



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS

Directorate C : Fundamental Rights and Rule of Law
Unit C2 : Fundamental Rights Policy

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Mr. Arun Dohle
Against Child Trafficking
info@againstchildtrafficking.org

Dear Mr Dohle,

Thank you for your e-mail of 22 August 2022 addressed to Commissioner Reynders, in which you refer to the legal status of the UN Convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC) and you consider it being part of the *acquis* of the European Union. You mention that the European Commission has mistakenly omitted the UNCRC from the *acquis* document, which is Annex I of the EU Strategy on the rights of the child¹. I am replying to you on behalf of Commissioner Reynders.

I apologise for the delay in replying to your e-mail.

As regards the status of the UN Convention on the rights of the child, please allow me to inform you that this international Convention is not part of the EU *acquis* because the EU has not ratified the Convention. However, the UNCRC guides the EU in its work to promote the protection of the rights of the child (Article 3.3 of the Treaty on European Union). All EU Member States have ratified the UNCRC and are bound by it.

The EU Strategy on the rights of the child recalls in its narrative part that “The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which all EU Member States have ratified, continues to guide our action in this field”.

As mentioned in the Annex of the Strategy, the list of legal and policy documents listed in the Annex is not exhaustive. The fact that an instrument is listed or not in the Annex has no relevance on its legal status.

Yours faithfully,

Marie-Cécile ROUILLON

Commission Coordinator for the rights of the child

¹ *Annex to the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child EU acquis and policy documents on the rights of the child*