



## Factsheet Belgian EU Presidency Youth

From **1 July 2010 until 31 December 2010** Belgium holds the Presidency of the European Union (EU). Flanders will be coordinating and organising the Presidency activities in the field of youth, in cooperation with the other Communities in Belgium. Flanders will chair the European Council and the German-Speaking Community will be the spokesperson for Belgium.

### The Belgian Presidency focuses on three youth priorities:

1. Youth work
2. Youth and employment
3. Coordinating the European and international agendas for policy on children, youth and children's rights

#### 1. Priority 'Youth work'

The European Council approved a renewed framework for European cooperation in the field of youth (2010-18) which gives an important role to youth work to achieve the European objectives. The Belgian Presidency focuses on this sector, given the importance of youth work in the three Communities in Belgium.

- **European conference on the history of youth work and youth policy (5-7 July 2010, Ghent):** debates and workshops about the historical and geographical diversity of youth work and youth policy.
- **1<sup>st</sup> European youth work convention (7-10 July 2010, Ghent):** the role of youth work in the bigger Europe, preparation of a resolution about youth work and developing a plan for further action.
- **European seminar on the mobility of young people with fewer opportunities (9-12 December 2010, Namur - organised by the French Community):** special attention for the

#### Chronologically:

- 5-7 July: Conference on the history of youth work and youth policy
- 7-10 July: 1<sup>st</sup> European youth work convention
- 12 August: International youth day
- 8-10 September: Europe de l'Enfance
- 2-4 October: EU youth conference and Director-Generals meeting
- 19-22 October: Business meeting Youth in Action National Agencies
- 19 November: Formal Council Youth
- 20 November: World children's day
- 27 November: Urban youth and Europe
- 9-12 December: Seminar on the mobility of socially vulnerable youth

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accessibility of youth work for all young people, linking to the European year of combating poverty and social exclusion.

## 2. Priority 'Youth and employment'

Belgium cooperates within the 'Trio-Presidency' with Spain (*first semester 2010*) and Hungary (*first semester 2011*). These three countries have a joined focus on 'youth and employment' within the structured dialogue (*European consultation process with young people*).

- **EU youth conference and meeting of the Director-Generals** (*2-4 October 2010, Leuven*): discussions between young people and policy makers of the 27 EU member states based on the results of the national working groups.

## 3. Priority 'European and international agenda for policy on children, young people and children's rights'

The Lisbon Treaty and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child give more importance to children's rights and to international cooperation regarding children, youth and youth workers. There is a need for better coordination of the (European and international) policy agendas in this field.

- **Expert conference 'Europe de l'Enfance'** (*8-10 September 2010, Antwerp*): the ministers or officials responsible for child policies meet to develop a common coherent strategy.
- **Minister conference 'Europe de l'Enfance'** (*16 November 2010, Brussels - organised by the French Community*)

### Other activities

Some additional Presidency activities are not directly linked to the priorities above.

- **International youth day** (*12 August 2010*): the three Belgian youth councils plan an activity to spread a positive image of young people.
- **Business meeting of the Youth in Action National Agencies** (*19-22 October 2010, Bütgenbach - organised by the German-Speaking Community*): work meeting for the heads of the National Agencies that implement the Youth in Action programme.
- **"Urban Youth and Europe" in** (*27 November 2010, Brussels*): event in cooperation with the youth sector in Brussels to show urban young people and children in a positive light, in the margin of the European Council.

### More info

- [www.youth-eutrio.be](http://www.youth-eutrio.be)