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Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union: List of activities (1 January -31 December 2009)¹

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Introductory remarks

The complex nature of activities made their classification under the MoU structure sometimes difficult, therefore, some simplifications have been made:

- this document has been organised according to the MoU paragraphs in boxes considered to be the most relevant to the activities of the Council of Europe. Nevertheless, many activities are relevant to more than one part of the MoU;
- Joint Programmes are referred to under the appropriate heading of the MoU and not under each thematic heading. Nevertheless, it should be noted that in a number of fields (in particular, Youth, Intercultural dialogue and Cultural diversity), Joint Programmes constitute a substantial part of the activities;
- similarly, activities carried out in the framework of Partial Agreements are listed under “Inter-institutional co-operation”;
- the activities included in this document cover the period 1 January – 31 December 2009.

1. Human rights and fundamental freedoms

16. The Council of Europe and the European Union will base their co-operation on the principles of indivisibility and universality of human rights, respect for the standards set out in this field by the fundamental texts of the United Nations and the Council of Europe, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and the preservation of the cohesion of the human rights protection system in Europe.

17. The European Union regards the Council of Europe as the Europe-wide reference source for human rights. In this context, the relevant Council of Europe norms will be cited as a reference in European Union documents. The decisions and conclusions of its monitoring structures will be taken into account by the European Union institutions where relevant. The European Union will develop co-operation and consultations with the Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to human rights.

18. While preparing new initiatives in this field, the Council of Europe and the European Union institutions will draw on their respective expertise as appropriate through consultations.

19. In the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, coherence of Community and European Union law with the relevant conventions of the Council of Europe will be ensured. This does not prevent Community and European Union law from providing more extensive protection.

¹ See also Document GR-EXT(2010)2, 30 March 2010, “Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union, Draft report for the 120th Ministerial Session.

Council of Europe human rights standards are increasingly reflected and referred to in draft legislation and reference to these standards are included in the European Union strategy papers and progress reports in the framework of European Union Enlargement Process as well as in the implementation of European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans.

It is important to recall that the recognition by the European Union of the Council as a Europe-wide reference source for human rights is embodied at the highest level in different provisions:

- Article 6(3) of the Treaty of the European Union recognises that Fundamental rights as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and as they result from the constitutional traditions common to the Member States, shall constitute general principles of the Union's law.
- The Preamble of the Charter explicitly recognises that it reaffirms the rights as they result, in particular, from the constitutional traditions and international obligations common to the Member States, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Social Charters adopted by the Union and by the Council of Europe and the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union and of the European Court of Human Rights.
- Finally, Article 52(3) of the Charter lays down that in so far as the Charter contains rights which correspond to rights guaranteed by the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the meaning and scope of those rights shall be the same as those laid down by the said Convention.

Please note that the annual consultation meetings in Strasbourg on the candidates and potential candidates for European Union accession are referred to under points 30 – 31.

This reliance on Council of Europe standards was also made visible beyond the borders of Europe, through the developing practice of referring to Council of Europe human rights instruments in arrangements between the European Union and its non-European partners (e.g. in relations with Morocco).

The practice of consultations has already been established in a number of areas where Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms constitute a prime source of information or where the Council of Europe can make other relevant contributions based on its standards.

The Council of Europe Secretariat was consulted by the Swedish Presidency of the EU in the context of the elaboration of a set of instruments on procedural rights of suspected and accused persons in criminal proceedings, with regard to the compatibility of these instruments with the standards set out in the European Convention on Human Rights, as interpreted by the European Court of Human Rights. This included a draft roadmap for strengthening these rights, a draft Council Framework Decision on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings and a draft Resolution on practical measures to implement the draft Framework Decision.

The Council of Europe implemented a programme of **human rights training** for members of the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia in October 2009.

On 20 October 2009, the Deputy Secretary General had a meeting with the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Foreign Affairs) of the **European Parliament**.

Modalities of co-operation were also discussed during other meetings, in particular the **European Commission/Council of Europe Senior Officials Meeting** (Strasbourg, 16 December 2009) and the meetings between the **Council of Europe and the Troika of the Article 36 Committee of the European Union** (Brussels, Belgium, 19 May and 8 October 2009).

Please note that the activities of the Commissioner for Human Rights are indicated under point 47. See also point 22 on co-operation with the Fundamental Rights Agency, points 23-24 on rule of law and legal co-operation, as well as point 44 on meetings for strengthening co-operation.

20. Early accession of the European Union to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms would contribute greatly to coherence in the field of human rights in Europe. The Council of Europe and the European Union will examine this further.

On various occasions, including during the Ceremony of the 60th Anniversary of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 1 October 2009), the President of the European Commission, as well as representatives of the Presidency of the European Union, expressed their commitment to early **accession of the European Union to the ECHR**. Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009, which contains a provision committing the European Union to accede to the ECHR, the European Union is working towards adoption of the relevant negotiation directives, in view of the rapid opening of formal negotiations.

Representatives of the European Commission participated in the 1st meeting of the Committee of experts on **reform of the Court** of the CDDH² in Strasbourg from 7 to 9 October 2009 and in the 4th and 5th meeting of the Reflection Group of the CDDH (DH-S-GDR), in Strasbourg from 28 to 30 January and from 4 to 6 March 2009.

At its 69th meeting, on 24-27 November 2009, the CDDH held an exchange of views on its future activities concerning the accession of the European Union to the ECHR.

On 10 December 2009, a **meeting** took place between a delegation of the Council of Europe Secretariat headed by the **Director of Legal Advice (Jurisconsult)** and the **Legal Service of the European Commission** to discuss legal matters of common interest, including matters related to the accession of the European Union to the ECHR and other current normative work in the Council of Europe.

In 2009, the **European Court of Human Rights** developed further its relations with the institutions of the European Union, in particular in view of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and its provision for the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court's **President and Registrar** met with the competent member of the Commission and attended a meeting of EU Justice Ministers on 1 December 2009. The Court also developed its relations with the Court of Justice of the European Union, hosting a delegation of its members for the annual judicial dialogue between the two European Courts³.

The **Court Registrar** participated on 17 December 2009 in an exchange of views with the Council working group on relations with the OSCE and the Council of Europe (**COSCE**) of the European Union to discuss the situation of the Court and the accession of the European Union to the ECHR.

21. Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union will include the protection of persons belonging to national minorities, the fight against discrimination, racism, xenophobia and intolerance, the fight against torture and ill treatment, the fight against trafficking in human beings, the protection of the rights of the child, the promotion of human rights education and freedom of expression and information.

The European Commission participated in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings of the Ad hoc Committee on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CAHVIO) which all took place in Strasbourg from 6 to 8 April, from 25 to 27 May and from 1 to 3 December 2009.

The Council of Europe was represented at the EU Expert Conference on Measures and Strategies to Combat Men's Violence Against Women on 9 November 2009 in Stockholm, Sweden.

The European Commission was represented at the 9th, 10th and 11th meetings of the Steering Committee on the **Media and New Communication Services** (CDMC) in Strasbourg on 25 -26 March, in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 27 May 2009 and in Strasbourg from 20 to 23 October 2009. It also took part in various meetings of subordinate bodies of the CDMC (such as the Group of Specialists on public service media in the information society and the Group of Specialists on Media Diversity).

² CDDH = Steering Committee for Human Rights.

³ Declaration No. 2 appended to the Final Act adopted by the Intergovernmental Conference that adopted the Lisbon Treaty takes note of this regular dialogue and envisages its reinforcement following accession.

Representatives of the Council of Europe took part in several EU events regarding the challenges of the Internet, namely a hearing of the European Parliament on “An Internet Governance Forum for Europe?” held in Brussels on 15 April 2009, a European Commission hearing on Internet governance held in Brussels on 6 May 2009, in a meeting of the Council of the European Union Working Group on Human Rights (**COHOM**) held in Brussels, on 1 September 2009, and in a meeting of the European Commission High Level Internet Governance Group held in Brussels on 3 December 2009.

The Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and other representatives of the Organisation participated in the Conference on “**Child-friendly Europe**” organised by the Czech Presidency of the European Union in Prague on 6 April 2009. The Council of Europe 2009-2011 Programme “Building a Europe for and with children”, was repeatedly mentioned and referred to as an example of good practice.

Representatives of the European Commission and of the Fundamental Rights Agency participated in the **Launching Conference of the Council of Europe's Platform on Children's Rights** (Strasbourg, 2-3 June 2009). The European Commission was also involved in the development of Council of Europe Policy Guidelines on Integrated National Strategies for the Protection of Children from Violence, which were adopted as a Committee of Ministers recommendation later in the year.

Through its regular participation in the European Commission-run “Steering Group on Children's Rights”, Council of Europe programme “Building a Europe for and with children” supported the process leading to the development and implementation of a comprehensive **EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child**. The programme made an important contribution to the Annual Dialogue on Multilevel Protection and Promotion of Fundamental Rights dedicated to the rights of the child and co-organised by the Committee of the Regions and the Fundamental Rights Agency (13 November, Brussels), as well as to a series of seminars tackling various aspects of children's rights.

The Council of Europe and the European Commission organised a **Joint Conference on “Challenges in Adoption Procedures in Europe: ensuring the best interests of the child”** in Strasbourg on 30 November and 1 December 2009. This event was open to European Union and Council of Europe Member States and to law practitioners and institutions and associations concerned with the adoption of children. The first day was devoted to national adoption, including the revised CoE Convention on Adoption, the second day to international adoptions. It is hoped that the fruitful exchanges of views which took place during the conference will encourage the development of a common European position on adoption and the definition of the best interests of children during national or international adoption proceedings.

The Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe contributed to the 6th Edition of the Safer **Internet Day** of the European Commission on 10 February 2009 and launched the Council of Europe's online third edition of the **Handbook on Internet Literacy**. European Commission Safer Internet Day partners regularly refer to Council of Europe work on media/information literacy in events throughout Europe, in particular referring to the Council of Europe online game for children “Through the Wild Web Woods” and to the Handbook on Internet Literacy.

