



**European Federation for Missing
and Sexually Exploited Children**

Why a European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children ?

Background of the Federation

The phenomena of missing and sexually exploited children are a cruel reality worldwide.

In order to fight against these phenomena, it is necessary not only to optimise the intervention of the judicial authorities and police services but also to involve civil society and to inform public opinion.

Both the authorities and civil society have to work together on a complementary basis to fight against the disappearance and sexual exploitation of children in an efficient way.

As there were too few operational organisations to offer practical help to victims and their families and as the existing organisations did not necessarily operate in a homogeneous way, a European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children was created on May 4, 2001.

With its general secretariat established in Brussels / Belgium at Child Focus, the European Federation is an international association with humanitarian objectives.

As a non profit-making and international organisation, the Federation brings together 19 organisations (as of May 2004) fighting against the phenomena of missing and/or sexually exploited children in 15 countries of the European continent.

The Federation was officially launched on May 4, 2001 at the European Parliament in Brussels under the patronage of Mrs N. Fontaine (President of the European Parliament) and Mr. Antonio Vitorino (Member of the European Commission – DG Justice and Home Affairs).



The NGOs members (as of May 2004)

Affiliated members :

Austria :

- 147 - Rat auf Draht *Vienna*

Belgium :

- Child Focus - European Centre for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children *Brussels*

Czech Republic :

- Nadace Nase Dite (Our Child Foundation) *Prague*

Denmark :

- Thora Center *Copenhagen*

France :

- La Mouette *Agen*
- Aide aux Parents d'Enfants Victimes - APEV *Issy-les-Moulineaux*
- Fondation Pour l'Enfance *Paris*

Germany :

- Elterninitiative Vermisste Kinder *Kisdorf*
- Weisser Ring *Mainz*

Greece :

- The Smile of the Child *Athens*

Hungary :

- Kék Vonal *Budapest*

Ireland :

- Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children - ISPCC *Dublin*

Italy :

- Aurora - Centro Nazionale per la Ricerca dei Bambini Scomparsi e Sessualmente Abusati *Bologna*

Poland :

- Fundacja Dzieci Niczyje (Nobody's Children Foundation) *Warsaw*
- Itaka Foundation *Warsaw*

Portugal :

- Instituto de Apoio à Criança - I.A.C. *Lisbon*

Spain :

- Accion Contra la Pornografia Infantil - ACPI *Madrid*

United Kingdom :

- National Missing Persons Helpline - NMPH *London*

Associated member :

Romania :

- Salvati Copiii - SCR *Bucharest*



What does the European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children do?



It acts independently, only in the interest of children, with reference to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The objectives of the Federation are :

- to alert national governments, European institutions and decision makers to combine efforts in the fight against the phenomena of missing and sexually exploited children;
- to raise awareness;
- to stimulate and conduct initiatives to improve the situation of minors, victims of disappearance and/or sexual abuse, and to change legal standards, mentalities and behaviours in Europe;
- to facilitate communications between European organisations for a more efficient approach to the fight against disappearance and sexual exploitation of minors;
- to create a centre of information and documentation concerning the phenomena of disappearance and sexual exploitation of minors;
- to stimulate the creation of a European study centre to centralise and analyse data concerning these phenomena;
- to identify preventive measures.

International Missing Children's Day – May 25

The European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children decided in 2002 that this Day would be commemorated every year in as many member countries of the European Federation as possible.

The main purpose of the **International Missing Children's Day** is to encourage the population to think about all the children still missing in Europe and around the world and to spread a message of hope and solidarity at international level to parents who have no news about their children and do not know where they are or what has become of them.

In the longer term, both the general secretariat and other members of the Federation hope to see this date adopted in every country of the world.



EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR MISSING AND SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN

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Chairman of the Board of directors of the Federation :

- Mr. Daniel Cardon de Lichtbuer, *Chairman of the Board of directors of Child Focus* (Belgium)

Vice-Chairman :

- Mr. Costas Yannopoulos, *President of The Smile of the Child* (Greece)

Board members :

- Mrs. Zusana Baudysova, *Executive Director of Our Child Foundation* (Czech Republic)
- Mrs. Maria Keller-Hamela, *Director of international collaboration of Nobody's Children Foundation* (Poland)
- Mrs. Annie Gourgue, *President of La Mouette* (France)
- Mr. Stuart Rae-Brown, *Case Manager and European Liaison Officer at the National Missing Persons Helpline* (UK)
- Mr. Arnauld Gruselle, *Executive Director at la Fondation pour l'Enfance* (France)
- Mrs. Bodil Dichow, *Manager at Thora Center* (Denmark)

Supporting committee of the European Federation :

- Mrs. Isabelle Barnier, Mrs. Marie-Laure Schoeller, Mrs. Irène Mathieu and Mr. Renaud Greindl.

FOR ANY DONATIONS :

The European Federation bank-account :

European Federation for Missing
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