time. It is obligatory to take your passport and/or ID Card with you.

*'Prosperity without Growth, Economics for a Finite Planet': one of the most important books written in the past decade*

### **The ecological setting in the 21st century**

When we watch television, listen to the radio or read the paper we only hear from politicians and economists one message, in many different tones:

*'the solution of our economic and financial woes is more economic growth. In this way we create jobs and prosperity for our people'.*

If one would ask them the question whether this economic growth would not pollute the environment and affect in a catastrophic way the environment they would usually answer: 'we will create 'decoupling'. With this they mean that by using new technology the ecological footprint and the CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions will be reduced.

Tim Jackson and his colleagues were the first to check if this statement was correct.

Tim Jackson distinguishes in this respect two sorts of decoupling<sup>1</sup>:

- 'relative decoupling', which refers to a decline in the ecological intensity per unit of economic output.
- 'absolute decoupling', which refers to a total decline of the ecological footprint and the CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions.

To estimate the environmental impact Tim Jackson uses the Paul Ehrlich and John Holdren equation. When applied to the level of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions the formula is as follows<sup>2</sup>:

$$C = P \times A \times T$$

C = total CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions in the world in billion tonnes

P = size of the world population in billions

A = the level of affluence in \$ / person

T = the technological intensity of economic output, and in the case of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions the grams of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted per dollar of output.

In 1990 the formula was filled in as follows:

$C = P (5.3 \text{ billion people}) \times A (4700 \text{ \$/person}) \times T (870 \text{ gram CO}_2 / \$ \text{ of output}) = \mathbf{21.7 \text{ billion tonnes of CO}_2\text{-emissions,}$

**and in 2007 it was:**

$C = P (6.6 \text{ billion people}) \times A (5900 \text{ \$/person}) \times T (770 \text{ gram CO}_2 / \$ \text{ of output}) = \mathbf{30 \text{ billion tonnes of CO}_2\text{-emissions,}$  or an increase of 39%.

There was in this period a decrease in the CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions per unit of output, but this was largely offset by the increase of the world population and the rising level of affluence.

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<sup>1</sup> Tim Jackson, *Prosperity without Growth, Economics for a Finite Planet* London 2009, page 67.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*, page 78-81.

Tim Jackson writes in this respect:

*Under business as usual conditions, the decline in carbon intensity just about balances the growth in population and carbon dioxide emissions will end up growing at about the same rate as the average income, 1.4 per cent a year. It might not sound much, but by 2050, under these assumptions, carbon dioxide emissions are 80 per cent higher than they are today. Not quite what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had in mind.*

He continues, referring to the scenario that the rest of the world reaches an affluence level comparable with the current level in the EU, while there is no growth in income per head in the industrialised countries:

*'If we are really serious about fairness and want the world's 9 billion people all to enjoy an income comparable with EU citizens today, the economy would need to grow 6 times between now and 2050, with incomes growing at an average rate of 3.6 per cent a year. Achieving the IPCC's emission target in this world means pushing down the carbon intensity of output by 9 per cent every single year for the next 40 or so years. By 2050, the average carbon intensity would need to be 55 times lower than it is today at only 14 grams CO<sub>2</sub> / \$ of output.'*

If we assume that the incomes everywhere would grow in this period with 2 per cent per annum then<sup>3</sup>:

*'The global economy grows almost 15 times in this scenario and carbon intensity must fall by over 11 per cent every single year. By 2050 the carbon content of each dollar has to be no more than 6 grams CO<sub>2</sub>/ \$ of output. That is almost 130 times lower than the average carbon intensity today'.*

The conclusion of Tim Jackson is therefore<sup>4</sup>:

*'Unless growth in the richer nations is curtailed, or some kind of completely unforeseen technological breakthrough happens, the carbon implication of a shared prosperity are truly daunting to contemplate. The truth is, that there is as yet no credible, socially just, ecologically sustainable scenario of continually growing incomes for a world of 9 billion people.'*

### **The Culture of Consumerism**

In the chapter 'The Iron Cage of Consumerism' Tim Jackson describes the present culture of consumerism, which is a dance between on the one hand the companies providing the products and services, and on the other hand the human beings, who in their role as consumers, buy these products and services, and in another capacity, they are the investors, that own the above mentioned companies. The third role of the human beings is to be a worker in the companies and elsewhere.