The European Parliament and European Commission took part in the 2nd Pan-European Dialogue on **Internet Governance** (EuroDIG) supported by the Council of Europe, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 14 and 15 September 2009.

In the **Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**, held in Sharm-El-Sheikh on 14-17 November 2009, a high-level representative of the European Commission took part in the Council of Europe open forum on critical Internet resources. In a side meeting during the IGF, Council of Europe representatives also met with high-level several MEPs and high-level European Commission officials.

The European Commission also took part in the second multilateral consultation meeting on the implementation of the **European Convention on the legal protection of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access** (Strasbourg, 22 October 2009).

*As concerns co-operation against **cybercrime**, see point 26 below.*

The European Commission also participated in the 2nd and 3rd meetings of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe **Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings** held in Strasbourg on 15 June and 21 September 2009.

The Council of Europe was represented at the Conference of EU National Rapporteurs on **Trafficking in Human Beings** held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 29 to 31 March 2009.

The Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings addressed the 1st National Networking Meeting for launching the project "Towards Global EU Action against **Trafficking** in Human Beings" held in Stockholm on 28 May 2009 organised in the framework of the Swedish Chairmanship of the Council of the European Union. The Executive Secretary also participated in the Roundtable discussion on European Dimensions of Partnership in Combating International Crime and Protecting Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in Berlin on 16 July 2009.

The **Secretary General** of the Council of Europe addressed the Ministerial Conference of the European Union "**Towards Global EU Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**" in Brussels, Belgium, on 19 October 2009. He called on members states of the European Union, which have not yet ratified the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (of the Council of Europe) to do so and on the European Community to become a Party to the latter.

On 16 February 2009, high-level talks were held jointly by the President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) and the European Union Special Representative in Skopje with the Prime Minister of "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to discuss the situation in the country's prisons.

The Executive Secretary to the **Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)** addressed the EU Council working Group on human rights (COHOM) on 12 May 2009.

On 8 December 2009, in Brussels, the **CPT President** participated to a round table organised by the European Commission on prison conditions.

A number of activities in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms fit within the context of Joint Programmes between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Please see under 'Joint Programmes'.

22. The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights strengthens the European Union's efforts to ensure respect for fundamental rights within the framework of the European Union and Community law. It respects the unity, validity and effectiveness of the instruments used by the Council of Europe to monitor the protection of human rights in its member states. The concrete co-operation between the Council of Europe and the Agency will be the subject of a bilateral co-operation agreement between the Council of Europe and the Community.

Further to the entry into force of the co-operation Agreement on 18 June 2008, an independent person, appointed by the Council of Europe, as well as representatives of the Secretariat regularly participated in meetings of the **Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)** Management Board. The independent person participated in the meetings of the Executive Board.

Contact persons appointed by the Council of Europe Secretary General and the FRA are dealing with matters relating to co-operation between the two. The Council of Europe is regularly consulted during the elaboration of the FRA annual work programme and of the annual reports.

On 5 February 2009, the **Ministers Deputies'** Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) of the Council of Europe (GR-EXT) held an exchange of views with the independent person appointed by the Council of Europe. In addition, a delegation of the Committee of Ministers' Deputies visited the FRA headquarters in Vienna on 12 March 2009.

On 17 November 2009, the **Ministers Deputies'** Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) of the Council of Europe (GR-EXT) held an exchange of views on the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the FRA with the Chairperson of the Management Board of the FRA, the Director of the FRA, the independent person appointed by the Council of Europe to the Executive Board and the Director responsible for Human Rights and citizenship of the European Commission.

As regards the relations between the FRA and the **Parliamentary Assembly** of the Council of Europe, the Director of the FRA participated on 11 September, in Paris, in a hearing of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights in the context of the preparation of a report of the Assembly on "The need to avoid duplication of the work of the Council of Europe by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights"; in the same context, the rapporteur of the Assembly visited the FRA headquarters in Vienna on 30 October 2009.

The **European Court of Human Rights** also reached agreement with the FRA on a joint project in the field of non-discrimination. The project will produce a case-law handbook analysing the relevant ECHR and EU judgments, along with other e-learning tools.

The Vice-President of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) attended a meeting at the FRA in Vienna on 4 December 2009.

*As concerns co-operation between the **Commissioner for Human Rights** and the FRA, see under point 47 below.*

As concerns other joint activities and references to standards and activities of the Council of Europe in FRA reports:

Several Council of Europe Conventions (e.g. Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings) as well as Institutions (e.g. European Court of Human Rights) and monitoring bodies (e.g. European Committee of Social Rights, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance) are referred to in the **FRA Annual Report 2009**.

In March 2009, the FRA presented in a Summary Report a list of indicators measuring the respect, protection and promotion of the **Rights of the Child**, in which Council of Europe standards and monitoring reports are considered as key references. On 7 July 2009, the FRA released a report on '**Child Trafficking** in the European Union - Challenges, perspectives and good practices', which considers that the definition contained in the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings is currently the most comprehensive definition available and invites all the Member States of the European Union to become party to this Convention and the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of the Council of Europe. On 20 November 2009, the Council of Europe and the FRA issued a joint declaration to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

On 31 March 2009, the FRA released a report on "**Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity** in the member States of the European Union: Part II - The Social Situation", which also makes several references to Council of Europe standards and reports. Representatives of the FRA took part in a hearing on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in Council of Europe member States organised on 7 March 2009 by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly and attended the three meetings of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (DH-LGBT), which took place in Strasbourg from 18 to 20 February 2009, from 3 to 5 June 2009 and from 4 to 6 November 2009. The draft recommendation on measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and its explanatory memorandum refer to the findings of the FRA report.

The FRA, the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) issued a joint statement on the occasion of the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** on 21 March 2009.

The FRA, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) issued a joint statement on the occasion of **International Roma Day** on 8 April 2009.

The FRA, the OSCE and the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights held a **joint expert seminar** in Strasbourg on 9 and 10 July 2009 to discuss human rights violations of **Roma** in the context of freedom of movement and migration and prepared the international Conference on Roma Migration and Freedom of Movement held in Vienna, Austria, on 9 and 10 November 2009, attended by the Council of Europe. Three monitoring bodies (the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Social Charter) were represented, together with the Parliamentary Assembly.

The FRA participated in a meeting of experts from the Council of Europe on **Roma and Travellers** in Strasbourg on 15-16 October 2009.

In October and November 2009, the FRA released the "Housing conditions of **Roma and Travellers** in the European Union Comparative Report" and a report on "The situation of Roma EU citizens moving to and settling in other EU member states" which again underlines Council of Europe's standards and work on this subject.

The FRA, the Council of Europe and the OSCE conducted a number of field visits concerning **Roma** people in the European Union and agreed to cooperate closely in the implementation of recommendations and opinions resulting from these field visits.

The **Conference of INGOs** took part on 5-6 May 2009 in the 2nd meeting of the Fundamental Rights Agency's Platform of which it is a member. The delegation of the Conference of INGOs contributed to the discussions on the FRA's work programme for 2010 on the **impact of the economic crisis on human rights**.

The FRA participated in the 4th inter-institutional meeting on **Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights** hosted by the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 15-16 June 2009) and the Council of Europe attended a **Human Rights Education** Stakeholders Meeting organised by the FRA in Vienna, Austria, on 30 September 2009.

A representative of the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights addressed the Conference on New **Technical Surveillance Measures and the Protection of Fundamental Rights** co-organised by the FRA in Vienna, Austria, on 19 June 2009.

Representatives of the FRA presented its **disability-related activities** in the 1st meeting of the Committee of Experts on participation of people with disabilities in political and public life (CAHPAH-PPL), which took place in Strasbourg from 7 to 9 September 2009.

The FRA and the Council of Europe's **Anti-discrimination** Campaign hosted a workshop for journalism schools and media training institutions in Vienna, Austria, on 26 and 27 November 2009.

The Council of Europe took part in the **Fundamental Rights Conference** held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 10 and 11 December 2009 on the theme "Making Rights a Reality for All" organised by the FRA in co-operation with the Swedish Presidency of the European Union.

2. Rule of law, legal co-operation and addressing new challenges

23. The Council of Europe and the European Union will endeavour to establish common standards thus promoting a Europe without dividing lines, without prejudice to their autonomy of decision.

24. Bearing this in mind, legal co-operation should be further developed between the Council of Europe and the European Union with a view to ensuring coherence between Community and European Union law and the standards of Council of Europe conventions. This does not prevent Community and European Union law from adopting more far-reaching rules.

The European Community signed the **Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism** (CETS No. 198) on 2 April 2009. Representatives of the European Commission participated in the first Conference of the Parties to this Convention, which was organised in Strasbourg from 22 to 23 April 2009. The European Commission is also a member of the Drafting Group established by the Conference of the Parties to prepare a proposal for an evaluation questionnaire.

The Council of Europe submitted several contributions to the draft "Stockholm Programme" for 2010-2014 on Justice, Liberties and Security (adopted on 11 December 2009).

The **European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)** was represented in several EU meetings and colloquies aimed at preparing the Stockholm programme. At its 13th plenary meeting (10-11 June 2009), **CEPEJ** held an exchange of views with representatives of the European Union on cooperation between the CEPEJ and the European Union in the evaluation of judicial systems. A representative of the Council of Europe also participated in the high-level closed conference on Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism in the field of EU Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters on 3 June 2009.

The EU Council, the European Commission and the LIBE Commission of the European Parliament are regularly represented in the plenary and working group meetings of the CEPEJ.

