

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 20 May 2015

DH-BIO/ abr RAP 7

COMMITTEE ON BIOETHICS

(DH-BIO)

7th MEETING

Strasbourg, 4-7 May 2015

ABRIDGED REPORT

Adoption of the agenda

1. The Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO) held its 7th meeting in Strasbourg from 4 to 7 May 2015. The agenda of the meeting and the list of participants appear in Appendix I and Appendix II to this abridged report.
2. On 4-5 May, the Conference on Emerging Technologies and Human Rights was held under the auspices of the Belgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The programme of the conference appears in Appendix III to this abridged report. The video recording of the conference is available on line: www.coe.int/bioethics.

Chart of signatures and ratifications of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, the Protocol on the Prohibition of Cloning Human Beings, the Protocol concerning Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of Human Origin, the Protocol concerning Biomedical Research and the Protocol concerning Genetic Testing for Health Purposes

3. The DH-BIO took note of the information sent in written form on the current process towards signature and/or ratification of the Oviedo Convention and/or its Additional Protocols in some member or observer states.

Developments in the field of bioethics

4. The DH-BIO took note of the developments in the field of bioethics within the member states, as well as in international organisations. It was also informed of the relevant developments in other Council of Europe bodies.

Predictivity, genetic testing and insurance

5. The Committee examined the draft Recommendation prepared by the Rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, in the light of the comments received by delegations. Some minor editorial changes were agreed.
6. Two delegations informed the Committee that they would only be able to provide possible comments after the meeting.
7. **Delegations were invited to send their possible comments on the draft Recommendation as well as the draft explanatory memorandum in writing by 1 July 2015.**
8. In the light of the comments received, the Rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, will prepare a revised version of the Draft Recommendation to be examined by the DH-BIO for finalisation at its 8th plenary meeting and its subsequent submission to the CDDH. With a view to the latter and the examination of the text by the CDDH, delegations were invited to contact the delegates to CDDH and to provide relevant information about the draft Recommendation.

Re-examination of Recommendation (2006) 4 on research on biological materials of human origin

9. The Committee examined the draft revised Recommendation as modified by the Drafting Group in the light of the comments received during the public consultation carried out in March-August 2014 and taking into account the opinion from the T-PD.
10. **The delegations made a number of comments, that they were invited to submit in written form as well as possible complementary comments, where appropriate accompanied by drafting proposals by 1 July 2015.**
11. **Delegations were also invited to make comments on the elements for the Explanatory Memorandum by 1 July 2015.**
12. The Drafting Group was entrusted with the task of preparing a revised version of the draft Recommendation in the light of the comments from delegations, to be examined by the DH-BIO

at its 8th plenary meeting (December 2015) with a view to its approval and subsequent presentation to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.

13. The Secretariat was entrusted with the task of preparing a revised draft Explanatory Memorandum in the light of the comments from delegations, to be presented to the DH-BIO 8th plenary meeting (December 2015).

Additional Protocol on the protection of the human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorders with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment

14. The Committee examined the preliminary draft Additional Protocol as modified by the Drafting Group in the light of the comments made by delegations at its 6th meeting (12-14 November 2014). A number of changes were made to the text.
15. The DH-BIO agreed to launch an open public consultation process on the revised draft Additional Protocol as a working document. A request for comments would be specifically sent, to the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities (DECS-RPD), the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations and the Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations and the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union.
16. National delegations may also wish to send specific requests to relevant experts, bodies, organisations at national level (ensuring, where necessary, translation into one of the two official languages i.e. English or French, of any comments received).
17. The consultation would be held from June to mid-November 2015. The Secretariat was entrusted with preparing the cover letter in cooperation with the Chair of the Drafting Group and of the DH-BIO.

DEBRA

18. The DH-BIO was informed that, at the request of Serbian authorities, a bilateral seminar will be organised in the second part of 2015, on emerging technologies in particular in the field of genetics.

