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| **MINISTERS’ DEPUTIES** | CM Documents | **CM(2021)OJ-final** | 21 May 2021 |

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| **131st Session of the Committee of Ministers****(Hamburg (videoconference), 21 May 2021)****I. Programme****II. Agenda****III. Annotated agenda** |

**I. Programme**

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| **Friday 21 May 2021** 9.00 a.m. Opening of the Session Virtual address by the Federal President of Germany12.45 p.m. Transfer of the chairmanship from Germany to Hungary 1.00 p.m. End of the Session  |

**II. Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. A shared responsibility for democratic security in Europe

1. *The Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe and forthcoming activities*
2. *Human rights in the digital age*
3. *Annual report by the Secretary General on human rights, rule of law and democracy in Europe*
4. *Conflicts and crises in Europe: The role of the Council of Europe*

3. Securing the long-term effectiveness of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights

4. Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union

5. Other business

6. Transfer of the chairmanship between Germany and Hungary

- Report by the German Chairmanship

- Priorities of the Hungarian Chairmanship

7. Date and place of the next Session

**III. Annotated agenda**

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| **General comments***The decisions under items 2, 3 and 4 of the agenda are to be adopted without debate.**Given the time constraints, the Chairman will invite heads of delegations to address items 2 to 4 at the same time during the debate.* *Regarding the list of speakers, priority will be given to Ministers and first those who are giving their speeches live. Speaking time will be limited to three minutes per delegation. Besides the two official languages, interpretation will be provided in German and passive interpretation in Italian, Russian and Spanish.**Member States may present their national positions in writing on the topics which are on the agenda. These position papers will be included in the records of the Session. They will have to reach the Secretariat beforehand in one of the official languages, i.e. French or English.* |

**Item 1 of the agenda Adoption of the agenda**

Following the opening of the Session by the Chair of the Committee of Ministers, and the address by the Federal President of Germany, Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Ministers will be invited to examine the draft agenda of the 131st Session with a view to its adoption and to the simultaneous adoption without debate of the decisions under items 2 to 4 of the agenda as they appear below. Under this item, Ministers will also be invited to inform the Chair if they wish to raise any question under item 5 “Other business”, which should have been notified beforehand.

**Item 2 of the agenda A shared responsibility for democratic security in Europe**

**a.The Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe and forthcoming activities**

**b. Human Rights in the Digital Age**

**c. Annual report by the Secretary General on Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in Europe**

**d. Conflicts and crises in Europe: The role of the Council of Europe**

The Chairman will open the discussion under the overall item *A shared responsibility for democratic security in Europe.*

The Secretary General will thereafter present her views on topical issues in relation to democratic security in Europe (6 minutes).

The floor will then be opened to delegations.

Under sub-item 2.a), the Ministers are invited to adopt two decisions prepared by their Deputies.

Firstly, on the **Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe in the coming four years**.

