



**Missing
Children
Europe**

Missing Children Europe's President Maud de Boer-Buquicchio appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

Brussels, 12 May 2014 –Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, President of Missing Children Europe and former Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography by the Human Rights Council in Geneva on the occasion of its meeting on 8 May 2014. Her appointment is good news for the children of the world, who increasingly become victims of exploitation and abuse as a result of crisis, poverty, migration and other global phenomena.

Maud's dedication to the wellbeing of children and the protection of their rights is well known. With her guiding principle that *"children are not mini-human beings with mini-human rights"* she prioritized the protection and well-being of children as a horizontal objective throughout all actions undertaken during her mandate at the Council of Europe (2002 – 2012). Her efforts continued since her appointment as President of Missing Children Europe in October 2013, where she has launched a new strategy focusing on the development of a comprehensive approach towards the issue of missing children. The strategy is built around 4 pillars of action: quality services and tools, prevention and awareness, research and evidence and policies and laws. Thematically, Missing Children Europe is focusing on children who go missing as a result of running away from home or the institution in which they have been placed, children abducted by a parent in a cross-border family conflict and children who arrive in Europe unaccompanied and go missing from the shelters in which they are placed.

"My position as Special Rapporteur will allow me to do more" she said. "Children go missing everywhere, and their disappearances are linked to other phenomena including sexual and other forms of exploitation. More needs to be done to prevent this from happening, beyond the often merely reactive responses that have been developed across Europe and the world."

Maud will continue in her position as President of Missing Children Europe, allowing her to mutually strengthen the fight against the horrendous crimes related to the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography, including where linked to child disappearance.

Missing Children Europe

Missing Children Europe is the European Federation for missing and sexually exploited children. We represent a network of 29 NGOs in 24 countries. Our mission is to enable the development of effective and holistic child protection systems to:

- prevent children from going missing,
- support missing children and their families, and
- protect children from any risk of violence and abuse that may lead to or result from going missing."

For further questions please contact Delphine Moralis, Secretary General of Missing Children Europe at Delphine.moralis@missingchildreneurope or +32 477 44 44 93