Working methods and future activities

Follow up to the Conference on emerging technologies and human rights

19. Following the Conference held on 4-5 May 2015, the Bureau was entrusted with the task of making proposal(s) to the DH-BIO on the approach to be followed for the preparation of the White Paper based on the outcome of the conference.

Terms of reference

20. The DH-BIO examined its draft terms of reference for the 2016-2017 biennium prepared on the basis of the activity proposals for that period agreed at its 6th plenary meeting (12-14 November 2014). It agreed to insert a reference to emerging technologies under the expertise of the members, and to include the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations in the list of participants invited to send a representative(s).
21. The draft ToR as revised (see Appendix IV) were approved and will now be submitted to the CDDH with a view to its examination at its next plenary meeting (17-19 June 2015).

Other business

Follow up to the Statement on the prohibition of financial gain

22. The Committee took note that a “horizon scanning meeting” on the prohibition of financial gain had taken place in Paris on 16 December 2014, as a follow up to the Declaration adopted in May 2014 by the DH-BIO and CD-P-TO on the prohibition of any form of commercialisation of human organs. The experts invited had acknowledged that challenges to the principle of Article

21 (prohibition of financial gain) should be addressed. The need to have more clarity on the definitions of key terms, such as “payment”, “incentives” and “compensation” was in particular underlined as a priority issue.

23. The DH-BIO agreed with the Bureau on the relevance of the issues raised, which relate directly to one of the fundamental principles of the Oviedo Convention. It supported the proposal from the Bureau to give priority to the clarification on definitions of relevant terms as underlined at the meeting.
24. To that end and so as to benefit from possible existing work, **delegations were invited to provide information by 1 July 2015, on any possible work undertaken at national level about the framing of the notions of “compensation”, “payment” and “incentives” and other terms relevant to the principle of non commercialisation of the human body and its parts, as such.**
25. The Bureau will then make possible concrete proposal(s) for action which could include the possibility of establishing a drafting group to develop elements of clarification on the definition of relevant terms, in which other relevant committees and organisations could be invited to participate in particular, CD-P-TO, CD-P-TS, WHO and the European Commission.

Cooperation with other Committees

26. The Chair of the DH-BIO will send a letter to the newly elected Chair of the CD-P-TO proposing to meet her with a view to discuss way(s) to ensure efficient cooperation on any future project.

HELP programme

27. **In view of developing an outline for a specific course on bioethical principles in the framework of the European Programme for Human Rights Education of Legal Professionals (HELP), delegations were invited to send relevant national case law (where possible with an internet reference) on bioethical issues by 20 September 2015.**
28. The aim of this exercise is to identify specific areas which are of particular relevance for legal professionals such as judges, public prosecutors and lawyers. It was thus not required to provide a detailed analysis of the legal reasoning used by domestic courts, but rather information on the type of questions on bioethical issues arising in legal practice.

Seminar on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights relevant to bioethical issues

29. The DH-BIO supported the proposal to organize, by the end of 2016 beginning of 2017, a seminar on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights relevant to bioethics as part of the preparation of the Conference to be held in 2017, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Oviedo Convention.
30. A rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat and the Bureau of the DH-BIO, will be in charge of the preparation of the seminar. **DH-BIO members who would be interested by this task were invited to inform the Secretariat.**

Direct to consumer genetic testing

31. Given its heavy workload for 2015, the DH-BIO decided to postpone the organisation of an international round table on direct to consumer genetic testing initially foreseen in the second part of the year. It also agreed to reconsider its scope which might need to be broadened in the light of the outcome of the Conference on Emerging Technologies and Human Rights.

Re-examination of the Additional Protocol concerning Biomedical Research

32. In accordance with Article 35 of the Additional Protocol concerning Biomedical Research, the latter should have been re-examined in 2012. However, at its 1st meeting (19 – 22 June 2012), the DH-BIO considered that “a re-examination of the Protocol would be premature at this stage. In the light of the imminent review of Recommendation Rec (2006) 4 on research on biological materials of human origin, the Committee had agreed to postpone the re-examination of the Protocol and to reconsider it in three years i.e. 2015.” Accordingly, the point will be on the agenda of the 8th plenary meeting.