To survive companies must continuously develop new products and services for lower prices in order to stay ahead of the competition. They can lower their prices by increasing the productivity

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<sup>3</sup> ibid, page 81

<sup>4</sup> ibid, page 85 and 86.

of the production process, which implies most of the time a reduction of the workforce. The persons that lost their job can be given new work when the quantity of the consumption increases again. In this way we created together the current economic system for which growth is imperative.

Another way for companies to survive is to promote their products towards the consumers and to entice them to buy and more in general this is done by creating and maintaining a consumer culture in society with the implicit message that if you buy and consume you will be happier, have more status and be perceived as more successful.

Tim Jackson concludes his chapter with the following<sup>5</sup>:

*'We also have to find a way through the institutional and social constraints that lock us into a failing system. In particular, we need to identify opportunities for change within society, changes in values, changes in lifestyles, changes in social structures, that will free us from the damaging social logic of consumerism.*

*Only through such changes will it be possible to get ourselves 'unhooked' from growth, free ourselves from the relentless flow of novelty that drives material throughput and find instead a lasting prosperity, the potential to flourish, within ecological and social limits'.*

### **A Vision of a Lasting Prosperity for All**

It is for us as mankind a challenge to find the components of a new culture of prosperity. Below are cited some texts from Tim Jackson's book in this respect:

*What does it mean to be a citizen in our society?*

A new politics of the common good isn't only about finding more scrupulous politicians. It also requires a more demanding idea of what it means to be a citizen, and it requires a more robust public discourse, one that engages more directly with moral and even spiritual questions<sup>6</sup>.

*A deeper sense of the purpose of living*

We must bring back into society a deeper sense of the purpose of living. The unhappiness in so many lives ought to tell us that success alone is not enough. Material success has brought us to a strange spiritual and moral bankruptcy.<sup>7</sup>

*Prosperity has to do with our ability to flourish: physically, psychologically and socially*

Prosperity is not synonymous with material wealth. And the requirements of prosperity go beyond material sustenance. Rather, prosperity has to do with our ability to flourish: physically, psychologically and socially. Beyond mere subsistence, prosperity hangs crucially on our ability to participate meaningfully in the life of society.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *ibid*, page 102.

<sup>6</sup> Michael Sandel, quoted by Tim Jackson on page 187.

<sup>7</sup> Ben Okri 2009, as cited by Tim Jackson on page 143.

<sup>8</sup> *ibid*, page 143.

### *Key macro-economic interventions*

..... the three key macro-economic interventions needed to achieve ecological and economic stability in the new economy are quite specific:

- structural transitions to service-based activities;
- investments in ecological assets; and
- working time policy as a stabilizing mechanism.<sup>9</sup>

### *More equal societies almost always do better*

The Spirit Level<sup>10</sup> draws together astonishing evidence of the benefits of equality across OECD nations in a range of health and social impacts. Life expectancy, child well-being, literacy, social mobility and trust are all better in more equal societies. Infant mortality, obesity, teenage pregnancy, homicide rates and incidence of mental illness are all worse in less equal ones. Tackling systemic inequality is vital, argue Wilkinson and Pickett, and not just for the well-off. Society as a whole suffers in the face of inequality<sup>11</sup>.

### *The most credible vision for the road ahead of us: to provide capabilities to our citizens for flourishing within ecological limits*

The idea of an economy whose task is to provide capabilities for flourishing within ecological limits offers the most credible vision to put in its place. But this can only happen through changes that support social behaviours and reduce the structural incentives to unproductive status competition.<sup>12</sup>

### *Doing 'Well'<sup>13</sup>*

We can look in a new way of doing 'well': it is the ability to give and receive love, to enjoy respect of our peers, to contribute usefully to society, to have a sense of belonging and trust in the community, to help create the social world and find a credible place in it. In short, an important component of prosperity is the ability to participate meaningfully in the life of society.

### *Our sense of identity, expression of love, search for meaning*

Currently our sense of identity, our expression of love, our search for meaning and purpose are articulated with the language of goods. Tim Jackson is asking us to reflect if all that glitters is really all that matters?

### *There will be work for all*

Prosperity for all implies that people will have work, because employment is an important element of a healthy social life of the individual and his/her community.