Following on from other existing major "European Days", in 2003 the European Commission and the Council of Europe established a **European Civil Justice Day** to take place on 25 October each year, in order to bring civil justice to the attention of the European public. The Day is an opportunity for the public to familiarise themselves with the civil justice system, which should make it easier for them to access it. Following the events organised in the previous years, this 7th European Civil Justice Day has again provided an opportunity for various events to be organised on or around 25 October in the Member States of the European Union and the Council of Europe. The shared objective of the events is to make civil justice more comprehensible to the public. This year, the highlight has been jointly organised by three neighbour countries: Germany, France and Switzerland on 10 November 2009 in Freiburg (Baden-Württemberg). The European Commission and the Council of Europe have been present at this event.

In the context of the **European Day of Civil Justice**, the European Commission and the Council of Europe created in 2005 a European prize for innovative practice in **civil and criminal justice** organisation and procedure: the **Crystal Scales of Justice**. This year, the Crystal Scales of Criminal Justice prize was awarded to the Central Board Prison Service of Poland, in Brussels, Belgium, on 5 June 2009 in the framework of the **European Commission Justice Forum**. The Council of Europe, through the CEPEJ, is invited to participate in each meeting of the Justice Forum.

In the framework of the **Criminal Justice Programme** of the European Commission and in close cooperation with the Council of Europe, the University of Castilla-La Mancha launched the 2nd Edition of the Judicial Training on Data Protection in Criminal Proceedings (1st Workshop hosted by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg from 7 to 9 October 2009).

The Council of Europe participated in the Eurostat Working Group meeting on **Statistics on crime and criminal justice** (Luxembourg, 19-20 February 2009).

The European Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union participated in the 56th and 57th meetings of the Committee on the Operation of European Conventions in the **Penal Field** (PC-OC) in Strasbourg, from 12 to 14 May and from 17 to 19 November 2009. The Secretariat of the European Judicial Network also attended the 57th meeting of the PC-OC.

The Council of Europe attended an expert meeting on minimum standards in pre-trial detention organised by the European Commission (9 February 2009).

The Council of Europe was represented at the expert meeting **on procedural rights of individuals deprived of their liberty** held by the European Commission on 26 and 27 March 2009.

The European Commission, which has observer status with several committees placed under the authority of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), regularly attended the meetings, in particular, of the Working Parties on incapable adults and on missing persons of the Committee of Experts on **Family Law** (CJ-FA).

Moreover, it follows on a regular basis the work of the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the **Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes** (T-AP) and of the Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to **Automatic Processing of Personal Data** (T-PD). The European Commission also attended the Workshop on the changing concepts of nationality held in Vienna in September 2009.

On **data protection**, the European Commission also actively contributes to the work on the World Anti-Doping Agency Privacy Standards, in particular by attending the meetings of the working group on ISPP (International Standard for the Protection and Personal Information) and on the monitoring of anti-doping Conventions. The European Commission participated in a meeting of the T-DO⁴ Advisory Group on Legal Issues in Paris, France, on 9 October 2009 and the T-DO SCI Advisory Group on Science in Strasbourg on 7 April 2009.

The Council of Europe participated in the European **Privacy and Data Protection** Commissioners' conference in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, on 23 and 24 April 2009. It also attended the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners, held in Madrid from 3 to 6 November 2009.

The European Union was represented at the Council of Europe 7th European Conference on **Family Law**, which took place in Strasbourg, on 16 March 2009, on international family mediation. Representatives of the European Commission also attended the Conference on the Protection of Children in European Justice Systems, in Toledo, Spain, on 12 and 13 March 2009.

In the context of the work of the CDCJ and the CJ-FA, the Council of Europe and the European Commission jointly organised the Conference "Challenges in adoption procedures: ensuring the best interests of the child" on 30 November – 1 December 2009.

Representatives of the European Union participated in the 29th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Justice on "Breaking the silence – united against **domestic violence**" that took place in Tromsø, Norway, from 17 to 19 June 2009.

The European Commission and the Council of the European Union contributed to the 37th and 38th meetings of the Council of Europe Committee of Legal Advisers on **Public International Law** (CAHDI), in Strasbourg respectively on 19 and 20 March and on 10 and 11 September 2009.

The Council of Europe was invited to take part in a seminar "Prison Service on Twin Tracks: against Radicalisation, for Rehabilitation", organised by the Swedish Prison and Probation Service under the Swedish Presidency of the European Union (28-29 July 2009, Uppsala, Sweden) and will attend the subsequent meetings related to this subject which will be organised by the Spanish Presidency of the EU.

A Council of Europe delegation took part in a Round table on Detention Conditions in the EU (8 December 2009, Brussels) which aims at improving prison conditions and to this effect improving contacts and co-operation between the prison authorities and the national preventive mechanisms. The Council of Europe is considered to be a priority partner of the European Commission in this field.

The European Commission was represented at the 15th Conference of Directors of Prison Administration (9-11 September 2009, Edinburgh).

On 10 December 2009, a meeting took place between the Council of Europe **Legal Advisor** and his EU counterpart to discuss legal matters of common interest (see also under point 20 above).

⁴ T-DO = Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention

25. To this end and to the extent necessary the Council of Europe and the European Union will consult each other at an early stage in the process of elaborating standards.

A number of **meetings held at technical level** (e.g. meetings between the Troika of the Article 36 Committee of the European Union and the Council of Europe to discuss co-operation in the criminal field) provided opportunities for mutual consultation on the elaboration of standards. See also relevant paragraphs under points 16-18 and 41.

As regards consultations on draft EU instruments on procedural rights of suspected and accused persons in criminal proceedings, see above under point 1.1. (Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms).

The European Commission has **observer status** with and takes part in meetings of **various Council of Europe standard-setting bodies**, in particular the European Committee for Crime Problems (CDPC), the Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP) and the Steering Committee on Media and New Communication Services (CDMC). This provides for consultation procedures and allows the European Union to express its views.

26. The Council of Europe and the European Union will continue to strive to develop appropriate forms of co-operation in response to the challenges facing European society, and to enhance the security of individuals, particularly as regards combating terrorism, organised crime, corruption, money laundering and other modern challenges, including those arising from the development of new technologies.

The European Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union closely follow all reports of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (**MONEYVAL**) and actively participated in the following MONEYVAL activities:

- 29th Plenary Meeting, Strasbourg, 16-20 March 2009;
- 30th Plenary Meeting, Strasbourg, 21-24 September 2009;
- 31st Plenary Meeting, Strasbourg, 7-11 December 2009.

MONEYVAL evaluations specifically cover Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2005 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing and the Commission Directive 2006/70/EC of 1 August 2006 laying down implementing measures for Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the definition of 'politically exposed person' and the technical criteria for simplified customer due diligence procedures and for exemption on grounds of a financial activity conducted on an occasional or very limited basis.

A representative of the European Commission participated in the **MONEYVAL** Typologies meeting, in Limassol, Cyprus, from 10 to 12 November 2009 and is a member of the team established in the framework of MONEYVAL's typologies project on "The use of internet gambling for money laundering and the financing of terrorism purposes".

MONEYVAL Secretariat contributed to the Third meeting of the Informal Platform of EU Asset Recovery Offices (ARO), organised by the European Commission in Brussels from 9-10 November 2009.

The European Commission participated in the 6th meeting of the Group of Specialists on **Counterfeit Pharmaceutical Products** (PC-S-CP) from 2 to 4 February 2009 preparing the preliminary draft Council of Europe Convention on Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes involving Threats to Public Health, and in the two meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes involving Threats to Public Health (PC-ISP) which negotiated the said draft Convention from 2 to 5 June and 1 to 4 September 2009 respectively.

On 17-19 February 2009, the Anti-Terrorism Coordinator of the Council of Europe met the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and representatives of the European Commission to discuss future CoE-EU cooperation in the area of the **fight against terrorism**.

The Council of Europe was represented in the Conference "**Transnational Terrorism, Security and the Rule of Law**", in Brussels, Belgium, on 5 February 2009 and the EUROMED Justice II meeting of the Working Group on Criminal Law, in Madrid, Spain, on 11 and 12 May 2009.

The European Commission participated in the 16th and 17th meetings of the **Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER)**, which were held respectively in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain on 15 and 16 April and in Strasbourg on 17 and 18 November 2009, as well as in the OAS-CICTE/Council of Europe Conference on Terrorism and Cybersecurity held in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain, on 16 and 17 April 2009.

Eurojust was represented at the High-level seminar on the protection of Human Rights within the Framework of the Fight against Terrorism in Málaga, Spain, on 8 and 9 October 2009, organised by the Counter-terrorism Task-Force of the Council of Europe and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Spain.

The Council of Europe was represented in the Seminar "Judicial Cooperation between the European Union and the Russian Federation", organised by Eurojust, which was held in the Hague on 8-9 October 2009.

The European Commission participated in the Octopus Interface Conference "Cooperation against **cybercrime**", in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 March 2009, and the 4th Multilateral Consultation of the Parties to the Cybercrime Convention (T-CY), in Strasbourg on 12 and 13 March 2009.

The Council of Europe participated in the EU Ministerial Conference on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (27-28 April 2009, Tallinn, Estonia). The aim was to present the **Convention on Cybercrime** as a key element of strategies to protect critical information infrastructure.

A Seminar on cross-cutting legal issues regarding cybercrime, child pornography and the sexual exploitation and abuse of children was organised by the Council of Europe within the framework of the joint project with the European Union on strengthening and protecting women's and children's rights in Ukraine (TRES Project) from 30 September to 1 October 2009.

The European Union contributed the largest share of external funding to projects related to **economic crime** involving several hundred activities.

In the **environmental** field, the European Commission was represented at the following events:

- Bern Convention Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species, Brijuni Islands, 5-7 May 2009;
- 4th meeting of the Group of Experts on Climate Change and Biological Diversity, Strasbourg, 2-3 July 2009;
- 29th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, Bern, Switzerland, 23-26 November 2009.

On 12 and 13 February 2009, the Secretariat of the Bern Convention had a meeting with the Director of Biodiversity at the European Commission to discuss co-operation and funding issues.