Gene editing

33. The DH-BIO referred to the ethical implications raised by the possible applications on human embryo and germline of a new technology (CrisprCas9) making it possible more easily and precisely to modify genetic characteristics and to the recent public debate on these issues. Reference was made, in this context, to the principles laid down in Article 13 of the Oviedo Convention applicable to interventions on the human genome.
34. **Delegations were invited to send, by 15 June 2015, information on the situation in their countries as regards the use of this technology i.e. CRISPR-Cas9, in particular with a view to the possible modification of the genetic characteristics of an embryo or germline, in the light of Article 13 of the Oviedo Convention.**

Other topical issues

35. The DH-BIO held a short discussion on two new issues identified by respectively in the context of the preparation of the next Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2019), and by a delegation, which raised important ethical questions: (i) Transgender and intersex children, and (ii) Gender aesthetic surgery.
36. **Delegations were invited to provide information on possible current work undertaken at national level with regard to both of these matters by 1 July 2015.**

Dates of the next meetings

37. The DH-BIO agreed on the following dates for its next meetings:
- 8th meeting of the DH-BIO: 1-4 December 2015
 - 9th meeting of the DH-BIO: 31 May-3 June 2016 (alternative 17-20 May 2016)
38. The DH-BIO took note that the Bureau would hold its next meeting on 12-14 October 2015, which would include a joint session with the Biobanks Drafting Group, as well as a specific session devoted to the follow up to the Conference on Emerging Technologies and Human Rights.

APPENDIX I

Agenda

4 May 2015 (9.00 – 18.00) - 5 May 2015 (9.00 - 13.00)

“EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS”

International conference

Items for information, without decision required by the DH-BIO, are indicated by the following symbol:



1. Adoption of the agenda



2. Chart of signatures and ratifications of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, the Protocol on the Prohibition of Cloning Human Beings, the Protocol concerning Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of Human Origin, the Protocol concerning Biomedical Research and the Protocol concerning Genetic Testing for Health Purposes



3. Developments in the field of bioethics

Delegations, including observers, are invited to send information in writing.

- a. **Developments in the field of bioethics in member states and other states**
- b. **Developments in the field of bioethics in international organisations**
- c. **Developments in the field of bioethics in other Council of Europe bodies**
- d. **Developments in the field of bioethics at the European Court of Human Rights**

4. Predictivity, genetic testing and insurance

- Presentation of:
 - the revised draft Recommendation on the processing for insurance purposes of personal health-related data, in particular data resulting from genetic tests;
 - the draft Explanatory Memorandum to the Recommendation.
- Early exchange on the revised drafts:

Delegations will be invited to indicate any possible remaining difficulties with the draft Recommendation. Indicative vote may be considered with a view to the finalisation of the draft Recommendation at the 8th plenary meeting (1-4 December 2015) and its subsequent presentation to the CDDH for approval.

5. Re-examination of Recommendation (2006) 4 on research on biological materials of human origin

Examination of the draft Recommendation revised in the light of the comments received during the public consultation, as well as the opinion of the T-PD with a view to its approval at the 8th plenary meeting (1-4 December 2015) and subsequent presentation to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.

6. Additional Protocol on the protection of the human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorders with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment

- Examination of the draft Additional Protocol revised by the Drafting Group in the light of the comments made by delegations.
- Decision on the proposal of the Bureau to launch consultations on the draft Additional Protocol as a working document.



7. Cooperation programme (DEBRA)

- Information on the Conference on Emerging Technologies to be held in Belgrade, Serbia in the 2nd half of 2015, in cooperation with the Serbian authorities.
- Delegations wishing to organise DEBRA activities in 2016 are invited to send their written request by 10 November 2015 at the latest.

