



Information Document
SG/Inf(2011)9

4 April 2011

PROPOSAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

REFORM
PROPOSED NEW SET-UP FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL
STRUCTURES

1. BACKGROUND

The present proposals concern exclusively the committees which have been established in accordance with **Resolution (2005) 47 of the Committee of Ministers**¹. Their main purpose is to create the conditions for the Committee of Ministers to take full strategic responsibility over intergovernmental work, whilst maintaining the work of the steering committees as an essential link with the specialised ministries.

These proposals are also in line with the [outline of priorities 2012-2013](#) as proposed by the Secretary General. They intend to contribute to create the appropriate structures for the Council of Europe to realise the Organisation's priorities as set out in the programmes of activities, as they will be adopted by the Committee of Ministers as from 2012 onwards.

The appendices I and II show the proposed intergovernmental set-up and the existing one.

1.1. Criteria applied

- **Political relevance:** ensure political relevance in terms of the key priorities for the Organisation and high level attendance by member states;
- **Pan-European dimension:** promote intergovernmental dialogue and exchange at the pan-European level;
- **Committee of Ministers responsibility:** allow for better interaction between the Committee of Ministers and Steering Committees in implementing key priorities;
- **Rationalisation of intergovernmental structures:** set-up Steering Committees with over-arching responsibility for a priority sector, thus allowing them to exert a true steering role;
- **Streamlining of subordinate structures:** time-limited, no automatic renewal or prolongation, clear mandate linked to the programme cycle.

1.2. Revised structures

All **Steering Committees** will receive new terms of reference from the Committee of Ministers as from 1 January 2012. The role of these bodies will be based on the strategic priority axes, and will be linked to the two year programming cycle- so as to allow the Committee of Ministers to create/discontinue or adapt their terms of reference to priorities/ new challenges on a regular basis.

¹ Upon adoption of the reform of intergovernmental structures this Resolution will be revised accordingly.

The Steering Committees will in certain cases have a larger thematic responsibility in comparison to the past.

To deal with some specific subjects, the Committees may be supported by **newly created subordinate structures**². The terms of reference of these subordinate structures will also be adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

All Steering Committees and subordinate structures will be priority driven. Accordingly, the Steering Committees resulting from mergers will not necessarily be the addition of the previous committees and mandates; hence, the need for the new structures to receive new mandates from the Committee of Ministers. The main mission on which the mandates of the new steering committees should be based is shown in appendix III.

Subordinate structures will only be set up under clearly defined conditions:

- With a clear objective and mandate;
- Linked to a specific priority activity (cease to exist upon completion);
- Limited to maximum two year programming cycle (no automatic renewal or prolongation).

They will take one of the following formats:

- Governmental experts of the 47 member states (e.g. with a specific mandate to prepare a new legal instrument) ;
- Open-ended structures with a limited number of governmental experts where there is no need to have the 47 member states represented;
- Experts/ consultant(s) with a specific and limited mandate;
- Any combination of the above options.

Working methods are a key element in improving the functioning of the intergovernmental structures. Members of committees should benefit from interactive new technologies to supplement meetings and maximize the potential of their networks. Better and more frequent use of information technologies (such as video conferences and 'secured shared workspaces') should offset the limited number of meetings. To this end, field offices will also play a role and be adequately equipped.

The **travel expenses** of the participants to intergovernmental committee meetings will continue to be reimbursed in accordance with the Regulations in force at present.

² The terms of reference of all the currently existing subordinate structures will come to an end on 31 December 2011.

2. PROPOSED NEW INTERGOVERNMENTAL SETUP

The new intergovernmental design reflects the [outline of priorities 2012-2013](#) as presented by the Secretary General, and not the Secretariat structures:

- **Pillar I: Human Rights**
 - Protection and promotion of human rights
- **Pillar II: Rule of Law:**
 - Challenges to the rule of law
 - Development of pan-European common standards and policies
 - Justice
- **Pillar III: Democracy**
 - Democratic Governance
 - Sustainable democratic societies

Together with the treaty-based activities (including monitoring mechanisms) and with those implemented by the Council of Europe's Institutions (Commissioner for Human Rights, Parliamentary Assembly, The Congress) the new intergovernmental design will be an integral part of the Council of Europe institutional architecture, notwithstanding any future decision on Secretariat structures.