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| *Decisions proposed for adoption without debate:**“The Committee of Ministers,**Recalling its decisions adopted at the 129th Session of the Committee of Ministers, its Declaration on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe and resolved to uphold and promote the Organisation’s long-term strategic role:**1. expressed its appreciation for the Secretary General’s Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe (**[SG/Inf(2020)34](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=SG/Inf(2020)34" \o "Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe)) and invited her to submit relevant proposals for approval by its Deputies and to regularly report on implementation;**2. welcomed the Secretary General’s progress report on reform measures and agreed to introduce a four-year programming period for the Organisation, including a comprehensive mid-term review, while continuing the existing two-year budgetary cycle;* |
| *3. stressed that the Programme and Budgets for the next four-year period should take into account the appended Guidelines entitled “The Council of Europe in the coming four years”.**Annex: “The Council of Europe in the coming four years”**Firstly: The Organisation’s essential role and responsibility in today’s Europe**1. The Council of Europe plays an essential role in achieving greater unity between its member States and safeguarding the human rights and fundamental freedoms of over 840 million citizens throughout the European continent. The European Court of Human Rights and the Convention have made an extraordinary contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights and the rule of law in Europe and play a central role in maintaining democratic security and improving good governance across the continent.* *2. The Organisation has a particular responsibility for ensuring the implementation of its conventions through a comprehensive system of monitoring, developing new legally binding standards in response to new challenges and, according to need, providing expert advice and technical assistance through its co-operation programmes to its member States.* *3. Today, the Organisation has a particular role to play in its areas of expertise in effectively responding to challenges and crises, such as those arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.**4. Its member States are committed to the values which are the common heritage of their peoples and the true source of individual freedom, political liberty and the rule of law, principles which must form the basis of all genuine democracies.**5. They are guided by a political philosophy of openness, inclusion and unity in diversity, and by a common commitment to multilateralism, expressed through their membership of the Council of Europe and adherence to its convention system and to multilateral co-operation based on the respect of norms of international law.**\*\*\*\*\***Secondly: With regard to co-operation among the Council of Europe’s key institutions and other bodies and their respective contribution**6. The Committee of Ministers has the key role in providing political guidance, leadership and impetus to the work of the Organisation, while recognising the important role of the Parliamentary Assembly in supporting democracy and taking political initiatives, and acknowledging the executive functions of the Secretary General, being responsible for the overall co-ordination, communication and implementation of the Programme and Budget of the Organisation.**7. Since the Ministerial Session in Helsinki in 2019, contacts and co-operation between the statutory organs of the Organisation – the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary General – have improved considerably, facilitating more co-ordinated and effective responses to current and emerging challenges. The Parliamentary Assembly has made a constructive contribution with its report: The Assembly’s vision on the strategic priorities for the Council of Europe.**8. At the same time, the Ministers underlined the decisive and complementary roles played by its various institutions, including the Commissioner for Human Rights and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, and intergovernmental structures.**\*\*\*\*\***Thirdly: With regard to other important aspects of its work, including the co-operation with its main international partners**9. There is a need to work for the widest possible adherence to the conventions of the Council of Europe, promoting their implementation in order to strengthen common standards, as well as agreeing to new ones to fill gaps and respond to emerging challenges, throughout the continent and beyond.**10. The accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights is of particular importance to ensure that the Convention applies in a comprehensive and uniform manner across Europe. It should strengthen the European Convention on Human Rights at the heart of the pan-European system of human rights protection.* |
| *11. Practical co-operation between the Council of Europe and, in particular, the European Union, the OSCE and the United Nations, as well as other international organisations, needs to be further enhanced and the contribution of the Council of Europe to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be emphasised. With respect to the Council of Europe’s Policy towards neighbouring regions, the Council reaffirms its determination to consolidate progress in co-operation with the beneficiaries and looks forward to the conclusion of the ongoing review of the policy.**12. The wide mandate of the Council of Europe is recognised, covering a range of important activities, including those not specifically highlighted in the Strategic Framework of the Secretary General, in areas ranging from preventing torture and combatting terrorism to youth, culture and sports.**13. In light of the devastating social and economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council of Europe, together with member States, needs to jointly define remedies and solutions which could be effective in fighting violence against women and children, as well as to ensure equitable access to social rights and to health and providing protection for groups in vulnerable situations; it also needs to address increasing inequality, racism, xenophobia, hate speech and discrimination on grounds of religion or belief or any other ground.* *14. National security and public safety can only be effectively protected in a democracy which fully respects the rule of law and provides for an independent and effective judiciary. This requires parliamentary control of a declared state of emergency and its duration, and a judicial review of the measures taken to avoid abuse, while acknowledging that it is ultimately for the European Court of Human Rights to assess and decide whether the respective measures taken by States Parties are in conformity with the European Convention on Human Rights.**15. The Council of Europe remains concerned about unresolved conflicts that still affect certain parts of the continent, putting at risk the security, unity and democratic stability of member States, and threatening the human rights of the populations concerned. Working together for reconciliation and political solutions in conformity with the norms and principles of international law remains essential.**16. There is a need to further strengthen and streamline the Council of Europe by increasing the effectiveness of its activities, structures and working methods, promoting its agility and adaptability, and enhancing transparency and efficiency, in order to ensure that it plays its due role in a changing Europe. The need for additional reforms throughout the entire Organisation is therefore critical and the efforts of the Secretary General in this regard are most welcome.**17. Finally, it is necessary to increase the knowledge and visibility of the work of the Council of Europe, through co-ordinated regular events in all member States, taking advantage of field offices, existing networks, youth groups, civil society, universities and research institutions and other partners with a view to promoting the Council of Europe’s core values, ideals and principles, which are our common heritage, among the new generations and the general public.* |

Secondly, the Ministers are also invited to adopt a draft decision on the “**Forthcoming activities**” of the Council of Europe, prepared by their Deputies.