### *Voluntary simplicity*

Voluntary simplicity: people living that way are often happier than people pursuing ever higher levels of consumption.

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<sup>9</sup> ibid, page 200

<sup>10</sup> Tim Jackson refers on page 154 to the book by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett entitled 'The spirit level, why more equal societies almost always do better'.

<sup>11</sup> ibid, page 154.

<sup>12</sup> ibid, page 156

<sup>13</sup> derived from pages 189-192

**Overall objectives of these meetings:**

- To gain a better understanding of the Quality of Childhood in the EU Member States. This time we will focus on 'Prosperity without growth: a vision of a lasting prosperity for all'.
- To reflect on the role that the European institutions can play to improve the situation.
- To get to grips with the values, principles and approaches that could lead to improvements for children both in Europe and around the world.
- To form an effective working group and to get a sense of how to move on.

We take pleasure in inviting you for the 55th session on 17 November 2015. We believe that we as members of the European Parliament working together with like-minded public interest advocacy groups and committed individuals can and should play an important role in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Hedh  
Kostas Chrysogonos  
Deirdre Clune  
Arne Gericke  
Nathalie Griesbeck  
Karin Kadenbach  
József Nagy  
Evelyn Regner  
Julie Ward  
Members of the European Parliament

**Programme Outline for Tuesday 17 November 2015**

Time	Subject	Speaker / facilitator
13.00	Opening	MEP Younous Omarjee and MEP Molly Scott Cato
13.10	Reflections regarding the topic from the point of view of the Learning for Well-being Community.	Daniel Kropf, Founding Chair and Executive director of the Universal Education Foundation.
13.20	'Prosperity without growth: a vision of a lasting prosperity for all'	Professor dr. Tim Jackson, Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey, UK
14.10	Discussion	Michiel Matthes, Chairman of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group
14.50-15.00	Closing remarks	MEP Younous Omarjee and MEP Molly Scott Cato

**Disclaimer:**

The organisers organise this session on a best effort basis. However changes in parts of the programme or in the entire programme may occur due to unforeseen circumstances and the organisers cannot be held liable for that.

**Secretariat for this session:**

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With the support of the following organisations:



For background information please visit our respective websites:

[www.allianceforchildhood.eu](http://www.allianceforchildhood.eu)

[www.learningforwellbeing.org](http://www.learningforwellbeing.org)

This programme was developed in cooperation with the **Alliance for Childhood European Network Group**, whose members are:

Alliance ELIANT, Brussels  
 ARGE-Erziehungsberatung, Austria  
 Beweeg.nl  
 Centre for Relational Competence, Denmark  
 Christopher Clouder, UK

Paulina Dabrowska, Luxembourg  
 Dr. René Diekstra, The Netherlands  
 European Council for Steiner  
 Waldorf Education  
 European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants  
 (EFCNI)  
 EPA (European Parents Association)  
 Experiential Education Project, Belgium  
 Familylab International, Switzerland  
 Familienforum Havelhöhe GmbH  
 und Emmi-Pikler-Haus e.V., Germany  
 Haukkala Foundation, Finland  
 Higher Institute for Family Sciences, Belgium  
 International Association for Steiner / Waldorf  
 Early Childhood Education (Sweden)  
 Idee Kids vzw, Belgium  
 Legambiente, Italy  
 Janusz Korczak International Society  
 Le Furet, France  
 Movium and the Swedish University of  
 Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp  
 NIVOZ (The Netherlands)

Saharan & North African Toy and Play Cultures,  
 Belgium  
 Professor Dr. Anthony Staines, Ireland  
 Stichting Universele Ontwikkeling (NL)  
 Universal Education Foundation, Brussels  
 Briony Vanden Bussche, Belgium  
 Dr. Jan van Gils, Belgium  
 Verein mit Kindern Wachsen, Germany

Michaela Sieh  
 Dr. Martina Leibovici  
 Elise Sijthoff  
 Claes Solborg Pedersen  
 Founding Member of the Alliance for  
 Childhood

Dr. Richard Landl and Rosmarie Bluder  
 Silke Mader  
 Eszter Salamon  
 Professor Dr. Ferre Laevers  
 Jesper Juul

Dr. med. Christoph K. Meinecke  
 Professor Dr. Lea Pulkkinen  
 Dr. Hans van Crombrugge