PILLAR I: HUMAN RIGHTS

2.1. Protection and promotion of human rights

The **Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)** will supervise a wide range of human rights-related issues, thus ensuring consistency in this field of work. In order to perform its tasks, it will be supported by four subordinate structures dealing with:

- The **Reform of the European Court of Human Rights** (Interlaken process) and **EU accession**;
- **Human rights standard-setting and development**;
- **Bioethics**: a Committee on Bioethics gathering 47 member states representatives, will report to the CDDH;

- **Gender equality:** an advisory body of specialists will be set-up, acting in close relation with focal points in member states. Its main function will be to promote the mainstreaming of gender equality issues in the work of other Council of Europe bodies, to promote exchange of good practices and to support the implementation of the existing standards in member states.

PILLAR II: RULE OF LAW

2.1. Challenges to the rule of law

The **Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER)** will be maintained in its current format.

2.2. Development of Pan-European common standards and policies/ Justice

A **Steering Committee on Legal Affairs (CDAJ)** will result from merging the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) and the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ). The objective is to have senior level officials from the ministries of justice. This body will ensure legal co-operation and steer activities relating in particular to criminal law, civil law, family law, nationality related issues, fighting organised crime, and nationality.

A subordinate structure to the Steering Committee on Legal Affairs, the Conventional **Committee (CONV)** composed of representatives of the 47 member states, will be entrusted to follow the 19 conventions in the criminal field (which are currently followed by the PC-OC³ under the CDPC).

A **Steering Committee on Information Society (CDSI)** will take responsibility over information society related-issues (such as media, internet governance, data protection).

The **Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE)** and the **Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE)** have proven their worth as separate bodies and will continue their work.

The **Committee of Legal advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI)** will be maintained in its current format.

³ Committee of Experts on the operation of European conventions on co-operation in criminal matters.

PILLAR III: DEMOCRACY

Democratic governance and sustainable democratic societies

The Council of Europe's Education Programme will be overseen by a single newly created **Steering Committee for Education Policy and Practice (CDPPE)**, resulting from merging the Steering Committee for Education (CDED) and the Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research (CDESR). It will be composed by one high level State representative exercising responsibility for education policy. An aspect of co-management will be introduced through a **Joint Council on Education (CME)** bringing together government representatives with the education community.

A new **Steering Committee on Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue (CDCDID)** will be set-up. It will result from merging the Steering Committee for Culture (CDCULT) and the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) and will have a larger mandate to address cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue with an innovative approach, which will be defined by the Committee of Ministers.

The **Steering Committee for Social Cohesion (CDCS)** will provide guidance, ensure coordination and supervise activities in this field, particularly through the implementation and promotion of two key instruments: the New Strategy for Social Cohesion and the Action Plan for Social Cohesion. The Committee will contribute to the development of national social policies and to identifying new challenges to social cohesion, in particular on the basis on the work of the European Social Charter.

The Committee's work will be supported by a subordinate structure replacing the European Co-ordination Forum for the Council of Europe **Disability Action Plan 2006 – 2015** (CAHPAH) which will be set-up as a lighter implementation mechanism, until the end of the Action Plan.

In order to achieve greater coherence, the **Committee of Experts on Social Security (CS-SS)**, presently a subordinate structure to the CDCS will be merged with the Governmental Committee of the Social Charter⁴. The tasks currently assigned to the Committee of Experts on Social Security (CS-SS)⁵ regarding the supervision of the European Code of Social Security, should be fulfilled as from 2012 by the Governmental Committee of the Social Charter.

⁴ This Committee is not subject to Resolution (2005)47.

⁵ Terms of Reference of the CS-SS.

The Steering **Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR)** will continue the work of the Council of Europe in this field at the intergovernmental level. Its main challenge in 2012-2013 will be to develop closer co-operation and better synergies with the Congress.

The **European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)** and the **Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)** will be maintained as they stand today, including the co-management dimension through the **Joint Council on Youth (CMJ)**.

The Terms of Reference of the **Ad-hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM)** were adopted by the Committee of Ministers' Deputies in 2011, as a concrete follow-up to the high level meeting on Roma of 20 October 2010. In 2012-2013, this new committee will remain as recently established.

The **Ad hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA)** will also continue in its current format. This co-ordination group is the only pan-European forum to provide input in the World Anti-doping Agency.

The **European Health Committee (CDSP)** will be discontinued. The Council of Europe will continue to deal with health matters through relevant activities in the European Social Charter and under the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. The activities relating to child-friendly health care will also be pursued as part of the transversal programme on children.

