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**INVITATION FOR ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE QUALITY OF CHILDHOOD IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**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 Laurentiu Rebega**

**MEP Evelyn Regner**

**MEP Julie Ward**

This session will be hosted by:

**MEP Marie Arena (Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Belgium) and**

**MEP Jana Zitnanska (European Conservatives and Reformists Group, Slovakia)**

53rd session:

**'Health Assets for Young People's Health and Well-being.**

**A New Basis for a set of Indicators for Policy and Practice?**

**Key Results and Strategies from the Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC) Survey'**

The presentation will be given by **Dr Antony Morgan**, visiting Professor at the Glasgow Caledonian University, London Campus, UK, and leader of the MSc Public Health with Social Action Programme.

**Time**: Tuesday 2 June 2015 from 14.00 until 16.00 hours.

**Location:** European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels, Altiero Spinelli, Room A5 G305.

**Entrance**: We will gather at the Entrance at Place Luxembourg at 13.30 hours and enter together into the building. Please be in time. It is obligatory to take your passport and/or ID Card with you.

**Introduction**

This session is organised by the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group, Eurochild and Learning for Well-being, together with MEPs Marie Arena and Jana Zitnanska. The three organisations agreed to dedicate two QoC sessions to the subject of child well-being indicators in order to contribute in a meaningful way to the policy debate around measurement of what matters, what is working and what is not working, what lessons can be learnt from different approaches to influence the development of well-being indicators and data collection systems in the EU:

* on 13 May 2015 the Children's Worlds’ Group contributed to the QoC and launched their European report, with a focus on subjective well-being indicators;
* on 2 June 2015 the Health Behavior in School-aged Children (HBSC) research network will reflect on indicators related to positive behaviours and skills.

The 2013 Recommendation 'Investing in Children: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage' has set up a portfolio of indicators to monitor and report on Member States progress. We hope that this series of inputs on child well-being indicators will contribute to the reflection on how to move forward in populating the portfolio of indicators included as an annex to the Recommendation. The adoption of child well-being indicators will be vital to ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of policies for children and to inform evidence-based policy development.

**The session on 2 June will focus on 'Health Assets for Young People's Health and Well-being. A New Basis for a set of Indicators for Policy and Practice'.**

For 30 years the Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC) has been a pioneer cross-national study gaining insight into young people's well-being, health behaviours and their social context. This research collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe is conducted every four years in [44 countries](http://www.hbsc.org/membership/countries/index.html) and regions across Europe and North America. With adolescents making about one sixth of the world's population, HBSC uses its findings to inform policy and practice to improve the lives of millions of young people.

The HBSC research network is an international alliance of researchers that collaborate on the cross-national survey of school students: HBSC. The HBSC collects data every four years on 11, 13, and 15-year-old boys' and girls' health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours. These years mark a period of increased autonomy that can influence how their health and health-related behaviours develop.

The research venture dates back to 1982, when researchers from England, Finland and Norway agreed to develop and implement a shared research protocol to survey school children. By 1983 the HBSC study was adopted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe as a collaborative study. HBSC now includes [44 countries](http://www.hbsc.org/membership/countries/index.html) and regions across Europe and North America.

This research collaboration brings in individuals with a wide range of expertise in areas such as clinical medicine, epidemiology, human biology, paediatrics, pedagogy, psychology, public health, public policy, and sociology. The approach to study development has therefore involved cross-fertilization of a range of perspectives.

As such, the HBSC study is the product of topic-focused groups that collaborate to develop the conceptual foundations of the study, identify research questions, decide the methods and measurements to be employed, and work on data analyses and the dissemination of findings.

**What is HBSC researching?**

Behaviours established during adolescence can continue into adulthood, affecting issues such as mental health, the development of health complaints, tobacco use, diet, physical activity levels, and alcohol use. HBSC focuses on understanding young people's health in their social context – where they live, at school, with family and friends. Researchers in the HBSC network are interested in understanding how these factors, individually and together, influence young people's health as they move from childhood into young adulthood.