In the **environmental field**, the Council of Europe participated in the following activities:

- Meetings of the European Commission's Coordination Group on Biodiversity and Nature, Brussels, Belgium, 12-13 February, 2 June and 16 October 2009;
- European Commission meetings on "Towards a Green Infrastructure for Europe" (Brussels, 25-26 March 2009) and "Development of an EU Framework on Invasive Species" Bonn, Germany, 9-10 March 2009;
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th meetings of the European Commission's Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, Brussels, Belgium, 11 March, 12 May, 15 July and 27 October 2009;
- EU "Conference on Biodiversity Protection Beyond 2010: Athens", Greece, 27-28 April 2009;
- "Conference on Wilderness and Large Natural Habitat Areas", Prague, Czech Republic, 27-28 May 2009;
- "EU Nature Directors Meeting", Prague, Czech Republic, 8-10 June 2009.

The European Commission and the Council of Europe have a running joint project to promote the protection of biodiversity by laying the scientific basis for the extension of the Emerald Network of protected sites.

With regard to **bioethics**, close co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union has developed. In addition to the mutual participation in steering committees, experts groups and conferences, consultations on specific aspects of bioethics happen regularly. The European Commission participated in the 36th and 37th plenary meetings of the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI), Strasbourg, from 27 to 29 April and from 3 to 6 November 2009. The European Commission also participated in the International Conference organised on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (Strasbourg, 3 November 2009). It also participated in the elaboration of a “**Guide for Research Ethics Committee members**” which was made public for consultation in December 2009.

The Council of Europe participated in the 13th Forum of National Ethics Committees (Prague, Czech Republic, 4-5 June 2009).

A number of activities in fields of the rule of law, legal co-operation and addressing new challenges, fit within the context of Joint Programmes between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Please see under ‘Joint Programmes’.

In addition, it should be noted that a number of activities also falling within the context of the rule of law, legal co-operation and addressing new challenges are to be found under ‘Inter-institutional co-operation’.

3. Democracy and good governance

27. The Council of Europe and the European Union will draw on each other’s expertise and activities to promote and strengthen democracy and good governance, and to foster gender equality as well as greater participation of women in the decision-making process in public life.

The Council of Europe was represented at the annual meeting of the High Level Group on Governance hosted in Solna, Sweden, on 8 and 9 October 2009 by the Swedish presidency of the European Union.

The European Commission has supported different activities of the **Network of Schools of Political Studies**. The Permanent Representative of the European Commission to the Council of Europe took part in the opening session of the 4th Summer University for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6 July). In addition, on a number of occasions, representatives of the European Commission delegations took part in national seminars organised by the **Schools of Political Studies**

28. They will make full use of the Venice Commission’s expertise. They will co-operate through the Forum for the Future of Democracy in order to promote democracy, citizen’s participation, democratic development and good governance. They will consider the application of new technologies in this context.

The Venice Commission co-operates closely with the European Union Special Representative for the Republic of Moldova⁵ and with the European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It coordinates efforts with the European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus. Close co-operation is maintained with the Council of the European Union, in particular with respect to the constitutional situation in Ukraine. In 2009, the Venice Commission started implementing a special programme on the rule of law in five Central Asian states in the framework of the EU Central Asian Rule of Law Initiative. In addition, the European Commission requested the Venice Commission to cooperate with Bolivia on the implementation of its new Constitution.

⁵ Hereafter, the Republic of Moldova is referred to as Moldova.

The European Commission, represented by its Legal Service, participates in plenary meetings of the **Venice Commission**. The Venice Commission regularly invites the European Commission to attend as an observer the meetings of the Council for Democratic Elections (a joint body of the Venice Commission, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe dealing with electoral matters) and consults the European Commission before the adoption of opinions and comparative studies (including those setting standards) in the electoral field.

The European Commission was represented at the March 2009 sessions of the Council for Democratic Elections and of the Venice Commission.

The European Commission attended the 6th European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies, co-organised by the Venice Commission and the authorities of the Netherlands (The Hague, 30 November – 1 December 2009).

In addition, the Venice Commission went on taking part actively in the Joint Programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe entitled “South Caucasus – Moldova – Support to free and fair elections”, through activities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova.

The European Commission is invited to the meetings of the Advisory Board of the **Forum for the Future of Democracy**.

29. They will explore ways of working more closely in the field of regional and transfrontier co-operation. They will endeavour to promote local democracy in view of the contribution which it can make to the achievement of their shared objectives. They should make good use of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Committee of Regions of the European Union, as well as the Centre of Expertise on Local Government Reform.

The European Commission was represented at the meeting of the Committee of Experts on Local and Regional Finance, 6-7 April 2009.

A number of activities in democracy and good governance fit within the context of Joint Programmes between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Please see under “Joint Programmes”.

Please note that the activities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe are indicated under point 49.

4. Democratic stability

30. Bearing in mind the common aim of promoting and strengthening democratic stability in Europe, the Council of Europe and the European Union will increase their common efforts towards enhanced pan-European relations, including further co-operation in the countries participating in the European Union's Neighbourhood Policy or the Enlargement process, with due regard to the specific competences of both institutions and in conformity with Council of Europe member states' observance of their obligations and commitments.

31. This co-operation, in order to promote democracy and citizens' participation, will also include states aspiring for membership of the Council of Europe.

Throughout the period under review, regular and close consultations have taken place with both the European Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union on politically relevant questions or whenever a specific matter or common interest justified an exchange of views. Furthermore, a number of meetings, involving mainly the competent European Commission Directorates General, have been organised as follows:

- annual **consultation meetings** in Strasbourg with the Enlargement DG on the **candidate and potential candidate countries for European Union accession** with a view to providing Council of Europe input to the Commission's progress reports on each country concerned (25-26 May 2009), followed by a consultation meeting in Brussels on perspectives for common work in those countries (November 2009). All relevant bodies and departments of the Council of Europe were involved in these consultations;
- organisation of the regular **consultation meetings** in Strasbourg on **European Neighbourhood Policy countries**, with a view to providing Council of Europe input to the Commission's review of progress made in the implementation of their respective European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan (15-16 December 2009);
- visits of the Director of Political Advice and Co-operation of the Council of Europe for **consultations on topics of mutual interest**.

The **Council of Europe/European Commission Senior Officials Meeting** (Strasbourg, 16 December 2009) also provided an occasion for an exchange of view on these countries.

Ad hoc consultation meetings on regions of common interest are regularly held between the Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs and the relevant Commission's Directorates, in order to ensure a regular and up-dated exchange of information on key priorities and on a shared assessment of current developments having an impact on the work of the two institutions.

The European Commission and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro together with the Council of Europe organised 2 round tables on the Montenegrin draft law on electronic media in July and September 2009. During the first round the European Commission and the Council of Europe presented the joint analysis and comments on the Montenegrin draft law on electronic media

Co-operation has also developed in the context of the **Eastern Partnership**⁶ of the European Union with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, launched on 7 May 2009. Representatives of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe participated in the meetings in Brussels of Platform 1 on Democracy, Good Governance and Stability on 7 October 2009 and Platform 4 on Contacts between People on 26 November 2009.

32. To reinforce co-operation in the areas mentioned in this chapter, they will have regular exchanges of views and will develop, where appropriate, mutually supportive and reinforcing activities as well as joint programmes as set out in paragraph 52 below.

Contacts and consultations with the European Union in the field are very close and regular. Special Representatives of the Secretary General (SRSGs) participate fully in the international co-ordination mechanisms in the field. Furthermore, Council of Europe **monitoring missions** in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as stocktaking missions in Moldova and the "Ago Group" (Armenia and Azerbaijan) have regular exchanges with representatives of partner organisations in the field.

5. Intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity

33. The Council of Europe and the European Union will co-operate in order to develop intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity with a view to promoting respect for human rights and mutual understanding among cultures in Europe. This dialogue is an important element in the fight against all forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia.

⁶ The Eastern Partnership is the Eastern dimension within the European Neighbourhood Policy (Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – 3/12/2008 – SEC (2008) 2974).

A representative of the European Commission took part in the “**Council of Europe 2009 exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue**”, which took place, in Strasbourg on 29 and 30 June 2009 and dealt with “Teaching religious and convictional facts – a tool for acquiring knowledge about religions and beliefs in education- a contribution to education for democratic citizenship, human rights and intercultural dialogue”

The European Commission took part in the Final Conference of the Council of Europe project “Policies and practices for teaching sociocultural diversity” (ED-DS) “Diversity and Inclusion: challenges for teacher education”, Oslo, Norway, from 26 to 28 October 2009.

Co-operation also took place in the context of the joint programme “**Intercultural Cities – governance and policies for diverse communities**”, involving twelve pilot cities in the development of intercultural strategies across a range of policy domains: education, housing, urbanism, culture, health, etc.

Co-operation with the European Union also took place in the context of the **joint programme “European Heritage Days**”, a joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, which included support of the 49 parties to the European Cultural Convention in the organisation of their yearly **European Heritage Days**, as well as the organisation of a Forum on “Heritage, creativity and innovation” which took place in Ljubljana on 23 September 2009. The Forum was a contribution to the 2009 European Year of Creativity and Innovation and was organised in the context of the Slovenian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers. 150 participants from Council of Europe member states, Slovenia and international institutions and organisations participated in the Forum which was opened by the Minister of Culture of Slovenia.

The Council of Europe participated in the Ministerial Conference “Forum for Creative Europe”, which was the first major contribution to the European Year of Creativity and Innovation hosted by the Czech Presidency of the EU in Prague from 25 to 27 March 2009.

A representative of the EU European Environment Agency (EEA) took part in the 8th meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European **Landscape** Convention held in association with the Swedish EU Presidency in Malmö, Sweden, on 8 and 9 October 2009. His presentation focused on the issue of climate change and landscape.

The European Commission and the Council of Europe continued to intensify their relations in the field of **cultural heritage** in Kosovo⁷ with the launch in October 2009 of a new Joint Programme entitled “European Union and Council of Europe Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo”.