3. EFFICIENCY AND COST

Current intergovernmental set-up (see appendix II)

- 23 Steering Committees
- 28 Subordinate structures

Cost: 3 524 800 €/ year⁶.

Proposed new intergovernmental set-up (see appendix I)

- 15 Steering Committees
- 6 Subordinate structures

Estimated cost based on merger and deletion of a number of structures: 2 600 000 €/ year⁷.

The difference will be devoted to ensuring the functioning of the new intergovernmental set-up and to reinforce priority areas, as outlined in the document Priorities 2012-2013 and their budgetary implications⁸.

⁶ includes participation expenses (travel and per-diems); interpretation; production of documents.

⁷ includes participation expenses (travel and per-diems); interpretation; production of documents. Does not include cost of working methods and groups to be established to support new structures.

⁸ See CM (2011) 48.

APPENDIX I**PROPOSAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL****New intergovernmental set-up****PILLAR****I. HUMAN RIGHTS**

Protection and promotion of human rights

HUMAN RIGHTS (CDDH)ECHR- Reform
HR- Development
Bioethics
Gender Equality**II. RULE OF LAW**

Challenges to the Rule of Law

Development of paneuropean standards
and policies /Justice**FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM (CODEXTER)****LEGAL AFFAIRS (CDAJ)**

Conventions (CONV)

CC JUDGES (CCJE)**CC PROSECUTORS (CCPE)****INFORMATION SOCIETY (CDSI)****PUBLIC INT LAW (CAHDl)****III. DEMOCRACY**

Democratic governance

/ sustainable democratic societies

EDUCATION (CDPPE)**LOCAL & REG DEMOCRACY (CDLR)****ROMA (CAHROM)****CULT. DIVERSITY & INT. DIAL. (CDCDID)****SOCIAL COHESION (CDCS)**

Disability Action Plan

ANTI-DOPING (CAHAMA)**YOUTH (CDEJ)****YOUTH ADV COUNCIL (CCJ)**

= Joint Council (CMJ)

Legend

© = co-management

unchanged

**TOTAL**
15 Steering Committees
6 Subordinate Structures

APPENDIX II

CURRENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL SET-UP 2011 (*)

DGDPA

	CDLR	
	LR-FS	
	LR-GG	
	LR-IC	

DG-HL

Justice			CCJE		CCPE
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Legal Affairs	CDPC	CDCJ
	PC-CP PC-OC	CJ-FA CJ-S-PR

Human Rights	CDDH	CDEG	CDMC
	DH-DEV		MC-IM
	DH-GDR		MC-S-CI
	DH-MIN		MC-S-HR
	DH-PR		MC-S-PG
	DH-PS		

DGIII

Social		CDCS	CAHPAH	CDSP	CDBI
		CS-S-CRS	CAHPAH-PPL	SP-CFH	CDBI-C0-GT2
		CS-S-RSP	CAHPAH-WGD	SP-IGG	CDBI-C0-GT4
		CS-SS			

DGIV

Culture & Education	CDCULT CULT-CR	CDED	CDESR	CDPATEP
Youth/Anti-doping	CDEJ	CCJ	CMJ CPJ M.L.S.-CYP	CAHAMA

DLAPIL

CAHDI	CODEXTER
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SG Special Rep

Roma				CAHROM
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TOTAL
23 Steering Committees
28 Subordinate Structures