Clara Aerts  
 Björn Accoe  
 Vanessa Pallucchi  
 Theo Cappon and Helma Brouwers  
 Marie-Nicole Rubio

Maria Nordström  
 Professor Dr. Luc Stevens / Nickel van  
 der Vorm

Dr. Jean-Pierre Rossie

Marijke Sluijter  
 Daniel Kropf

Lienhard Valentin/Sabine Heggemann



**The sessions held / to be held by the Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament in the period 2006-2015:**

5 December 2006	1. 'The Toxic Childhood Syndrome and the Quality of Childhood' with Christopher Clouder (UK) and Professor Hans van Crombrugge (Belgium). Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
9 January 2007	2. 'Really Improving the Education in the European Union requires Systemic Changes' with professor Luc Stevens (Netherlands) and Professor Ferre Laevers (Belgium). Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
6 March 2007	3. 'The Quality of Child-Adult Relationships in Families and School' with Jesper Juul (Denmark). Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
15 May 2007	4. 'The Child: his/her Networks and Neighbourhood' with René Diekstra. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
September 20 2007	5. 'How can we improve in the European Union the Early Childhood Educational Systems' with John Bennett, the author of the OECD Study Starting Strong. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
November 6 2007	6. 'How to let children and adolescents acquire key competences for the world of the 21st century?' with Dr. Martina Leibovici-Mühlberger from Austria and Geseke Lundgren from Sweden. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits
January 8, 2008	7. 'Attachment, what it is, why it is important and what we can do about it to help young children acquire a secure attachment?' with Sir Richard Bowlby. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
March 4, 2008	8. 'A vision on children and childhood in the European Union' by Michiel Matthes. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
May 14, 2008	9. Professor René Diekstra about 'The Changing Face of Adolescence. Accounting for changes in adolescent development and their effects on education and social policies'. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
July 1, 2008	10. Professor Steen Hildebrandt (University of Aarhus, Denmark) about the 'Multiple intelligences in the knowledge-based society'. Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.
September 16, 2008	11. Presentation of the report of the Fundación Marcelino Botín entitled 'Social and Emotional Education, An International Analysis' by Christopher Clouder and Fátima Sánchez Santiago. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
November 12, 2008	12. Professor Boris Cyrulnik from France: 'What measures can we take to improve the quality of childhood in the European Union?' Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.
November 17, 2008	13. Organisation of a Symposium in Bucharest, Romania at the request of MEP Mrs Rovana Plumb: 'A European Policy Agenda for the Quality of Childhood with special emphasis on the case of the children of Romanian migrant workers'.
January 27, 2009	14. Dr. Michel Vandenbroeck (University of Ghent, Belgium) about 'Diversity and Equity in Early Childhood Services'. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
March 3, 2009	15. 'Taking stock of what has been achieved with the Working Group since December 2006 and looking forward' with Michiel Matthes, Secretary-General of the Alliance for Childhood European Network. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
April 28, 2009	16. Professor Peter Moss (University of London) about young children and their services: developing a European approach. Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.