The “Integrated Rehabilitation Project Plan/Survey of the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage” (IRPP/SAAH) has been implemented jointly by the Council of Europe and the European Commission in South-East Europe since 2003. As part of the “**Ljubljana Process – Funding heritage rehabilitation in South East Europe**”, a Ministerial Conference was organised in November in Ljubljana entitled “Rehabilitating our Common Heritage”. The 170 high level participants at the Conference acknowledged the value and impact of the Council of Europe and European Commission’s Joint Action for the rehabilitation of monuments and sites in the region, thus providing a strong political momentum for strengthening future cooperation.

There is also a joint action in favour of cultural heritage within the **Kyiv Initiative Regional Programme**. Following the success of the joint action on cultural heritage in South East Europe carried out since 2003, a new joint action was launched in 2009 in the Caucasus and Black Sea regions. On 1 September 2009, the Council of Europe and the European Commission signed the first covenant for 12 months relating to the implementation of the preliminary phase of the **Pilot Project on Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in Historic Towns**.

It should be noted that a number of activities also falling within the context of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity are to be found under ‘Inter-institutional co-operation’. These activities are of relevance to the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre), Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe.

⁷ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

In addition, a large number of activities in the intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity field fit within the context of Joint Programmes between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Please see under Joint Programmes for further details.

34. The European Union will examine its participation in the inter-institutional open platform of co-operation for intercultural dialogue initiated by the Council of Europe and UNESCO at the Faro Ministerial Conference.

35. The Council of Europe and the European Union will promote ideas and values fostering cultural diversity both among their respective member states as well as in relevant international fora. In this spirit, the Council of Europe will promote the ratification and implementation of the UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions by its member states. The Council of Europe and the European Union will promote its ratification and implementation by their international partners.

The Council of Europe attended, as an observer, the Ordinary Sessions of the conference of parties to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions held at UNESCO Headquarters in June and December 2009, preparing ground for further cooperation focusing on the use of the Cultural Policies Compendium. The Compendium is a permanently updated cultural policy information and monitoring system, initiated by the Council of Europe in 1998.

6. Education, youth and the promotion of human contacts

36. The Council of Europe and the European Union will co-operate in building a knowledge based society and a democratic culture in Europe, in particular through promoting democratic citizenship and human rights education. They will support the Bologna process aimed at establishing a higher education area by 2010, as well as education networks and student exchanges at all levels.

The European Commission participated in the 8th meeting of the Steering Committee for **Education**, Strasbourg, from 18 to 20 March 2009.

The Council of Europe co-operated with the European Commission in the development of the Indicator of **language competence** EILC⁸. The Indicator is being developed by the European Commission on the basis of the Council of Europe standards of language competence presented in the Language Policy Division's "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages".

The Ministerial conference of the Bologna Process was held on 28 and 29 April 2009. The first Bologna Policy Forum was held end-on with the 2009 ministerial conference of the Bologna Process (29 April 2009) to define priorities and orientations for cooperation between the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and other regions of the world

The Council of Europe participated in the following meetings:

- Three meetings of the *European Indicator of Language Competence Advisory Board* (March, June and December 2009)
- Meeting of National Contact Points on Integration (Brussels, 8 July 2009) organised by the Unit Immigration and Integration - DG Justice, Freedom and Security (in the context of the programme on Language Policies and Integration)

Both the Council of Europe and the European Commission play active roles in the Bologna Follow Up Group (BFUG) and Board. The Board met in Prague, Czech Republic, on 13 January 2009, in Ostende, Belgium on 23 February 2009, in Stockholm, Sweden on 4 September 2009. The BFUG met in Prague, Czech Republic, on 26 and 27 March 2009, in Leuven, Belgium, on 27 April 2009, in Stockholm, Sweden on 28 and 29 September 2009.

⁸ EILC = Erasmus Intensive Language Course

The Council of Europe and the Commission also co-operate within the EQF Advisory Group in supporting the implementation of the European Qualification Framework for lifelong learning.

The Bureau of the Advisory Group of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF Advisory Board) oversees the development of the EQF between meetings of the Advisory Board and prepares these. The Council of Europe was invited to attend the meeting in its capacity as Chair of the Bologna Coordination Group on Qualifications Frameworks (27 January 2009).

A new working group on the relationship of sectoral qualifications to the EQF (Advisory Group for the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning) has been established by the Advisory Board of the EQF to advise on the relationship between sectoral qualifications and the EQF. This work is highly relevant also to the overarching framework of qualifications of the Europe Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA), for which the Council of Europe chairs the Coordination Group (28 January 2009).

The EQF conference “Linking to a globalised world provided an updated overview of the development of national qualifications framework in Europe and beyond and explored the relationship between of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF) and developments in other regions (29-30 January 2009).

Additional activities in field of education fit within the context of Joint Programmes between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Please see under “Joint Programmes”.

Please see also under ‘Inter-institutional co-operation’ with respect to the European Centre for Modern Languages (Enlarged partial agreement of the Council of Europe).

37. The Council of Europe and the European Union will strengthen their co-operation in the youth field by developing and taking part in programmes and campaigns to empower young people to participate actively in the democratic process and by facilitating youth exchange.

A partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the **youth sector** (for 2007-2009) is focusing on “European Youth Worker and Youth Leader Training”, “Euro-Mediterranean youth co-operation” and “Youth Policy Development and Youth Research”.

The annual meeting of the Sectorial Group on a Better Understanding and Knowledge of Youth gathers representatives of youth research as well as youth policy stakeholders and partners in order to inform on the activities carried out in the field of youth research and youth policy and to involve the partners in the planning of future activities.

Child participation is one of the three thematically pillars featuring in the 2009 - 2011 Stockholm Strategy for the programme “Building a Europe for and with children”. A Roadmap for Council of Europe actions on participation of children and young people under the age of 18 has been devised, and the work has started accordingly.

In this context, a considerable number of activities in the youth sector fit within the framework of Joint Programmes between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Please see under “Joint Programmes”.

It should be noted, in particular, that the Joint Programme ‘Framework Partnership Agreement in the Field of Youth’ contains the following sub-programmes, designed to promote human rights education through leadership training and programmes to empower young people to become active citizens:

- *European Citizenship Trainings and Training for Trainers of Youth Workers;*
- *quality, recognition and visibility of youth work;*
- *human rights education, Euro-Mediterranean co-operation for intercultural dialogue;*
- *youth policy development and co-operation, particularly in South East Europe and Eastern Europe and Caucasus;*
- *better understanding and knowledge of youth and youth research;*
- *European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCY), a single entry point and database to access knowledge on youth across Europe;*

- *information and communication (on-line and other publications, development of training kits).*

In addition, the European Commission supported actively – through the Partnership – the European Youth Campaign “All Different – All Equal” for diversity, human rights and participation. As from 2009, the Youth Partnership integrates a Euro-African youth dimension in its programme, which will be implemented and administered by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

The partnership activities in the field of youth are implemented by a joint secretariat, located in the Directorate for Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe and supervised by a management board representing the two institutional partners. The main stakeholders in the youth field are represented in a consultative structure supporting the partnership activities.

It should be noted that a number of activities in the youth and sports sector can be found under ‘Inter-institutional co-operation’. These activities are of relevance to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS).

38. They will encourage exchanges of good practices concerning freedom of movement, in order to improve people-to-people contacts between Europeans throughout the continent.

As indicated above (see points 30-31), co-operation has also developed with respect to the countries participating in the **Eastern Partnership**⁹ of the European Union. A representative of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe participated in the meeting in Brussels, Belgium, of Platform 4 on Contacts between People on 26 November 2009.

7. Social Cohesion

39. The Council of Europe and the European Union will co-operate in the field of social cohesion on the basis of the Council of Europe Social Charter and the relevant European Union texts.

40. On the basis of their respective frameworks, they will support the efforts by member states to exchange good practices on social cohesion and solidarity – in particular in combating violence, poverty and exclusion and in protecting vulnerable groups and to develop more efficient policies in this field.

The European Commission was represented at the 4th meeting of the Committee of Experts on **Social Security** (CS-SS), Strasbourg, on 24 to 26 March 2009.

The **Mutual Information System on Social Protection** of the Council of Europe (MISSCEO) is the Council of Europe counterpart of MISSOC (Mutual Information System on Social Protection in the member states of the European Union, the EEA and in Switzerland), the network run by the European Commission. Both networks publish comparative tables on social protection systems in the countries in a complementary way. The Council of Europe and the European Commission participate in each others networks. The MISSCEO Network meeting was held on 7 and 8 July 2009 in Strasbourg. The Council of Europe was represented at the MISSOC Network meetings in Prague, Czech Republic, on 14 and 15 May 2009.

A partnership agreement on **“Social Cohesion and Welfare for all”** was concluded in 2008, between the DG of Social Cohesion of the Council of Europe and the European Commission’s DG of Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. It allows the Council of Europe to further explore some key aspects of the recent report of the High Level Task Force on Social Cohesion and to develop two projects in those fields: **“Intercultural competences in social services”** and **“Europe of social and shared responsibilities”**.

The European Commission participated in the plenary meeting of the European Committee for **Social Cohesion** (CDCS) on 25 to 27 May 2009 and in the Conference on interacting in diversity for social cohesion (7 and 8 December 2009).

The European Commission was represented at the 3rd meeting of the European Co-ordination Forum for the **Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015** (CAHPAH), Strasbourg, on 23 to 25 September 2009.

⁹ See footnote 5.

The Council of Europe was represented as an observer at meetings of the **European Commission's High Level Group on Disability** (HLG) in Brussels, Belgium, on 1 and 2 April and on 14 and 15 October 2009.

The Council of Europe participated in the conference in Brussels, Belgium, organised on 3 and 4 December 2009 by the European Commission on the occasion of the European day of persons with disabilities on "creating conditions for independent living".