(*) under Resolution CM (2005)47

APPENDIX II									
ACRONYMS									
CDLR	European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy								
LR-FS	Committee of Experts on local and regional finance and public services								
LR-GG	Committee of Experts on good governance at local and regional level								
LR-IC	Committee of Experts on local and regional government institutions and co-operation								
CCJE	Consultative Council of European Judges								
CCPE	Consultative Council of European Prosecutors								
CDPC	European Committee on Crime Problems								
PC-CP	Council for Penological Co-operation								
PC-OC	Committee of Experts on the operation of European conventions on co-operation in criminal matters								
CDCJ	European Committee on Legal Co-operation								
CJ-FA	Committee of Experts on Family Law								
CJ-S-PR	Group of Specialists on the role of Public Prosecutors outside the Criminal Field								
CDDH	Steering Committee for Human Rights								
DH-DEV	Committee of Experts for the Development of Human Rights								
DH-GDR	Committee of Experts on the reform of the Court								
DH-MIN	Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities								
DH-PR	Committee of experts for the improvement of procedures for the protection of human rights								
DH-PS	Committee of Experts on a simplified procedure for amendment of certain provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights								
CDEG	Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men								
CDMC	Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services								
MC-NM	Committee of Experts on New Media								
MC-S-CI	Ad hoc Advisory Group on Cross-border Internet								
MC-S-NR	Ad hoc Advisory Group on the Protection of Neighbouring Rights of Broadcasting Organisations								
MC-S-PG	Ad hoc Advisory Group on Public Service Media Governance								
CDSP	European Health Committee								
SP-CFH	Committee of Experts on Child-friendly Health Care								
SP-IGG	Committee of Experts on the Implementation of Good Governance Principles in Health Systems								
CDCS	European Committee for Social Cohesion								
CS-S-CRS	Ad hoc Advisory Group on children's rights and social services								
CS-S-RSP	Ad hoc Advisory Group on shared social responsibilities								
CS-SS	Committee of Experts on Social Security								
CAHPAH	European Co-ordination Forum for the CoE Disability Action Plan 2006-2015								
CAHPAH-PPL	Committee of Experts on participation of people with disabilities in political and public life								
CAHPAH-WGD	Drafting Committee on protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities								
CDBI	Steering Committee on Bioethics								
CDBI-CO-GT2	Group of Specialists on Biomedical Research								
CDBI-CO-GT4	Group of Specialists on Human Genetics								
CDESR	Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research								
CDED	Steering Committee for Education								
CDCULT	Steering Committee for Culture								
CULT-CR	Advisory Council of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe								
CDPATEP	Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape								
CDEJ	European Steering Committee for Youth								
CCJ	Advisory Council on Youth								
CAHAMA	Ad hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency								
CMJ	Joint Council on Youth								
CPJ	Programming Committee on Youth								
MJ-S-CYP	Ad hoc Advisory Group on child and youth participation								
CAHDI	Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law								
CODEXTER	Committee of Experts on Terrorism								
CAHROM	Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues								

APPENDIX III

MAIN MISSION OF NEW STEERING COMMITTEES

PILLAR I: HUMAN RIGHTS

Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)

The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) will supervise a wide-range of human rights-related issues, thus ensuring consistency in this field of work. In order to perform its tasks, it will be supported by four subordinate structures dealing with:

- the Reform of the European Court of Human Rights (Interlaken process) and EU accession, as well as the implementation of the ECHR at national level;
- Human rights standard-setting and development;
- Bioethics: this Committee will continue to facilitate the implementation of the Convention on human rights and biomedicine and further develop its principles in the field of biomedical sciences with a multidisciplinary approach;
- Gender equality issues: with as a main function promoting the mainstreaming of gender equality in the work of other Council of Europe bodies, exchange of good practices, and support the implementation of the existing standards in member states.

PILLAR II: RULE OF LAW

Steering Committee on Legal Affairs (CDAJ)

The effective "steering" capacity of the Legal Affairs Committee (CDAJ) should play an important role in all Council of Europe activities linked in particular to criminal law/fighting organised crime and family law/civil law matters/ nationality. It will be supported by one subordinate structure, the Conventional Committee (CONV) following the 19 conventions in the criminal field.

Steering Committee on Information Society (CDSI)

A Steering Committee on Information Society (CDSI) will take responsibility over information society related-issues (such as media, internet governance, data protection) one of the priorities for the coming years.

PILLAR III: DEMOCRACY**Steering Committee for Education Policy and Practice (CDPPE)**

The overall aim of the Steering Committee and its Education Programme will be to develop a coherent vision of the role of education, with particular emphasis on preserving and promoting human rights, democracy and rule of law, and the ability of our societies to engage in intercultural dialogue. It will be based on a broad vision of education that encompasses both values and competences. Covering all areas and levels of education, from pre-primary and primary through higher education, within a lifelong learning perspective, the programme will also tackle public responsibility for education as well as the right of every citizen to quality education.

Steering Committee on Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue (CDCDID)

The fundamental objective of the Steering Committee will be to develop and promote the Council of Europe's contribution to the mutual recognition and the management of cultural diversity, the strengthening of the social fabric, and the processes of democratic participation in a pluralist Europe. Its main focus will be on enhancing the democratic governance of culture by devising and monitoring standards and policies and launching co-operative activities necessary for the implementation of Council of Europe's standards and conventions in the cultural and cultural heritage/landscape sectors. This will include the development of programmes that promote intercultural dialogue, cultural co-operation and targeted assistance and capacity-building activities, the systematic pooling of relevant information, the creation of policy guidelines, and the exchange of best practice relevant to public authorities and civil society in member states.