The international standard questionnaire produced for every survey cycle enables the collection of common data across all participating countries and thus enables the quantification of patterns of key health behaviours, health indicators and contextual variables. This data allow cross-national comparisons to be made and, with successive surveys, trend data is gathered and may be examined at both the national and cross-national level. The international network is organized around an interlinked series of focus and topic groups related to the following areas:

* Body image
* Bullying and fighting
* Eating behaviours
* Health complaints
* Injuries
* Life satisfaction
* Obesity
* Oral health
* Physical activity and sedentary behaviour
* Relationships: Family and Peers
* School environment
* Self-rated health
* Sexual behaviour
* Socioeconomic environment
* Substance use: Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis
* Weight reduction behaviour

Investing in the health and well-being of children and young people is essential for the success and sustainability of future generations. We already have much knowledge about the many factors that can impact on their ability to deal with the different pressures that they face from very early years to mid-adolescence. These factors relate to their own genetic susceptibilities to achieving health, to their family, to their environment (particularly school) and life events. Early to mid adolescence marks a particularly difficult period when young people have to deal with considerable change in their lives such as growing academic expectations; changing social relationships with family and peers and physical and emotional changes associated with maturation. The question is therefore how do we provide them with the optimum conditions to be able to understand, make sense and deal with these situations as they arise.

The idea of ‘health assets’ and asset based approaches to health and wellbeing has emerged as one way of focusing the minds of researchers, policy makers and practitioners on the best ways of doing this. Essentially, a health asset can be defined as any factor which enhances the ability of individuals, communities and populations to maintain and sustain health and wellbeing. The argument then being that the more opportunities young people have in childhood and adolescence to experience and accumulate the positive effects of these assets that outweigh negative risk factors, the more likely they are to achieve and sustain health and mental well-being in later life. The principles of asset-based approaches include:

* Emphasize those assets (any resource, skill or knowledge) which enhances the ability of individuals, families and neighbourhoods to sustain health and wellbeing
* Instead of starting with the problems, start with what is working and what people care about.
* Ensure programmes include the need to build networks, friendships, self-esteem and feelings of personal and collective effectiveness which are already known to be good for health and wellbeing.

The Asset Model put forward by Morgan and Ziglio (2010) provides a systematic framework for thinking about how best to measure and evaluate asset based approaches and provides the starting point for a new set of indicators for policy and practice.

**The approach of HBSC: a new basis for a set of indicators for policy and practice?**

HBSC's findings show how young people's health changes as they move from childhood, through adolescence into adulthood. Member countries and stakeholders at national and international levels use the HBSC data to monitor young people's health, understand the social determinants of health, and determine effective health improvement interventions. Those working in child and adolescent health view HBSC as an extensive databank and repository of multidisciplinary expertise, which can: support and further their research interests, lobby for change, inform policy and practice, and monitor trends over time.

**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 'Health Assets for Young People's Health and Well-being. A New basis for a set of indicators for policy and practice?
* 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 53rd session on 2 June 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

Laurentiu Rebega

Evelyn Regner

Julie Ward

Members of the European Parliament

**Programme Outline for Tuesday 2 June 2015**

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| Time | Subject | Speaker / facilitator |
| 14.00 | Opening | MEP Marie Arena and MEP Jana Zitnanska |
| 14.05 | Measuring what matters: a holistic and systemic perspective | Daniel Kropf, Founding Chair and Executive Director of the Universal Education Foundation |
| 14.15 | Health Assets for Young People's Health and Well-being - A New Basis for a set of Indicators for Policy and Practice? | Dr Antony Morgan, Visiting Professor at the Glasgow Caledonian University, London Campus, UK |
| 15.00 | Discussion | Jana Hainsworth, Secretary-General of Eurochild and Michiel Matthes, Secretary-General of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group |
| 15.50-16.00 | Closing remarks | MEP Marie Arena and MEP Jana Zitnanska |

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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**Biography of Dr. Antony Morgan**

Dr Antony Morgan is a Visiting Professor at GCU London, and the Programme Leader for the MSc Public Health. A graduate of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, his doctoral research was in the field of positive social approaches to adolescent health and wellbeing. He is the co-editor of Health Assets in a Global Context: Theory Methods, Action published by Springer, New York in 2010. He has held honorary research positions with the University of Edinburgh, City University and the University of Hertfordshire and is currently an Honorary Fellow at the Andalusian School of Public Health in Granada, Spain and a research fellow at the University of St Andrews Medical School in Scotland.