8. Working methods and future activities of the DH-BIO

- Follow up to the Conference on “Emerging Technologies and Human Rights”
- Biennium 2016 – 2017: Draft Terms of Reference of the DH-BIO



9. Relations with other international bodies

10. Dates of the next meetings

Dates proposed:

8th meeting of the DH-BIO: 1-4 December 2015

9th meeting of the DH-BIO: 31 May – 3 June 2016 / 17 – 20 May 2016



11. Other business

a. Follow up to the Statement on prohibition of financial gain under Article 21

b. Cooperation with other Committees

- i) Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (T-PD)
- ii) Ad hoc Committee on Data Protection (CAHDATA)
- iii) European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO)
 - Follow up to the Declaration on the Prohibition of any form of commercialisation of human organs
- iv) European Committee on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS)

12. Decisions taken by the DH-BIO at its 7th meeting

Approval of the list of decisions.

APPENDIX II

List of participants

MEMBER STATES / ETATS MEMBRES

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T-PD – Mme Sophie KWASNY, Secretary of the T-PD **apologised/excusée**

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY/ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE – Ms/Mme Guguli MAGRADZE, Member of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development/Membre de la Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable, Member of the Parliament of Georgia

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APPENDIX III

Programme of the conference

4 MAY 2015	
9.00 – 9.30	OPENING Ms Gabriella Battaini-Driloni , Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe Ambassador Dirk Van Eeckhout , Permanent Representative of Belgium to the Council of Europe Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier , Chair of the Sub-Committee on Public Health of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
9.30 – 11.00	SESSION 1 – INTRODUCTION <i>Chair: Dr Anne Forus (Norway), Chair of the Preparatory Group for the Conference</i> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Objectives and approach of the Conference Dr Anne Forus, Chair of the Preparatory Group for the Conference ▶ Driving force for developments Prof. Andy Stirling (United Kingdom), Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex ▶ Presentation of the background studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “From Bio to NBIC convergence – From Medical Practice to Daily Life” Dr Rinie van Est and Dr Dirk Stemerding (Netherlands), Rathenau Institut – “Report on ethical issues raised by emerging sciences and technologies” Prof. Roger Strand and Prof. Matthias Kaiser (Norway), Centre for the Study of Sciences and Humanities, Bergen University <i>Questions and clarification</i>
11.00 – 11.30	BREAK
11.30 – 13.00	SESSION 2 – TECHNOLOGY, INTERVENTION AND CONTROL OF INDIVIDUALS <i>Rapporteur: Dr Michael Fuchs, Germany</i> <i>Chairs: Prof. Dr. Paul A.J.M. Boon (Belgium), Director of the Institute for Neuroscience, Ghent University Hospital</i> <i>Prof. Zvonko Magić (Serbia), member of the Bureau of the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)</i> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Introductory presentation: what is at stake? Prof. Dr. Hub Zwart (Netherlands), Radboud University Nijmegen - Faculty of Science ▶ Ethical and societal perspectives Prof. Jean-Noël Missa (Belgium), Co-director of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Bioethics, Université libre de Bruxelles, member of the Belgium National Consultative Committee of Bioethics ▶ Human rights challenges Prof. Dominique Thouvenin (France), Chair «Health Law and Ethics» Research Center «Law, Science and Technology» Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne Discussion
13.00 – 14.30	LUNCH BREAK
14.30 – 16.00	SESSION 3 – DATA COLLECTING AND PROCESSING - NEW DIMENSIONS <i>Rapporteurs: Mr Hugh Whittall, United Kingdom ; Mr Gérard Lommel, Luxembourg, Bureau of the Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (T-PD)</i> <i>Chairs: Prof. Damir Marjanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), International Burch University, Sarajevo</i> <i>Prof. Mariachiara Tallacchini (Italy), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore</i> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Introductory presentation: what is at stake? Dr Péter Kimpán (Hungary), Head of International Affairs and Public Relations Department, Hungarian Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information ▶ Ethical and societal perspectives Prof. Dr. Peter Dabrock (Germany), Chair of Systematic Theology (Ethics) at the Department of Theology, University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Member of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) ▶ Human rights challenges Prof. Yann Joly (Canada), Research Director, Centre of Genomics and Policy, McGill University, Montreal Discussion
16.00 – 16.30	BREAK
16.30 – 18.00	SESSION 4 – EQUITY OF ACCESS <i>Rapporteur: Prof. Laura Palazzani, Italy</i> <i>Chairs: Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Public Health of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)</i> <i>Prof. Pavel Tishchenko (Russian Federation), Russian Academy of sciences</i> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Introductory presentation: what is at stake? Prof. Jan Helge Solbakk (Norway), Institute of Health and Society, Centre for Medical Ethics, Faculty of medicine, Oslo ▶ Ethical and societal perspectives Prof. Stefano Semplici (Italy), Chair of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO ▶ Human rights challenges Dr Yolanda Gómez-Sánchez (Spain), Professor of Constitutional Law National University for distance learning, Madrid Discussion