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| *Decisions proposed for adoption without debate:**“The Committee of Ministers**1. encouraged the implementation of recently adopted recommendations and guidelines, such as:** *Recommendation* *[CM/Rec(2021)1](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Rec(2021)1" \o "Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the development and strengthening of effective, pluralist and independent national human rights institutions (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 31 March 2021 at the 1400th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)) on the development and strengthening of effective, pluralist and independent national human rights institutions;*
* *Recommendation* *[CM/Rec(2021)2](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Rec(2021)2" \o "Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on measures against the trade in goods used for the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 31 March 2021 at the 1400th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)) on measures against the trade of goods used for the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;*
* *Guidelines on the links between terrorism and transnational organised crime;*
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| * *Guidelines on upholding equality and protecting against discrimination and hate during the Covid-19 pandemic and similar crises in the future;*

*2. encouraged also ongoing work on the following instruments with a view to its finalisation by the time of the 132nd Ministerial Session in May 2022:** *a recommendation by the Committee of Ministers on action against trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation;*
* *a recommendation by the Committee of Ministers on migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls;*
* *a recommendation by the Committee of Ministers on human rights and the protection of the environment;*
* *examination of the feasibility and appropriateness of modernising the Convention on the Protection of Environment through Criminal Law (ETS No. 172) or of preparing a new instrument;*

*3. welcomed its Deputies’ report on Council of Europe monitoring – strengthening cohesion and synergies (**[CM(2021)50-final](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2021)50-final" \o "[131st Session] Report on Council of Europe monitoring – strengthening cohesion and synergies)), endorsed its conclusions and instructed its Deputies to ensure a proper follow-up;**4. with respect to Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms, invited the Secretary General to continue her regular dialogue with the chairs of the monitoring bodies with a view to strengthening synergies and co-ordination and to report back in time for the Ministerial Session in May 2022;**5. in the context of the 60th anniversary of the 1961 European Social Charter (ETS No. 35), stressed the importance of the Charter in guaranteeing social rights across the continent; took note of the recent report of the Secretary General “Improving the implementation of social rights – reinforcing the European Social Charter system” as well as the continuing intergovernmental work on this issue and invited its Deputies to take these into account in the ongoing consideration on the Social Charter system and report on progress in time for the Ministerial Session in May 2022;**6. welcomed the work undertaken by the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General as a follow-up to the Helsinki Declaration concerning freedom of expression, media freedom and the safety of journalists, and instructed its Deputies to pursue their regular review and dialogue on these issues, including in the light of the forthcoming Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society, as well as the Organisation’s further standard-setting on freedom of expression and digital technologies;**7. took note of the proposals set out in document* *[CM(2021)71](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2021)71" \o "[131st Session] Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe: Relations with other international organisations) to strengthen relations between the Council of Europe and other international organisations, including in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and invited its Deputies and the Secretary General to implement them;**8. recalling that its Deputies will carry out a review of the Council of Europe Policy towards neighbouring regions before the end of 2021, instructed them to also reflect in this context on the contribution of the Organisation to the international order and global governance, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);**9. in the context of the 10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210, Istanbul Convention), and following the Conference “Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action”, reconfirmed its full commitment to preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence; in this regard, took note of the significant contribution that the Istanbul Convention, with its set of high-level standards, has already made in the States Parties to the Convention and recalled that the Convention remains open for accession to all States;**10. encouraged member States to actively engage in the follow up of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention, organised online from 7 to 10 December 2020 by the German EU Council Presidency and the German Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe: “The European Youth Work Agenda – A strategic framework for strengthening and further developing youth work” (The Bonn Process);* |
| *11. stressed the importance of multilateral co-operation and co-ordination in addressing the current healthcare challenges and welcomed the initiatives taken by the different institutions of the Council of Europe in this respect; underlined notably the recommendations by the Committee on Bioethics on how to ensure equitable access to vaccination, the guidance and assistance provided to member States in accordance with the relevant instruments of the Council of Europe, including on the Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health (CETS No. 211, Medicrime Convention); suggested that interested States that have not yet done so may consider signing and/or ratifying the latter; and encouraged the relevant institutions to pursue their efforts in this field, including through exchanges of good practices;**12. reiterated the importance of further strengthening the role and meaningful participation of civil society organisations as well as national human rights institutions in the Organisation, in line with, inter alia, the Helsinki Ministerial decisions on civil society; instructed its Deputies and invited the Secretary General to vigorously pursue the work to this end, implement the Secretary General’s follow-up proposals to the Helsinki decisions and report back on the results at the Ministerial Session in May 2022.”* |

With regard to sub-item 2.b), the Ministers are invited to adopt the following decisions on “**Human Rights in the Digital Age**” prepared by their Deputies.