The European Commission participated in the 27th and 28th meetings of the Committee of Experts on **Roma and Travellers** (MG-S-ROM), Sevilla, Spain, from 24 to 27 Mars 2009 and Strasbourg, from 15 to 16 October 2009.

The Coordinator of the Council of Europe for Roma and Travelers participated at bilateral or international Roma-related coordination events in 2009.

The Council of Europe organised in partnership with the European Commission and the Province of Quebec the Conference "Interacting in diversity for social cohesion frameworks and references to adapt the organisation and competences of social services to the demands of a pluralist society" in Strasbourg, on 7 and 8 December 2009.

The European Commission was represented at the 5th meetings of the Committee of Experts on **Social Policy for Families and Children** (CS-SPFC), Strasbourg, 1 April 2009.

In the **migration** field, the European Commission was represented at the 57th meeting of the Steering Committee of the European Committee on Migration (CDMG), Strasbourg, on 28 and 29 May 2009.

The Council of Europe participated in the **EU Expert Group meeting on Health Inequalities and Social Determinants** in Brussels on 29 June 2009.

It should be noted that a number of activities also falling within the context of social cohesion are to be found under 'Inter-institutional co-operation' as these concern partial agreements.

In addition, a number of activities in field of social cohesion fit within the context of Joint Programmes between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Please see Under 'Joint Programmes'.

8. Arrangements for co-operation

41. The Council of Europe and the European Union, within their respective policy frameworks, will consult regularly and closely, both at political and technical levels, on matters within the shared priority areas described above.

42. They should further continue to develop joint activities and co-operate through specialised Council of Europe structures, processes and initiatives as well as appropriate institutions of the European Union.

43. Such co-operation should include:

- reinforced dialogue on policy issues to identify joint priorities and develop common strategies with a medium or long-term perspective;
- regular exchanges of information and development of common views and initiatives;
- further co-ordination of operational activities in priority areas;
- enhanced consultation between networks/bodies with activities in the same priority or focal areas;
- partnership with those states benefiting from activities, programmes and other common initiatives carried out in this framework;
- joint activities and events.

Political dialogue, including at the highest level, has intensified in 2009 as illustrated by the meetings of the newly elected Secretary General of the Council of Europe with the President of the European Commission (Brussels, Belgium, 19 October 2009) and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission (Strasbourg, 15 December 2009), during which it was agreed to maintain close and regular contacts and develop further the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union.

The following representatives of the Council of Europe took part in meetings of the Council working group (of the European Union) on relations with the OSCE and the Council of Europe (**COSCE**) in Brussels, Belgium, in 2009:

- The Director of External Relations of the Council of Europe and the Special Representative of the Secretary General (27 March 2009);
- The Commissioner for Human Rights (26 June 2009);
- The Director General of Democracy and Political Affairs and Director of Political Advice and Co-operation (20 November 2009);
- The Court Registrar (on 17 December 2009).

The following representatives of the Council of Europe also took part in meetings of the Council of the European Union Working Group on Human Rights (**COHOM**) in Brussels in 2009:

- The Executive Secretary of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), (12 May);
- The Head of Media and Information Society Division (1 September 2009).

The Director General of Democracy and Political Affairs also took part in the meeting of the Council of the European Union Working Group on the Western Balkans Region (**COWEB**) on 4 June.

In addition, on 1 December 2009 in Brussels, Belgium, the **President of the ECtHR** addressed the Ministers of Justice of member States of the European Union at their Council meeting (JAI ministerial council).

Meetings between the **Troika of the Article 36 Committee** of the European Union and the Council of Europe took place both in Brussels, Belgium, on 19 May 2009 and on 8 October 2009, where issues of **co-operation in the criminal field, including terrorism** were discussed in detail.

The **Council of Europe/European Commission Senior Officials' Meeting** took place in Strasbourg on 16 December 2009. This meeting represented an opportunity for officials from various Directorate Generals of both organisations to overview the co-operation and coordinate it for the future.

See also point 44 and 45 below.

9. Meetings and mechanisms for strengthening co-operation

44. The Council of Europe and the European Union will pursue their regular "Quadripartite" meetings devoted to the most important aspects of co-operation and strategic issues. Ways of enhancing the parliamentary contribution to this process will be examined. In addition, ad hoc consultations at a high political level could be held on topical matters of common interest.

The first **Quadripartite** meeting of the year was held on 11 May 2009 in Madrid, Spain, and focused on issues concerning co-operation in the field of democracy and the perspectives for co-operation for the European Neighbourhood Policy. The second Quadripartite meeting was held on 27 October 2009 in Luxembourg and addressed in particular the issue of the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as issues concerning Georgia, Moldova and Belarus.

As indicated above, **consultations have taken place at the highest level** to develop further the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union:

- meeting of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe with the President of the European Commission on 19 October 2009 in Brussels, Belgium;

- meeting of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe with the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission on 15 December 2009 in Strasbourg;

The **Secretary General** of the Council of Europe also had meetings with:

- the Commissioner responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth on 6 November 2009 in Strasbourg;
- the Commissioner responsible for Information Society and Media on 24 November 2009 in Strasbourg;
- the President of the European Parliament's Committee on Development (DEVE) on 23 November 2009 in Strasbourg.

The **Deputy Secretary General** of the Council of Europe also had a meeting with the Deputy Director General for External Relations of the European Commission on 25 March 2009 in Strasbourg.

In addition, since the signing of the MoU, co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union has always been addressed during meetings between the Secretary General and/or the Deputy Secretary General with European Union officials **in the margins of international gatherings**, and with senior level officials from member states. In this context, in particular, the (then) Acting Secretary General had a meeting with the Swedish Presidency of the European Union in Stockholm, Sweden, on 8 September 2009.

See also point 43 and 45 below.

45. More frequent consultations aimed at the reinforcement of political dialogue between, on the one hand, the Presidency/Troika of the European Union and, on the other hand, the Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers and Secretary General of the Council of Europe may take place on an informal basis in the Ministers' Deputies and at the level of the Political and Security Committee (PSC).

On 25 March 2009, the Ministers' Deputies had an **exchange of views** with the Deputy Director General for External Relations of the European Commission and on 8 July 2009 with the Swedish State secretary for Foreign Affairs (on the priorities of the Swedish Presidency of the European Union).

In addition, on 20 October 2009, the Rapporteur Group on External Relations of the Ministers' Deputies had an exchange of views on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union with the Director of Multilateral Relations and Human Rights, DG External Relations and Senior Official of the European Commission in charge of relations with the Council of Europe and with the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Director of the Liaison Office of the Council of Europe with the European Union.

10. Inter-institutional co-operation

46. The European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe are invited to reinforce their co-operation in order to further strengthen the parliamentary dimension of interaction between the Council of Europe and the European Union, in accordance with the Agreement to be signed by the respective Presidents.

Parliamentary Assembly

Co-operation between the two parliamentary institutions took place on the basis of the Agreement concluded by their Presidents on 28 November 2007. This Agreement adds a parliamentary dimension to the MoU on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union.

Several committees of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly have working relations at the level of rapporteurs and/or chairpersons or are jointly represented at seminars and hearings of the correspondent committees.

Representatives of the European Commission attended the following meetings of Assembly Committees:

- Committee on Economic Affairs and Development on 18 May 2009 (Helsinki, commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the accession of Finland to the Council of Europe), 19 June 2009 (Paris, on OECD activities);
- Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and men on 8 September 2009 (presentation of the EU campaign on closing the gender wage gap).

An ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly comprising members of several Assembly Committees participated in the European Parliament and Swedish Riksdag Joint parliamentary meeting on “The Stockholm Programme - Building a Citizens’ Europe” (Brussels, 16-17 November 2009). In addition, a number of rapporteurs of the Assembly’s Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights carried out fact-finding missions to the European Commission, EU Agencies and the EP in the framework of the preparation of their report on:

- The need for a Council of Europe Neighbourhood policy (new title of the report: establishment of a partner for democracy status with the Assembly (March 2009);
- The Council of Europe and the Eastern Partnership of the European Union (November 2009);
- The Situation in Kosovo¹⁰ (November 2009);
- The need to avoid duplication of the work of the Council of Europe by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (October 2009).

The Assembly’s Committees on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and on Migration, Refugees and Population had regular contacts with their respective sister Committees in the EP, the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality, (FEMM) and the Justice, Home Affairs and Civil Liberties Committee (LIBE).

During their fact-finding visits to monitored countries, the rapporteurs of the Assembly’s Monitoring Committee regularly have meetings with heads of mission of EU representations (EU Special Representatives or Heads of EU Commission Representations). In the field of election observation, the Parliamentary Assembly also had close working relations with the European Parliament.

Representatives of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency participated in the following hearings organised by the Assembly’s Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:

- on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity”(March 2009);
- on the situation of Roma in Romania” (May 2009);
- on the need to avoid duplication of the work of the Council of Europe by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights” (September 2009).

On 15 and 16 December 2009, the Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development (of the Assembly’s Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs) took part in the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, organised by the UNFCCC (secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change) and held bilateral meetings with representatives of, *inter alia*, the European Parliament,

Assembly Recommendation 1893 of 20 November 2009 on the future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity contains several proposals which refer to the European Union and the European Parliament.

In its Resolution 1672 of 13 March 2009 on mobilising parliaments for Africa’s development, the Assembly welcomes the Resolution on the state of play of European Union-Africa relations (INI/2007/2002) adopted by the European Parliament on 25 October 2007 and the joint statement adopted by the European and Pan-African Parliaments in advance of the Lisbon European Union-Africa Summit held in Lisbon on 8 and 9 December 2007.

In addition, a representative of the Assembly participated in the 6th EIB-FEMIP Conference on “Sustainable Water Financing and Climate Change in the Mediterranean” (Monaco, 10-11 May 2009).

¹⁰ See footnote 6.