September 8, 2009	17. 'Continuing to work on improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union during the present economic downturn' with Professor Emeritus Richard Wilkinson, co-author of the book 'The Spirit Level, Why More Equal Societies Almost Always do Better'. Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.
November 17, 2009	18. The Technical University of Dortmund won the tender issued by the European Commission to execute a Research Project to identify the key research questions regarding families and family policies. The leader of this project, Professor Dr. Uwe Uhlendorff gave a briefing on this Project and spoke about 'Developing a European Research Agenda for Families and Family Policies'. Host: MEP Livia Járóka.
December 8, 2009	19. Why Love Matters: How Affection Shapes a Baby's Brain, and the policy requirements in this respect with Sue Gerhardt, author of the book with the similar title. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
January 12, 2010	20. The PISA Study and lessons learned regarding the Quality of Childhood with Andreas Schleicher, Head of the Indicators and Analysis Division of the OECD Directorate for Education. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
March 2, 2010	21. 'Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union: the Case of Roma Children' with Ivan Ivanov, Executive Director of the European Roma Information Office (ERIO) and Bernard Rorke, Director of the Roma Initiative Programs of the Open Society Institute (OSI). Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
April 13, 2010	22. Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union: the Aspect of Parental Leave Policies by Professor Peter Moss of the Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
June 8, 2010	23. 'The City for the Children'. Key-note speaker: Vanessa Pallucchi, Director for Education of Legambiente, Rome, Italy. Host: MEP Vittorio Prodi and MEP Karin Kadenbach.
August 31, 2010	24. 'The impact of television and screen media on the Quality of Childhood and what are good policies in this respect on the level of the family, on the level of the country and on the EU level?' with Dr. Aric Sigman, author of the book 'Remotely controlled, how television is damaging our lives'. Host: MEP Karin Kadenbach.
November 17, 2010	25. 'The proposed research agenda for the European Commission re families and family policies' with Professor Dr. Uwe Uhlendorff of the Technical University Dortmund, Germany. Host: MEP Mr Gerald Häfner
January 11, 2011	26. 'The Quality of the Physical Environment of the Child, the Current Problems in this area, and what needs to be done?' together with the Health and Environment Alliance and the INCHES Network. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
March 1, 2011	27. 'Educating the Art of Life: Resilience and Creativity in Contemporary Education' with David Brierley, Associate Professor at the Rudolf Steiner University College, Oslo Norway. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
March 29, 2011	28. 'A reflection on the European Commission's High Level Group on Literacy' with emeritus Professor Margaret Clark from the UK. Host: MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij.
May 31, 2011	29. 'Learning to move and moving to learn. Why physical development in the early years supports later learning, behaviour and achievement' with Sally Goddard Blythe, Director of The Institute for Neuro-Physiological

	Psychology in the UK. Hosted by MEP Edward McMillan-Scott.
September 6, 2011	30. Presentation of the report 'Learning for Well-being: a Policy Priority for Children and Youth in Europe, A Movement for Change' by Professor Ilona Kickbusch, Director of the Global Health Programme at the Graduate Institute of International Development Studies in Geneva. Host: MEP Karin Kadenbach.
November 8, 2011	31. Alcohol Nation, How to protect our children from today's drinking culture' with Dr. Aric Sigman. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
January 10, 2012	32. Presentation of a Proposal to set up a European Academy for Complementary Pedagogy by Jesper Juul. Host: MEP Judith Merkies.
March 6, 2012	33. 'What Contribution can the Digital Environment make to the Improvement of the Quality of Childhood?' with Professor Martine Delfos from the Netherlands and Thibaut Kleiner of the Cabinet of Euro-commissioner Neelie Kroes. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
April 11, 2012	34. 'Improving the Quality of Childhood as a challenge to European institutions: Reflections from the Ombudsmen for Children' with Maria Kaisa Aula, the Finnish Ombudsman for Children. Host: MEP Liisa Jaakonsaari.
5 June 2012	35. The State of Affairs of the Child in the City, and What Needs To Be Done? with Dr. Jan van Gils, President and founder of the European Network of Child Friendly Cities and President of the International Council for Children's Play. Host: MEP Karin Kadenbach
4 September 2012	36. '500,000 Preterm Births in Europe Each Year. What are the Dangers, and What are the Main Components of a Successful Strategy to Address this Challenge?' with Professor Luc Zimmermann (Belgium / Netherlands), Professor Dominique Haumont (Belgium) and Silke Mader (Germany), all working with the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI). Host: MEP Peter Liese.
13 November 2012	37. 'How can we help children to reach their unique potential and how can we support the parents, caregivers and teachers in their role vis-à-vis children' with Dr. Gordon Neufeld from Vancouver, Canada. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
9 January 2013	38. 'Children and their connection with nature: why it is important and how can it be stimulated?' with Tim Gill from the UK. Host: MEP Judith Merkies and MEP Gerald Häfner.
5 March 2013	39. 'IFFD's Family Enrichment Courses: the Case Study Method applied to Family Settings. What it is and how to provide it to more families?' with Marina Robben, President of the International Federation For Family Development (IFFD). Host: MEP Anneli Jäätteenmäki and MEP Anna Záborská.
9 April 2013	40. Finland has the best literacy score in the European Union. What are the main elements of its strategy and to what extent can it be copied by other countries? with Professor Heikki Lyytinen. Host: MEP Liisa Jaakonsaari.
4 June 2013	41. 'The commercialisation of childhood in the USA: what is the current situation, to what extent is it harmful for children, what needs to be done and what are the lessons for the European Union?' with Susan Linn, Founder and Director of the 'Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood'. Host: MEP Anna Záborská.
3 September 2013	42. 'The Human Biotechnology Revolution is opening the door to the creation of genetically modified 'designer babies': what is the current situation?, what

