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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS
(CDPC)

**DRAFT OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS (CDPC)
ON PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION 1980 (2011) ON
COMBATING “CHILD ABUSE IMAGES” THROUGH COMMITTED, TRANSVERSAL
AND INTERNATIONALLY CO-ORDINATED ACTION**

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Draft Opinion on Parliamentary Assembly of Recommendation 1980 (2011)

1. Following the adoption by the Parliamentary Assembly of Recommendation 1980 (2011) on combating “child abuse images” through committed, transversal and internationally co-ordinated action, the Committee of Ministers decided to send it to the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) for information and possible comments. The CDPC examined the above recommendation and decided to contribute to the response of the Committee of Ministers by providing the following comments concerning matters within its field of competence.
2. The CDPC welcomes the initiative of the Parliamentary Assembly to foster greater co-ordinated efforts in order to strengthen the regulation of “child pornography” paying particular attention to child abuse images. In this regard, the CDPC would like to underline that the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention, CETS No. 201) and the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention, CETS No. 185) are the most comprehensive and advanced standards in this field. Accordingly, the CDPC supports the Parliamentary Assembly’s invitation to urge member and observer states which have not yet done so to sign and ratify these important/relevant Council of Europe treaties without declarations and reservations limiting their applicability.
3. The CDPC would also like to draw attention to the fact that the European Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, which is expected to be adopted by the end of 2011, contains and focuses on the major features of the aforementioned Council of Europe conventions. In this regard, the CDPC appreciates the initiative of the Parliamentary Assembly to encourage member states to implement these instruments in a co-ordinated manner, so as to ensure maximum impact on national legislation and, finally, the protection of every child.
4. The CDPC takes note that the Parliamentary Assembly has recommended the drafting of an additional protocol to the Lanzarote Convention, on child abuse images and related crimes. To this end, the CDPC expresses its readiness to undertake an assessment of the existing standards of the Council of Europe in this field. However, at this time, the CDPC does not consider that an additional protocol on child abuse images would be necessary and is of the opinion, rather, that the required improvements should be related to the implementation of existing above-mentioned conventions.