47. The Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and the other specialised bodies of the Council of Europe, as well as the relevant European Union institutions are especially invited to reinforce their co-operation.

Since taking up his functions in 2006, the **Commissioner for Human Rights** has endeavoured to develop and deepen the interaction between his Office and a wide range of EU institutions. The collaboration has encompassed both a permanent dialogue and exchanges of information on human rights issues as well as technical cooperation.

During 2009, the Commissioner continued his regular meetings with members of the European Commission with duties related to human rights. In February, he met with the Commissioner for External Relations to discuss human rights situation in Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation. In March, he exchanged information on country visits and discussed migration and asylum related issues with the Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security. In November, he met with the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities to discuss the human rights situation of Roma and Travellers as well as discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. Information on the results of the Commissioner's country monitoring was also exchanged with relevant Commission services on several occasions during the year.

Contacts with the EU Council were further developed in 2009. In February, the Commissioner held a meeting with the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy. The meeting focused on the need to ensure a continued international presence in the areas affected by the 2008 conflict in Georgia. In June, the Commissioner discussed the closure of Guantanamo detainee facility and data protection issues related to counter-terrorism measures with the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator. In June, the Commissioner also addressed a meeting of the EU Council Working Group on the OSCE and the Council of Europe (COSCE) with particular reference to the human rights situation in Moldova and the conflict areas in Georgia.

In October, the Commissioner participated in a meeting of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights. He exchanged views with members of the Sub-Committee on the human rights situation in the Russian Federation as well as issues related to human rights defenders and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Commissioner also maintained regular contacts in Strasbourg with the European Ombudsman.

Cooperation between the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the Commissioner's Office was close and continuous. The Commissioner met with the Director of FRA in November in conjunction with an International Conference on Roma Migration and Freedom of Movement, jointly organised in Vienna by the FRA, OSCE/ODIHR, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Commissioner's Office. Information and data on a broad range of human rights subjects were regularly exchanged between the FRA and the Commissioner's Office also in the context of expert meetings, workshops and roundtables organised by both organisations. The human rights situation of Roma, discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, the rights of the child, and multi-level human rights implementation were shared priority concerns in 2009.

The Commissioner addressed two major EU conferences related to human rights in 2009. In November, he delivered the keynote address at the EU Equality Summit in Stockholm, organised by the Swedish EU Presidency and the European Commission. In December, the Commissioner participated in the high-level panel of the EU Fundamental Rights Conference in Stockholm, organised by the FRA and the Swedish EU Presidency.

In 2009, the Office completed its joint EU-Council of Europe programme (so-called "Peer-to-Peer Project") for the setting-up of an active network of national human rights structures (NHRSS). The last "Peer to Peer" workshop – on the protection of the rights of Roma by NHRSS – organised by the Office took place in Budapest in February.

In 2009, the Secretariat of the **European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)** continued its working relations with the European Commission. ECRI's Secretariat and the relevant secretariat of the European Commission kept each other informed of important developments in their work and exchanged information on subjects of common interest such as legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination.

The European Commission has observer status with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and a representative attended two plenary meetings of ECRI in 2009 (48th plenary meeting on 31 March-2 April 2009 and 50th plenary meeting on 15-18 December 2009).

*As regards the **Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)**, see point 21 above.*

48. The Council of Europe and the European Union will further co-operate by using the opportunities provided by existing partial agreements and conferences of specialised ministers.

Partial Agreements

For the information on the cooperation with the Enlarged agreement "European Commission for Democracy through Law (**Venice Commission**)" see point 28 above.

Contacts between **GRECO**¹¹ and relevant EU bodies were further strengthened in 2009. Significant advances towards closer co-operation between GRECO and the European Union were reflected in the EU Stockholm Programme in which the Council of the European Union invites the European Commission to develop a comprehensive anti-corruption policy in close cooperation with GRECO and to submit a report, in 2010, on the modalities for the Union to accede to GRECO.

In addition to inter-secretariat contacts, an exchange of views with a representative of the European Commission was held at GRECO's July 2009 Plenary Meeting. GRECO's Bureau also held discussions with EUROJUST representatives with a view to establishing more formal cooperation arrangements. In addition, representatives of the European Commission and OLAF addressed GRECO's 10th Anniversary Conference (Strasbourg, 5 October). GRECO was represented at the European Commission Seminar on the Role of Civil Society in Combating Corruption (Brussels, 26-29 January) and at the OLAF Conference, hosted by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Public Prosecution Service of Ireland on Cross Border Fraud, Corruption and European Union Financial Interests (Dublin, 19-20 March).

GRECO continued to provide input to consultation meetings with the European Commission for the preparation of European Union Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy progress review reports.

With respect to co-operation between the **Pompidou Group** and the European Union, in 2009, contacts have continued with the European Union Council's Horizontal Drugs Group and the EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addictions) on the topic of the improvement of European Drug policies based on scientific evidence.

The Pompidou Group participated in:

- the Information Day on the European Health Programme (2008-2013) organised by the European Commission on 18 March 2009 in Luxembourg;
- the Conference "Bridging the research gap in the field of illicit drugs in the EU" which took place on 24-25 September 2009 in Paris.

The Pompidou Group also attended the meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs organised on 11 November 2009 in Brussels to present the High-level MedNET Conference of the Pompidou Group and the feasibility study on the setting up of a Mediterranean Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

¹¹ GRECO = Group of States against Corruption

The Council of Europe participated in the EMCDDA conference, 'Identifying Europe's information needs for effective drug policy', which highlighted four main themes: Policy, Practice, Trends and Horizons, from 6 May to 8 May 2009 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The Pompidou Group attended the meetings of the Management Board of the EMCDDA on 30 June-1 July 2009 and on 1-3 December 2009 in Lisbon.

The European Commission attended:

- the 63rd and the 64th Meetings of the Permanent Correspondents (27-28 May and 17-18 November 2009) in Strasbourg;
- the 8th Meeting of the Research Platform on 26-27 January 2009 in Paris;
- the 12th Meeting of the Expert Committee on Ethical Issues and Professional Standards on 21-22 October 2009 in Paris;
- the Conference on Backtracking Investigation, Evidence Collection, Sanction and Prevention of Drug Precursor Diversion organised on 25-26 March 2009 in Bucharest (Romania);
- the High-Level Conference of the Mediterranean Network on 1st December 2009 in Strasbourg.

The EMCDDA participated in following meetings and conferences organised by the Pompidou Group:

- the 63rd and the 64th Meetings of the Permanent Correspondents (27-28 May and 17-18 November 2009) organised in Strasbourg;
- the 8th and the 9th Meetings of the Research Platform (26-27 January 2009 and 28-29 September 2009) in Paris;
- the 11th and the 12th Meetings of the Expert Committee on Ethical Issues and Professional Standards (25-26 March and 21-22 October 2009) in Paris;
- the 10th Meeting of the Expert Forum on Criminal Justice on 10-11 September 2009, Strasbourg;
- the 9th Meeting of the Research Platform on 28-29 September 2009 in Paris;
- the 24th Annual Meeting of the Co-operation Group of Drug Control Services at European Airports and in General Aviation on 10-12 June 2009 in Strasbourg;
- the Conference on Backtracking Investigation, Evidence Collection, Sanction and Prevention of Drug Precursor Diversion on 25-26 March 2009 in Bucharest, Romania;
- the Conference on Guidelines and Recommendations in Drug Treatment – Bridging the gap between clinical practice and evidence-based practice on 11-13 May 2009 in Nicosia, Cyprus;
- the Inter-Agency Meeting (27 January 2009) organised in Cracow, Poland;
- the High-Level Conference of the Mediterranean Network organised on 1 December 2009 in Strasbourg.

The **Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)** participates in the Western Balkan Investment Fund (WBIF). The WBIF was launched in Brussels on 9 December 2009 with the aim of facilitating access by the countries of the Western Balkans to funding for projects, including social infrastructure.

The CEB is also a cosignatory of the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) Framework Arrangement, which entered into force on 21 December 2009. The NIF aims to combine donations from the EU and donor countries (via the NIF Trust Fund) with loans from financial institutions, including the CEB, EIB and EBRD, for the benefit of countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Since 2009, the CEB has been a full member of the JESSICA Steering Committee (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas). The purpose of this programme, launched by the European Commission in 2006, is to promote sustainable investment with the resources granted to member states under the structural funds in the urban development sector.

The **European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML)** intensified efforts to establish a closer working relationship with the Multilingualism Policy Unit of the Commission in 2009. The Commission participated at the 18th meeting of ECML Governing Board on 15-16 October and agreed to be involved in the launch meeting of the ECML's Professional Network Forum of International Non-Governmental Organisations focusing on language education in January 2010.

Eurimages is essentially a co-production fund supporting European films throughout its 34 member states. Synergies have continued to be exploited between Eurimages and MEDIA 2007 as regards distribution and exhibition in countries which do not have access to the support programmes of the European Union.

The European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) and the European Union pursued in 2009 their mutual co-operation: the European Union participated in the two national platforms' meetings promoted by the Agreement (Bonn in February and London in November) and the Agreement participated in the International Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction - Dialogue between Science and Stakeholders (Brussels, Belgium, 29-30 October) and in the 3rd European Civil Protection Forum (Brussels, 25-26 November), both organised by the European Commission.

Further to the establishment of the **Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)** in May 2007 and taking account of the "White Paper on Sport" of the European Commission (July 2007), contacts between the Commission and the Council of Europe were intense and fruitful throughout 2009 in the light of the new competence on sport provided by the Lisbon Treaty.

EU informal meeting of sport directors was held first in Prague, Czech Republic on 28 and 29 April 2009 and then in Solna, Sweden, on 1-2 October 2009. EPAS representatives attended these meetings and presented updated information on the EPAS works.

