

LIST OF DECISIONS

At its eighth meeting, held in Strasbourg from 25 to 26 October 2016, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS n° 198):

- Heard an opening address from Mr Jan Kleijssen, Director of Information Society and Action against Crime.
- Adopted the Agenda without changes.
- Adopted the meeting report of its 7th meeting (5-6 November 2016, document C198-COP7(2015)REP).
- Welcomed the ratification of the Convention by France and Turkey and the recent signature by Germany, and invited all Council of Europe Member States which have not done yet to accede to the Convention.
- Took note of an update by the Secretariat on the possible accession to the Convention by Council of Europe's neighbourhood partners (Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan) and instructed the Secretariat to reach out to Israel on a possible accession to the Convention.
- Took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on synergies and cooperation with other bodies in the Council of Europe, in particular the recent exchange of views between the Chair and MONEYVAL in April 2016.
- Discussed the absence of a mandatory declaration under Article 33, paragraph 2 of the Convention by one delegation, in respect of informing about the central authority responsible for legal assistance, as well as the absence of the voluntary indication of the financial intelligence unit (within the meaning of Article 46, paragraph 13) by several delegations, and instructed the Executive Secretary to write an official letter to the delegations concerned, requesting/inviting (as appropriate) delegations for the information to be provided.
- Took note of the updates from several State Parties on developments on reservations made in relation to several provisions of the Convention, and encouraged them to reconsider their necessity with a view to their withdrawal. The Conference discussed the practical implications for some provisions in the Convention with regard to declarations/reservations on the territorial application of the Convention. The Conference instructed the Secretariat to liaise with the countries concerned on this issue.
- Discussed the draft assessment report on Armenia and decided to adopt it, subject to the changes agreed during the Plenary discussion.
- Discussed the draft assessment report on Belgium and decided to adopt it, subject to the changes agreed during the Plenary discussion.
- Examined the draft follow-up report on Poland and decided to adopt the Secretariat analysis. Given that the country had made some progress on certain issues, but not on other parts of the Convention, the Conference decided not to adopt the follow-up report, but to invite Poland to submit an updated follow-up at its 9th meeting. The Chair was instructed to send an official letter to the Polish Head of Delegation on the matter. The Conference decided to retain the option to apply measures under Rule 19, paragraph 39 (g) of its Rules of Procedure, including the possibility to take advantage of the procedure and mechanism of MONEYVAL.

- Examined the draft follow-up report on Croatia and decided to adopt the country's replies to the questionnaire together with the Secretariat analysis.
- Amended its Rules of Procedure on the basis of a proposal elaborated in May 2016 by the *ad hoc* Working Group established to that effect after the 7th meeting.
- Invited the Bureau to elaborate a proposal for the revision of the questionnaire for evaluations, with a view to update and streamline it to avoid any duplication with the evaluations of the FATF and MONEYVAL which have occurred since the revision of the FATF standards in 2012.
- Heard a presentation from the Secretariat on the survey of "Gathering examples of cases of the use or implementation of CETS 198's provisions" and instructed the Secretariat to circulate this presentation. The Conference also invited countries to submit proposals for further action to the Secretariat by 31 January 2017, on the basis of which the Bureau would submit a proposal to the Conference.
- Agreed that the agenda item related to cases and practical implementation of the Convention should become recurring items of the agenda of future meetings.
- Adopted the parts of the COP mutual legal assistance template on "procedures for search, asset tracing and seizure" and "procedures for confiscation, recovery and confiscated assets". For the remaining parts, the Conference decided to apply the silent procedure on the basis of documents circulated by the Secretariat by the 15 December 2016.
- Invited the Bureau to develop a respective model form for mutual legal assistance.
- Invited the Bureau to consider interpretative issues related to Article 3, paragraph 4, Article 11 and Article 25, paragraph 2, and report back at the next COP meeting.
- In the absence of the Gender Equality Rapporteur, heard a short presentation by the Secretariat on recent developments in the Council of Europe in this area.
- Elected Mr Besnik Muci (Albania), Ms Oxana Gâscă (Republic of Moldova) and Mr Sorin Tanase (Romania) as members of the bureau for a term of office of two years, and thanked Ms Ani Melkonyan (Armenia) for her very valuable work in the Bureau of the COP in the past year.
- Decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg from 21-22 November 2017.
- Adopted the list of decisions of the meeting.