5 MAY 2015

9.00 – 10.30	<p>SESSION 5 – GOVERNANCE <i>Rapporteur: Dr André Gázdó, Austria</i> <i>Chairs: Prof. Beatrice Ioan (Romania), Vice Chair of the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)</i> <i>Prof. Stefano Semplici (Italy), Chair of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO</i></p> <hr/> <p>► Introductory presentation: Overview of existing governance systems and available tools Prof. Sheila Jasanoff (USA), Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University</p> <p>► Are existing governance systems challenged by emerging technologies and their convergence? Prof. Herman Nys (Belgium), Director of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, Leuven University, Member of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies</p> <p>► How and who can respond: priority actions and possible models? Prof. Sheila Jasanoff (USA) and Prof. Herman Nys (Belgium)</p> <p>Discussion</p>
10.30 – 11.30	<p>ROUND TABLE: Priority human rights challenges arising from emerging technologies <i>Participants: Prof. Dr. Peter Dabrock (Germany), Dr Yolanda Gómez-Sánchez (Spain), Prof. Sheila Jasanoff (USA), Prof. Yann Joly (Canada), Prof. Matthias Kaiser (Norway), Dr Péter Kimpán (Hungary), Prof. Jean-Noël Missa (Belgium), Prof. Herman Nys (Belgium), Prof. Stefano Semplici (Italy), Prof. Jan Helge Solbakk (Norway), Dr Dirk Stermerding (Netherlands), Prof. Roger Strand (Norway), Prof. Dominique Thouvenin (France), Dr Rinie van Est (Netherlands), Prof. Dr. Hub Zwart (Netherlands)</i> <i>Moderator: Dr Doris Wolfslehner (Austria), member of the Bureau of the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)</i></p>
11.30 – 12.00	BREAK
12.00 – 13.00	<p>SESSION 6 – CONCLUSIONS <i>Chairs: Dr Mark Bale (United Kingdom), Chair of the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)</i> <i>Ms Brigitte Konz (Luxembourg), Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)</i></p> <hr/> <p>► Joint presentation by the rapporteurs of the sessions</p> <p>CLOSING</p> <p>► Mr Jean-Yves Le Déaut, General Rapporteur on science and technology impact assessment of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)</p> <p>► Dr Mark Bale, Chair of Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)</p>

