

President of the European Parliament  
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25 October 2022

## **Call for the introduction of a European Children's Capital**

Dear Madam President,

We, Members of the European Parliament, kindly ask you to support our call to establish a European Children's Capital.

Children are the future of Europe. We all know that but sometimes we tend to forget to take care of the children that are already here. We need to pay more attention to them, because they and their needs too often disappear from view. We want the children of Europe to meet in a different European city every year, reliably and regularly. These meetings will help future generations develop a better understanding of each other. They would also guarantee that the children of Europe, with their hopes and wishes, their worries and needs, are the focus of attention at least once a year. A European Children's Capital would guarantee that we listen to their concerns.

A European Children's Capital should also be a place of participation, support and challenge. We want to give children the chance to meet on an international level and at the same time challenge European cities through a competition to take children seriously and involve them in shaping the future – just as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates. The cities applying to be European Children's Capitals would have to explain what they have done for children so far and how they want to involve children in the future.

It is very important for us to target children from families who would otherwise not be able to travel or participate in such events. They should not only learn about the European idea "United in diversity" and European cooperation at school, but experience Europe themselves. At the same time, a Children's Capital with its colourful programme must be a unique, annual meeting place for families from all over Europe.

Finally, a European Children's Capital, similar to the Capital of Culture, would benefit the image of the EU. It would make Europe smile again; it would be a great festival of peace. There is only one way to anchor Europe in people's hearts and minds: you have to involve and empower young people. If we want Europe to have a future, we have to give children a voice. Now.

We would like to ask you the following questions:

What do you think of the idea of a European Children's Capital?

Can we count on your support for the establishment of a European Children's Capital?  
Do you have ideas for the implementation of the establishment of a European Children's Capital?

We are happy to discuss with you concrete ways to support our initiative.  
Thank you for considering our request.

With kind regards,

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