













Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2023/2066(INI)	Procedure completed
Reducing inequalities and promoting social inclusion in times of crisis for children and their families		
Subject		
4.10.02 Family policy, family law, parental leave		
4.10.03 Child protection, children's rights		
4.10.05 Social inclusion, poverty, minimum income		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	 PEREIRA Sandra	03/10/2023
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 GEUKING Helmut	
		 BRGLEZ Milan	
		 ORVILLE Max	
		 D'AMATO Rosa	
		 DE LA PISA CARRIÓN Margarita	
		 REIL Guido	
		Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion
	 CULT Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	 FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality		24/05/2023
		 KOPACZ Ewa	
European Commission	Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	Commissioner SCHMIT Nicolas	

Key events			
	Committee referral announced in		

11/05/2023	Parliament		
07/11/2023	Vote in committee		
14/11/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0360/2023	
21/11/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
21/11/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0408/2023	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/2066(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/9/10054

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE746.941	11/05/2023	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE750.112	03/07/2023	EP	
Committee opinion	FEMM	PE749.891	27/09/2023	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0360/2023	14/11/2023	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0408/2023	21/11/2023	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2024)25	22/03/2024	EC	

Reducing inequalities and promoting social inclusion in times of crisis for children and their families

The European Parliament adopted by 386 votes to 87, with 141 abstentions, a resolution on reducing inequalities and promoting social inclusion in times of crisis for children and their families.

Child poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon stemming from household poverty, meaning that low-income and lower-education families, single-parent families mostly made up of women and their children large disadvantaged families, families living in disadvantaged regions, families from different ethnic minorities and families with children or parents with disabilities are at greater risk of poverty and social exclusion and have a higher probability of intergenerational transmission of poverty.

The resolution stated that in 2022, more than 19 995 million children (24.7 %, or one in four children) were at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the EU.

Investing in reducing inequalities

The Commission and Member States are called on to:

- significantly increase and ensure sustainable and adequate public investment in policies that have a direct and indirect impact on children's lives by guaranteeing universal, inclusive and affordable high-quality public services;
- bolster, at every level, mechanisms for ensuring the meaningful, safe and inclusive participation of children, families, carers and civil society organisations in the development, implementation, monitoring and assessment of these policies;
- promote the creation of quality jobs with open-ended forms of employment and innovative forms of work with strong labour rights, based on decent and fair wages and decent working conditions that guarantee access to social, occupational safety and health protection, and robust collective bargaining as a crucial mechanism for representing and defending workers rights;

- promote family-centred childhood policies and intervention, paying attention to the needs and aspirations of families, as an element to enhance cohesion in society.

Member States are called on to:

- implement legislation that protects or enhances maternity, paternity and parental rights;
- set up counselling structures to support families and ensure childrens access to justice.

On a financial level, the resolution called on the EU budgetary authorities to take advantage of the upcoming mid-term review of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027 to strengthen and make better use of the ESF+, the European Regional Development Fund, the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, InvestEU, as well as the Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF), in order to strengthen structural policies and social support for children and families while accounting for the multi-sectoral nature of poverty. Parliament reiterated its repeated calls for the urgent increase in funding of the Child Guarantee, with a dedicated budget of at least EUR 20 billion for the period 2021-2027. It insists on making this dedicated budget part of the revised MFF and reinforced ESF+.

Strong public policies to reduce inequalities

Parliament stressed the need for increased investment in inclusive and high-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) services, without neglecting children aged 0-3 and children from economically and socially disadvantaged families. It stressed that there must be a sufficient number of childcare services that are equally accessible throughout the EU. It regretted the Councils downgrading of the Commissions proposal for ensuring that at least 50 % of children below the age of three can participate in ECEC to 45 %.

Again, in order to improve the quality of ECEC services, adequate financial and human resources and appropriate pedagogical training of staff with knowledge of child psychology and child chronobiology is needed to ensure the overall development of children.

The resolution highlighted the importance of investments in public and free education that ensure an individualised approach for children belonging to more vulnerable social groups. The Commission and the Member States are called on to specifically ensure access to inclusive, high-quality education for all persons with disabilities in order to tackle the difficulties that affect them.

Member States are urged to include healthy food in their public health strategies.

Tackling discrimination and social exclusion

Parliament condemns all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and negligence, including online, with regard to children, as well as violence against women, domestic and gender-based violence. It called on the Member States to develop, strengthen and implement integrated prevention and protection systems for children and other victims with a view to eradicating violence, abuse, exploitation and negligence.

In addition, the Commission and the Member States are called on to pay specific attention in the implementation of the Child Guarantee to the unique challenges faced by Roma children, who often experience extreme poverty, exclusion, and discrimination in all spheres of life.

Further investment and support is needed for refugee and migrant children, especially unaccompanied minors and stateless children and their families.

The right of every child to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, participation and play

The resolution highlighted the importance of adapting living, care and education facilities to climate emergencies and of mainstreaming a child-sensitive approach to this problem, including these facilities involvement in related activities and the acquisition of skills necessary for the climate transition. Member States should ensure that children have the right to a safe, secure and clean environment.

The right to culture, sport and leisure and to access to open spaces and a healthy environment for all children is stressed. Member States are called on to promote appropriate extracurricular and leisure activities that enable all children, regardless of their socio-economic background and family situation, to spend their time after school and during holidays doing something physically and mentally stimulating. In this regard, Parliament encouraged Member States to use available European funds to promote the equal participation of children from disadvantaged households in extracurricular and leisure activities.

Transparency				
BRGLEZ Milan	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	13/06/2023	European Public Health Alliance The Romani Early Years Network (ISSA)
BRGLEZ Milan	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	05/06/2023	UNICEF
BRGLEZ Milan	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	02/06/2023	Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union