APPENDIX IV

Terms of reference

Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods

Type of committee: Subordinate body

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017**

Main tasks
<p>Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the DH-BIO shall carry out the tasks assigned to the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI) by the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine.</p> <p>Under the supervision of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), the DH-BIO will conduct intergovernmental work on the protection of human rights in the field of biomedicine assigned to it by the Committee of Ministers.</p> <p>The DH-BIO will in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) conduct regular re-examinations foreseen in the Convention and its Additional Protocols;(ii) develop further the principles laid down in the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, as appropriate;(iii) contribute to raising awareness and facilitating the implementation of these principles;(iv) assess ethical and legal challenges raised by developments in the biomedical field;(v) co-operate with the European Union and relevant intergovernmental bodies, in particular with a view to promoting consistency between the normative texts;(vi) in accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions¹ for which it has been given responsibility and report back to the Committee of Ministers.
Pillar/Sector/Programme
<p>Pillar: Human Rights Sector: Ensuring Social Rights Programme: Bioethics</p>
Expected results
<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Subject to the carrying out of consultations on a draft text, an additional protocol on the protection of the human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorders with regards to involuntary treatment and involuntary placement is finalised.(ii) On the basis of the outcome of the International Conference on Emerging Technologies and Human Rights, a White Paper is prepared on challenges for human rights raised by emerging technologies and their convergence.(iii) The Additional Protocol concerning Biomedical Research is re-examined and where appropriate, revised.(iv) Contribution is made to the re-examination of Recommendation (97) 5 on the protection of medical data carried out by the T-PD.(v) Support is provided to possible work on prenatal sex selection undertaken by the CDDH in cooperation with the Gender Equality Commission.(vi) A survey on the Oviedo Convention – impact, relevance and challenges – is finalised.(vii) An International Conference for the 20th anniversary of the Oviedo Convention is organised.

¹ Cf. Relevant decision of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2) and list of Conventions in Appendix 1.

Composition

Members:

Governments of the member States are invited to designate one or more representatives of the highest possible rank, with appropriate expertise in the various aspects of bioethics, including in relation to emerging technologies, and able to consider these from a human rights perspective.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each member State (two in the case of the State whose representative has been elected Chair).

Each member of the committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

In accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, in cases where there is no convention-based body including all the Parties, non-member States are invited to take part, with a right to vote, in the committee meetings pertaining to the conventions to which they are Parties.

Participants:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (T-PD), Committee (Partial Agreement) on Transplantation of Organs and Tissues (CD-P-TO) and Committee (Partial agreement) on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS);²
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union;
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- Other international organisations: European Science Foundation (ESF), OECD, UNESCO and WHO.

Observers:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- Australia, Israel;
- the Conference of European Churches (KEK);
- Other non-governmental organisations, including professional organisations, which could be invited by the DH-BIO to attend specific meetings of the DH-BIO in accordance with CM/Res(2011)24.

Working methods

Meetings:

48 members, 2 meetings in 2016, 4 days

48 members, 2 meetings in 2017, 4 days

Bureau

7 members, 2 meetings in 2016, 2 days

7 members, 2 meetings in 2017, 2 days

The Chair or Vice-Chair of DH-BIO may be invited to attend the meetings of the CDDH and its Bureau in order to inform on progress with its work.

The Committee will also appoint a Gender Equality Rapporteur from amongst its members.

² European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare.

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Appendix 1 - Relevant decision of the Committee of Ministers and list of Conventions

CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 (Review of Council of Europe conventions – Report by the Secretary General)

9. [The Deputies] instructed the steering and ad hoc committees to carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind the priorities of each committee, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which they have been given responsibility, in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, in order to:

- propose ways of improving the visibility, impact and efficiency of some or all of the conventions for which they have been given responsibility;
- draw the attention of member States to the relevant conventions;
- where necessary, identify any operational problems or obstacles to ratification of the relevant conventions, and draw the attention of member States to reservations which impact substantively on the effectiveness of their implementation;
- encourage States to regularly examine the possibility and/or desirability of becoming a Party to new Council of Europe conventions;
- assess the necessity or advisability of drafting amendments or additional protocols to the conventions for which they have been given responsibility or drafting supplementary conventions;
- and to report back to the Committee of Ministers;

DH-BIO	
164	Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine
168	Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine, on the Prohibition of Cloning Human Beings
186	Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine concerning Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of Human Origin
195	Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Biomedical Research
203	Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine concerning Genetic Testing for Health Purposes