

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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4 December 2014

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe
Convention on the protection of children against sexual
exploitation and sexual abuse (T-ES)

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List of decisions 10th meeting

Strasbourg, 2-4 December 2014

Prepared by the Secretariat of the Lanzarote Committee

The Committee of the Parties (hereinafter referred to as “the Lanzarote Committee” or “the Committee”) to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (hereinafter referred to as “the Lanzarote Convention” or “the Convention”) held its 10th meeting in Strasbourg on 2-4 December 2014.

During this meeting, the Lanzarote Committee:

1. Took note of the entry into force of the Convention in Latvia and of the forthcoming entry into force of the Convention in Georgia and Monaco.
2. Took note of the upcoming deposit of the instrument of ratification by Cyprus.
3. Agreed that the Secretariat should contact the authorities of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” to enquire why no representative has yet been appointed to participate in its meetings and to highlight that it is the only State party not having replied to any question of either questionnaires.
4. Took note that Parties not having submitted all the required replies would do so as soon as possible and not later than the end of 2014 to enable it to prepare its 1st implementation report in accordance with its monitoring calendar.
5. Welcomed any additional information any Party would wish to submit to complement or update the information already provided and recalled that relevant national case-law and statistical data facilitate its monitoring work.
6. Exchanged views on replies to Questions 1, 9a, 12, 13 and 14 of the Thematic Questionnaire, respectively on the basis of the observations on:
 - Data collection, prepared by Rapporteur Mr Nikolaidis (Greece);
 - Legal safeguards to protect and assist the victims, prepared by Rapporteur Mr Azzopardi (Malta);
 - Aggravating circumstances, prepared by the Secretariat;
 - The best interest of the child in investigation and criminal proceedings, prepared by Rapporteur Ms Paabumets (Estonia);
 - Child-friendly investigations and procedures, prepared by Rapporteur Ms Castello-Branco (Portugal).
7. Agreed to continue its examination of the observations on Questions 1 and 14 at its next meeting.
8. Asked the Secretariat to send the observations prepared by the Rapporteurs to the members of the Committee for them to check whether the information related to their own countries is correctly referred to and, if need be, to send back any amendments and additional information where such information is lacking.
9. Asked the Secretariat to prepare the relevant parts of the implementation report dealing with Questions 9a, 12 and 13 on the basis of the discussions held on the

observations examined during the present meeting and any relevant additional information.

10. Examined the working paper in view of the adoption of an opinion on Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention and agreed that its members, participants and observers would submit any comments, suggestions or amendments to the Secretariat (lanzarote.committee@coe.int) by 16 January 2015.

11. Entrusted the Secretariat to revise the draft opinion and its explanatory note on the basis of the suggested changes in view of a possible adoption at its 11th meeting (17-19 March 2015).

12. Welcomed EUROPOL's offer to host its 11th meeting (17-19 March 2015) at its premises in The Hague (Netherlands) and hold a capacity building activity on EUROPOL's work against child sexual exploitation just before its meeting (i.e. on 16 March 2015).

13. Agreed that the capacity building activity at INTERPOL headquarters would therefore be organised at a later stage.

14. Took note of the recent activities of the Council of Europe's ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children¹.

15. Was informed of Mr McVarish's "Road to Change" initiative and agreed to check the information submitted as a reply to question 22c of the General Overview Questionnaire on the statute of limitation for initiating proceedings concerning the criminal offences referred to in Article 33 of the Lanzarote Convention.

16. Entrusted the Secretariat to contact Mr McVarish to screen his play on sexual abuse in the circle of trust at one of its forthcoming meetings.

17. Heard presentations from and exchanged views with:

- Ms Grandjean, UNICEF Child Protection Specialist, on UNICEF's report "Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children";
- Ms Staciwa, EUROPOL-European Cybercrime Centre, on EUROPOL's activities of relevance to the work of the Lanzarote Committee;
- Ms Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, on her mandate and work on child sexual abuse online.

18. Held de-briefings on the:

- Presentation of the Lanzarote Committee's 1st activity report to both the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Human Rights (GR-H) and to the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), respectively on 21 October and 1 December 2014, in Strasbourg, France;

¹ Please visit the ONE in FIVE website for up-to-date information on the Campaign:
http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/1in5/default_en.asp

- International Seminar of the Lanzarote Working Group of the INGO Conference, held in Castiglione delle Stiviere, Italy, on 21 October 2014;
- ENOC 18th Annual Conference dedicated to “The impact of austerity and poverty on the realisation of children and young people’s rights”, held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, on 23-24 October 2014;
- Conference on “Progress in protecting children's rights”, held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 6-7 November 2014;
- 12th meeting of the League of Arab States’ Violence against Children Committee, held in Cairo, Egypt, on 12 November 2014;
- 1st meeting of the Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2019 (DECS-ENF), held in Strasbourg, France, on 13-14 November 2014;
- UNICEF Conference for Central and Eastern Europe on “Child Protection Systems”, held in Minsk, Belarus, on 14-15 November 2014;
- International Conference on the 25 years of the UNCRC, held in Leiden, Netherlands, on 17-19 November 2014.

19. Agreed that during its next meetings, it would discuss the strategic priorities its representative in the DECS-ENF, Ms Verzivoli, should put forward for the 2016-2019 Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child.

20. Exchanged views on what may constitute an “emergency situation” or “urgent requests” by States within the context of the Lanzarote Convention, examined whether Rule 28 (Special reports) of its Rules of Procedure equips it appropriately in such cases and agreed on the messages its Chairperson should convey to the other Chairpersons of the Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms and advisory bodies as well as to the Council of Europe Secretary General with a view in particular to improve operational practices of mechanisms with similar aims.

21. Asked its Secretariat to include the outcome of the exchange of views on its operational capacity to respond to emergency situations or urgent requests by States in its revised Rules of Procedure.

22. Asked its Secretariat to organise exchanges of views with a representative of GRETA (Trafficking Convention), GREVIO (Istanbul Convention) and CPT (Prevention of Torture) during a forthcoming meeting.

23. Took note that the dates for its next meetings are:

- 17-19 March 2015 (The Hague, Netherlands)²
- 15-17 June 2015³
- 13-15 October 2015

² An information session on Europol’s activities against child sexual exploitation will take place at Europol premises in the afternoon of 16 March.

³ The annual High Level Cross-Regional Meeting on Violence against Children will take place just after the Lanzarote Committee’s meeting, on 18-19 June 2015. The meeting is organised by the UN Special Representative on Violence against Children and the Council of Europe and will have a special focus on sexual violence.

In accordance with Rule 10, paragraph 4 of the Rules of Procedure and as the Lanzarote Committee has not decided otherwise, this list of decisions shall be made public.

In accordance with Rule 10, paragraph 5 of the Rules of Procedure, a full meeting report shall be submitted to the members, participants and observers of the Lanzarote Committee at a later stage.