He has an extensive global network of colleagues working towards similar population health goals which have been developed through his involvement in numerous international initiatives. Most notably through his work at the World Health Organisation’s European Office for Investment in Health and Development in Venice, Italy, where he led the Assets for Health and Development Programme and his collaboration with the Universidad de Desarrollo, in Chile to lead the Measurement and Evidence Knowledge Network of the Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. For many years he was the Principal Investigator for England and the Chair of the Policy Development Group of the Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC) study. This international study is an on-going research initiative exploring the social contexts of adolescent health and related behaviour in over 40 European countries and in North America.

He is currently on secondment from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) where he is an Associate Director in the Centre for Public Health Excellence. At NICE he is responsible for producing evidence based guidance for a wide range of professionals working towards improving health and reducing health inequalities in England. He has produced guidance on such topics as: promoting the social and emotional wellbeing of school children; supporting pregnant women to stop smoking during pregnancy, effective approaches to community engagement; offering Hepatitis B and C testing to vulnerable populations.

Dr Morgan originally trained as an applied chemist and later in information science and epidemiology. He has worked in Public Health in the English National Health Service, at local, regional and national level for over 30 years during which time he has led wide ranging initiatives from developing knowledge management systems for health care professionals through to the design of an innovative research programme which aimed to test the feasibility and effectiveness of action research approaches to reducing health inequalities. He has awarded the position of Fellow of the UK’s Faculty of Public Health in 2006 in recognition of his services to public health.

With the support of the following organisations:

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For background information please visit our respective websites:

www.allianceforchildhood.eu

www.learningforwellbeing.org

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

and for HBSC: www.hbsc.org. This programme was developed in cooperation with the **Alliance for Childhood European Network Group**, whose members are:

Alliance ELIANT, Brussels Michaela Sieh

ARGE-Erziehungsberatung, Austria Dr. Martina Leibovici

Beweeg.nl Elise Sijthoff

Centre for Relational Competence, Denmark Claes Solborg Pedersen

Christopher Clouder, UK Founding Member of the Alliance for Childhood

Paulina Dabrowska, Luxembourg

Dr. René Diekstra, The Netherlands

European Council for Steiner

Waldorf Education Dr. Richard Landl and Rosmarie Bluder

European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants

(EFCNI) Silke Mader

EPA (European Parents Association) Eszter Salamon

Experiential Education Project, Belgium Professor Dr. Ferre Laevers

Familylab International, Switzerland Jesper Juul

Familienforum Havelhöhe GmbH

und Emmi-Pikler-Haus e.V., Germany Dr. med. Christoph K. Meinecke   
Haukkala Foundation, Finland Professor Dr. Lea Pulkkinen

Higher Institute for Family Sciences, Belgium Dr. Hans van Crombrugge

International Association for Steiner / Waldorf

Early Childhood Education (Sweden) Clara Aerts

Idee Kids vzw, Belgium Björn Accoe

Legambiente, Italy Vanessa Pallucchi

Janusz Korczak International Society Theo Cappon and Helma Brouwers

Le Furet, France Marie-Nicole Rubio

Movium and the Swedish University of

Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp Maria Nordström

NIVOZ (The Netherlands) Professor Dr. Luc Stevens / Nickel van der Vorm

Saharan & North African Toy and Play Cultures,

Belgium Dr. Jean-Pierre Rossie

Professor Dr. Anthony Staines, Ireland

Stichting Universele Ontwikkeling (NL) Marijke Sluijter

Universal Education Foundation, Brussels Daniel Kropf

Briony Vanden Bussche, Belgium

Dr. Jan van Gils, Belgium

Verein mit Kindern Wachsen, Germany 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:**

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| --- | --- |
| 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 Lívia 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'withDavid 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 Glascow Caledonian University, London Campus, UK Host: MEP Marie Arena and MEP Jana Zitnanska |

**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 and ordered at www.amazon.co.uk .