	is at stake at the moment?, what needs to be done?, and what role could the European Union play in this respect?' with Enola Aird, Founder and Director of 'Mothers for a Human Future'. Host: MEP Anna Záborská.
12 November 2013	43. 'Positive human development: a spontaneous or guided process? 45 years of experience with longitudinal research and the policy lessons that can be drawn from it' with Professor Lea Pulkkinen. Host: MEP Anneli Jäätteenmäki.
7 January 2014	44. 'Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Systems in Europe: what are the current trends and what needs to be done?' with Professor Dr. Mathias Urban, Professor of Early Childhood and Director of the Early Childhood Research Centre, University of Roehampton, London, Great Britain. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
4 March 2014	45. Parents' partnership stability and quality as a context for child development. What are the challenges, and what policies and programmes are in place? Some insights from Germany' with Professor Dr. Sabine Walper, Research Director of the German Youth Institute in Munich, Germany. Host: MEP Jürgen Klute.
18 June 2014	46. 'Make the European Parliament a global Child Rights Champion'. The presentations will be given by members of the Child Rights Action Group (CRAG) a.o. Jana Hainsworth of Eurochild, Deirdre de Burca of World Vision and Lilana Keith of PICUM. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
8 July 2014	47. 'Youth employment in the EU member states: what is the current situation?, and what is the role of the European Commission in the domain of the Youth Initiative and the Youth Guarantee? Discussion of the Commission's Country Specific Recommendations' with Jeroen Jutte of the European Commission, Head of Unit, DG EMPL, Unit C1 European Employment Strategy and Governance. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
9 September 2014	48. 'Developing inclusive systems across Education, Health and Social sectors for early school leaving prevention' with Dr. Paul Downes of Saint Patrick's College, Dublin City University. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
18 November 2014	49. 'The Mental Health Situation of Children and Young People in the European Union: What is the Current Situation and What could be done?' with Professor Ulrike Ravens-Sieberer and Dr. Veronika Ottova-Jordan. Host: MEP Anna Hedh.
6 January 2015	50. 'The effect of the Great Recession on Southern European Children's and Adolescents' Adaptation and Wellbeing: Risks and Resilience Processes. What is necessary at this moment?' with Professor Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, PhD. Host: MEP Kostas Chrysogonos.
3 March 2015	51. '4000 City Councils for Children in France: how do they operate and what makes them successful?' with Jonathan Lévy. Host: MEP József Nagy.
13 May 2015	52. 'Children's Well-Being Indicators: a Powerful Tool to Improve the Well-Being of Children. Launch of the European Report of Children's Worlds' with Professor Ferran Casas, Professor Sabine Andresen and Professor Jonathan Bradshaw. Host: MEP Nathalie Griesbeck
2 June 2015	53. 'Health Assets for Young People's Health and Well-being. A New Basis for a set of Indicators for Policy and Practice?' with Dr Antony Morgan from the Glasgow Caledonian University, London Campus, UK Host: MEP Marie Arena and MEP Jana Zitnanska

1 September 2015	54. 'Elham Palestine: a multisector national partnership towards making schools more conducive to children's well-being. What is the philosophy and approach of Elham? What positive outcomes have resulted? In which way can we apply the same approach in a European context?' with Professor Dr. Marwan Awartani. Host: Julie Ward.
17 November 2015	55. 'Prosperity without growth: a vision of a lasting prosperity for all' with Professor dr. Tim Jackson from the University of Surrey, UK. Host: MEP Younous Omarjee, MEP Molly Scott Cato and MEP Jean Lambert.

**Five yearbooks were published with the reports of these sessions:**

session 1-16: Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union: Current Perspectives.

session 17-23: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2011, Volume 2.

session 24-30: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2012, Volume 3.

session 31-37: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2013, Volume 4.

session 28-44: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2014, Volume 5.

All books can be downloaded free of charge from: [www.allianceforchildhood.eu/publications](http://www.allianceforchildhood.eu/publications) and ordered at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) .