

**EMPL JURI Public Hearing**  
**Protection and promotion of the rights of children placed in alternative care**

18 March 2025, 14.30-16.30  
Room SPAAK 1A2  
Draft programme

**I. Introduction**

- **Opening remarks**  
**Li Andersson** - Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs  
**Ilhan Kyuchyuk** - Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs  
**Ewa Kopacz** - VP and EP Coordinator on Children's Rights  
**Commissioner Glenn Micallef** - Commissioner on Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport
- **The Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Children in Alternative Care - Views of Children and European Ombudspersons for Children**  
**Ms Elina Pekkarinen** - Ombudsman for Children in Finland, Chair of European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)

**II. Preventing family separation and protecting children's rights in the placement proceedings**

- **Prevention and early intervention**  
**Alfonso Lara Montero**, Chief Executive Officer at the European Social Network
- **Safeguarding rights and the best interests of the child in care proceedings**  
**Daja Wenke**, Independent Researcher and Policy Analyst, Rights of the Child - Implementation of International Standards
- **Cross-border placement under the Brussels IIb Regulation and cooperation in view of placement of unaccompanied minors, including children from Ukraine**  
**Mara van der Poel** - legal advisor/coordinator at the Central Authority International Children's Issues, Ministry of Justice and Security in Netherlands  
**Rieke Gremmen** - legal advisor at the Child Care and Protection Board (RdvK), Ministry of Justice and Security in Netherlands

**III. How to support children in foster care and when leaving after**

- **Guaranteeing quality in the care and protection of children**  
**Maria Dantcheva**, Deputy Director Programme, Eastern Central Europe and Middle East, SOS Children's Villages International
- **Leaving care - what next?**  
**Professor Robbie Gilligan**, Fellow Emeritus, Social Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin

**IV. Q&A session (approx. 55 min)**

- **Closing remarks by the Chairs of the Committees**