The European Commission (EU Working Party on Anti-Doping) took part in the statutory meetings of the Anti-Doping Convention (4-5 May and 18-19 November 2009), the Convention on Spectator Violence (11-12 June 2009) as well as the Ad hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA) on 6 May and 20 November 2009. The Commission was also represented in the Advisory Group meetings on Legal issues and Science (13 March 2009).

The European Commission, together with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was invited by the Council of Europe to form the tri-partite CAHAMA Expert Group on data protection and anti-doping, which held meetings on 11 March, 24 April and 14 September 2009. The Secretariat of the EU Article 29 Working Party on Data Protection also participated in various statutory and strategic meetings.

The Council of Europe participated in the EU Working Group on Anti-Doping in Brussels, Belgium, on 14 January and 25 June 2009.

The Council of Europe also took part in the International Conference on Anti-Doping (Athens, 13-15 May 2009).

In November 2008, the **North-South Centre (NSC)** signed a joint management agreement with the European Commission aimed at developing a comprehensive set of activities in the fields of global citizenship education and Euro-African youth co-operation. This project will be carried out over a period of three years (2009-2011).

From 2009, the North-South Centre has been entrusted with the implementation of the Euro-African dimension to the current EC/Council of Europe youth partnership (co-financed by the European Commission and the NSC).

Conferences of Specialised Ministers:

The European Commission participated in the following Conferences of Specialised Ministers:

- Conference of Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government (Utrecht, The Netherlands, 16-17 November 2009)
- Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and New Communication Services (Reykjavik, Iceland, 28-29 May 2009)
- Conference of Ministers of Justice (Tromsø, Norway, 18-19 June 2009).

49. The Committee of the Regions of the European Union and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe are invited to increase co-operation, building on their agreement of 13 April 2005.

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (the Congress)

Co-operation between the Congress and the European Union Committee of the Regions (CoR) was channelled through the Congress/CoR Contact Group, which met twice in 2009, on 20 March in Brussels and on 18 September in Paris. On the basis of the evaluation of its functioning, the Contact Group prepared an updated version of the 2005 co-operation agreement. The **revised co-operation agreement with the CoR** was signed on 12 November 2009 in Brussels. The new agreement gives the leading role in setting policy orientation and defining cooperation priorities to the Presidents of the Congress and the CoR, who are assisted in this mission by the Secretaries General of the two bodies. The Contact Group “Congress/Committee of the Regions”, meeting twice a year, is charged with establishing, mapped out by the annual bipartite meeting, a work programme based on the agreed priorities, which is then implemented by respective committees, commissions and working groups.

In 2009, the CoR and the Congress pursued coordination of their activities in advancing local and regional democracy and guaranteeing the respect of local and regional competences by national and European authorities. In accordance with the co-operation agreement, CoR members continued to take part in Congress election observation missions. They also continued to consult each other in the preparation of their respective reports and activities and appointed representatives to take part in their respective events. Members and rapporteurs on common issues of the Congress committees and the CoR specialised commissions pursued their direct contacts and participation in each other’s meetings in order to coordinate priorities and positions, in particular with regard to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December.

On 3 March 2009, CoR President took part in the 16th Plenary Session of the Congress, with a statement on the partnership between the two institutions in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation. On 1 December 2009, the Congress participated in the preparatory conference for the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), a CoR initiative in which the Congress will have observer status.

On 4 March 2009, the Congress’ Chamber of Local Authorities held a round table on interculturalism and fostering intercultural relations in European cities, with the participation of mayors of several municipalities taking part in the joint Council of Europe/European Commission “Intercultural Cities” programme: Berlin-Neukölln (Germany), Lublin (Poland), Melitopol (Ukraine), Reggio Emilia (Italy), Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and Lyon (France). The Congress also adopted a recommendation to endorse this “Intercultural Cities Programme” and took part in the Forum of Intercultural Cities, held in Bari (Italy) from 9 to 11 December 2009, which focused on the role of interculturalism in Euro-Mediterranean co-operation.

50. The contribution of **civil society** to achieving the objectives shared by the Council of Europe and the European Union will also be encouraged.

Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs)

The President of the INGO Conference participated in the conference held in Karelia, Russian Federation, from 19 to 21 September 2009 on “Minorities in Russia: Developing Languages, Culture, Media and Civil Society” in the framework of the new Joint Programme with the Russian Federation on this issue.

11. Institutional presence

51. The Council of Europe and the European Union will consider how best to enhance and strengthen their presence in Brussels and Strasbourg respectively.

The Council of Europe Liaison Office in Brussels was upgraded in 2008, with the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary General and Director of this office. The Brussels Office has been actively involved in promoting the Council of Europe's work towards the European Union's institutions. In that perspective, it organised in 2009 a number of meetings and contacts between high officials of respective organisations. It notably facilitated the organisation of the first meeting of the Secretary General with the President of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium, on 19 October 2009. It also organised meetings for the President of the European Court of Human Rights in Brussels, Belgium (31 November and 1st December 2009), for other high officials from the Council of Europe and meetings with media representatives in most of these cases. In addition, through bilateral contacts with high officials of the European Union, the Brussels Office regularly reported on important developments related to the European Union and advised on initiatives related to these.

The recruitment of a Council of Europe press officer working with the Liaison Office in Brussels contributed to raising the profile of the Council of Europe in Brussels.

In 2009, the European Commission took a decision to open a Delegation to the Council of Europe in 2010.

12. Joint Programmes

52. In line with the Joint Declaration on co-operation and partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission signed on 3 April 2001, ongoing co-operation will be reinforced in the framework of the joint programmes, which could include regional thematic programmes. The Council of Europe will continue to provide for consultations with Council of Europe beneficiary member countries. Consultations involving the European Commission, the Secretariat of the Council of Europe and as a general rule the Council of Europe member countries concerned will continue to be organised to discuss the priorities of co-operation. Member and observer states which are donors will be invited to take part in this co-operation and its evaluation.

On a regular basis, the Council of Europe and the European Commission reviewed progress made under the Joint Programmes through Steering Committees.

53 Joint Programmes, many multi-annual, were active in 2009, with a cumulative budgetary envelope of € 80.2 million (€ 79.4 million in 2008). The European Union contributed € 66.1 million (82%), and the Council of Europe € 14.2 million (18%). The annual budgetary envelope for 2009 (prorated) was € 26.1 million, to which the European Union contributed € 20.5 million (78%) and the Council of Europe € 5.6 million (22%).

During 2009, **18 new Joint Programmes and Joint Actions were initiated**, with a cumulative budgetary envelope of € 27.8 million (2008: € 20.9 million). The European Union contributed € 22.4 million (81%), and the Council of Europe € 5.4 million (19%).

The **geographical focus** of Joint Programmes and Actions, in terms of budgetary envelope, is mainly Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, followed by the countries of South-East Europe and Turkey. Most Joint Programmes are directed to **specific countries**, while a number of programmes are **regional** or **multilateral**.

'Real time' information regarding activities implemented under the ongoing Joint Programmes, as well as on Joint Programmes already completed can be found on the **CoE/EC Joint Programmes website**:

<http://jp.coe.int>

13. Visibility of the Partnership

53. The Council of Europe and the European Union commit themselves to improving co-operation in the area of communication with the aim of increasing awareness and understanding of their shared values and of their partnership among both the general public and specialised audiences. They will consult on the calendar of their respective awareness-raising campaigns and will consider the possibilities of organising joint events.

54. The Council of Europe and the European Union will take all necessary measures to maximise the visibility of their joint action, especially of the joint programmes, for the citizens of their member states, with a special emphasis on the countries benefiting from this co-operation.

For the "**European Day against the Death Penalty**" on 10 October 2009, the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Slovenian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe issued a joint declaration. In addition, to mark this day, a talk show with experts from Slovenia and Sweden was recorded in Strasbourg before a live audience and screened worldwide via the internet. The Council of Europe was also taking its argument to the global public, with a question and answer session hosted on the social networking site Twitter, highlighting the reasons for the Council's absolute opposition to executions.

With respect to the '**Dosta! Campaign**' against prejudice and stereotypes towards Roma, which implementation in Moldova and Ukraine was co-funded by the European Commission in the context of the Joint Programme that ended in June 2009, TV and radio spots in national languages were produced by the Council of Europe. Promotional material (t-shirts, mugs, pencils, bandanas, stickers, balloons, etc.) was also produced and distributed. In addition, media training on addressing Roma issues in a non-stereotypical way were provided to journalists, governmental and NGOs partners in both countries.

A joint conference on "Citizens and Development", addressing questions of development education, awareness raising and citizens' engagement for development, covered live on the Internet, took place in Stockholm, Sweden, from 22 to 24 October 2009, in the framework of the **European Development Days**.

The Council of Europe systematically targets Brussels-based journalists specialising in European affairs (*please see point 51 above*). Regular media events were organised in Brussels and during the European Parliament's sessions in Strasbourg, involving Council of Europe senior officials. Visibility of both the Council of Europe in Brussels and joint events has also been raised by the work of a **Council of Europe press officer** working with the Liaison Office in Brussels.

At the request of the European Commission, relevant authorities in Council of Europe member states were made aware, through the CDMC¹² of a call for contribution to and participation in the 2009 **Safer Internet Day**.

14. Follow-up

55. The Council of Europe and the European Union will regularly evaluate the implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding. In the light of this evaluation, it will be decided by common agreement, not later than 2013, to revise, if necessary, the Memorandum of Understanding with a view to including new priorities for their co-operation.

The follow-up to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding has been undertaken within the framework of the **Quadripartite meetings** (Madrid, 11 May 2009 and Luxembourg, 27 October 2009), of the **Senior Official Meeting** (Strasbourg, 16 December 2009) and on the occasion of exchanges of views of the **Ministers' Deputies** on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union (see point 45 above).

A report on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union was also submitted to the Ministers at the **118th Ministerial Session of the Committee of Ministers** held on 12 May 2009 in Madrid (see CM(2009)52 and Addenda).

¹² CDMC = Steering Committee on Media and New Communication Services