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**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS**  
**(CDPC)**

**Information on the state of preparation of the Conference**  
**of the**

**31st Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Justice**

**RESPONSES OF JUSTICE TO URBAN VIOLENCE**

- Organised groups and their new ways of communicating;
- Juveniles as perpetrators and victims

19 – 21 September 2012  
Hofburg Congress Center, Vienna, Austria

Document prepared by the CDPC Secretariat  
Directorate General I – Human Rights and Rule of Law

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## The themes

### RESPONSES OF JUSTICE TO URBAN VIOLENCE

- Organised groups and their new ways of communicating;
- Juveniles as perpetrators and victims

The theme of this year's Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Justice is focused on the way justice should and could respond to riots and similar types of urban violence, which a number of member states have experienced in recent years.

In particular, the Conference is expected to debate a series of questions on how the various justice systems of member states tackle issues such as:

- collective criminal responsibility,
- dealing with alleged juvenile offenders and juvenile victims in the justice system and in connection with urban violence,
- sentencing of offenders found guilty of having committed acts of urban violence and,
- the role of social media in the planning and execution of acts of urban violence.

In the context of urban violence, the need and ways to balance the application of certain repressive measures by the authorities in the interest of upholding law and order vis-à-vis the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights are also expected to be addressed by the Ministers of Justice.

## The calendar

- Invitation letters, co-signed by the Minister of Justice of Austria and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, to be sent early April 2012.
- Report of Minister of Justice of Austria containing the main elements for discussion related to the themes of the Conference to be ready for end April/mid-May 2012 and sent to all delegations by Austria and available on Conference website.
- Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the follow-up of the Resolutions of the CoE Istanbul Conference of the Ministers of Justice (2010) to be ready mid-June 2012.
- Steering Committees involved will meet on :
  - **European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC)** - Plenary on 29 May to 1 June 2012
  - **European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)** - Plenary on 18 – 20 June 2012
  - **Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)** - Plenary: 19-22 June (to be confirmed)

- **Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) -**  
Plenary meeting: 20-23 March 2012 (to be confirmed)
- **Others to be confirmed**

### **Resolutions**

- Elements for resolutions to be examined by CDPC, CDCJ, CDDH (and eventually CDMSI) prior to the Conference, ie 4th week of May 2012 for CDPC, CDCJ, CDDH (and CDMSI).
  - The draft resolutions to be finalised by the Bureaux & Plenaries late June 2012 at the latest.
  - The draft resolutions to be on the agenda of Rapporteur Group on Legal Cooperation of the Committee of Ministers' Deputies (GR-J) on 6 September 2012.
- Notabene:* text must be sent to the GR-J on 12 July 2012 at the latest (deadline takes into account summer break)
- Draft resolution to be sent during summer break to the Permanent Representatives for forwarding to the Senior Officials for possible comments within 2 weeks before the Conference, ie comments by 3 September 2012 at the latest.
  - Draft resolution to be finalised by the Senior Officials at the Vienna Conference on 19 September 2012.
  - Resolution to be adopted by the Ministers of Justice in Vienna on 21 September 2012.