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| *Decisions proposed for adoption without debate:**“The Committee of Ministers**1. underlined the Council of Europe’s important standard-setting work in the human rights field and acknowledged that digital development and artificial intelligence, already bringing significant benefit to societies and their citizens, also pose new challenges to human rights protection, the rule of law and democracy on a broad spectrum of issues;**2. highlighted the contribution already made by the Organisation to standard-setting in this field and the efforts made by its various bodies in providing assistance to member States by identifying principles for meeting these new challenges; in this context,**encouraged implementation of in particular:** *the Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation* *[CM/Rec(2018)2](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Rec(2018)2" \o "Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the roles and responsibilities of internet intermediaries (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 7 March 2018 at the 1309th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)) on the roles and responsibilities of internet intermediaries;*
* *the Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation* *[CM/Rec(2020)1](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Rec(2020)1" \o "Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 8 April 2020 at the 1373rd meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies)) on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems;*

*- the Committee of Ministers’ Guidelines on online dispute resolution mechanisms in civil and administrative court proceedings;**- the Venice Commission’s Principles for a fundamental rights-compliant use of digital technologies in electoral processes;**- the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice’s European Ethical Charter on the use of artificial intelligence in judicial systems and their environment;**and noted:**- the Guidelines on Facial Recognition adopted by the Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108);**- the Committee of Ministers’ recently adopted Declarations on the risks of computer-assisted or artificial-intelligence-enabled decision making in the field of the social safety net and on the need to protect children’s privacy in the digital environment;**3. considering the ever-increasing importance of digital technologies and artificial intelligence, and taking into account the Council of Europe’s role in efficiently protecting and promoting human rights including in the rapidly changing digital area;* |

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| 1. *with regard to artificial intelligence:*

*- took note of the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) and the feasibility study conducted by the Committee, and of the ongoing work that is due to be completed at the end of 2021;**- decided to give priority to the work on an appropriate legal framework for the development, design and application of artificial intelligence based on the Council of Europe’s standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and conducive to innovation;**- recalled the importance of this work being based on strong evidence and an inclusive consultation process, and undertaken in co-operation with international and supranational partners to ensure a global view of the subject;**- invited its Deputies, while examining the full range of possible options, to focus particularly on a possible legal framework which can be composed of a binding legal instrument of a transversal character, including notably general common principles, as well as additional binding or non-binding instruments to address challenges relating to the application of artificial intelligence in specific sectors, with a view to having negotiations on the transversal instrument started by the 132nd Ministerial Session in May 2022;**ii. in the context of the 40th anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108), reiterated the importance of a speedy accession to its amending Protocol (CETS No. 223) by the States Parties to Convention 108 in order to facilitate the formation of an all-encompassing legal regime on data protection under the modernised Convention;**iii. took note of the state of preparation of a draft Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention, ETS No. 185), which aims at enhancing the efficiency of co‑operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence, and encouraged its completion in time for the 20th anniversary of the Convention on Cybercrime in November 2021;**iv. took note of the preparation of a new and comprehensive recommendation by the Committee of Ministers on combating hate speech, online and offline, to protect human dignity while respecting freedom of expression, setting out a legal framework based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as a range of non-legal measures and expressed the wish for the elaboration of this instrument to be concluded in 2022.* |

With regard to sub-item 2.c), the Ministers are invited to take note of the **Secretary General’s annual report** and to instruct the Ministers’ Deputies to give appropriate follow-up.

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| *Decision proposed for adoption without debate:**“The Committee of Ministers took note of the annual report of the Secretary General on the “State of democracy, human rights and the rule of law – Democratic renewal for Europe”, as it appears in document* *[SG(2021)1](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=SG(2021)1" \o "State of democracy, human rights and the rule of law - A democratic renewal for Europe - Report by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe 2021), and instructed its Deputies to give it appropriate follow-up.”* |

With regard to sub-item 2.d), it is to be noted that, since the previous Session, the Ministers’ Deputies have paid sustained attention to the human rights situation in areas affected by **conflicts and crises in Europe**, including in the context of the supervision of the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. The Ministers are invited to consider how to ensure the application of Council of Europe standards and instruments in these areas.

Regarding the conflict in Georgia, which appears on the agenda of each meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies, an overview of the situation is taking place every six months on the basis of a consolidated report from the Secretary General. At their 1401st meeting (14-15 April 2021), the Ministers’ Deputies examined the 23rdreport by the Secretary General covering the period October 2020 – March 2021, which is set out in document [SG/Inf(2021)10](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=SG/Inf(2021)10" \o "Consolidated report on the conflict in Georgia (October 2020 – March 2021)). They subsequently adopted a set of decisions (cf. [CM/Del/Dec(2021)1404/2.1](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Del/Dec(2021)1404/2.1" \o "The Council of Europe and the conflict in Georgia)) at their 1404th meeting (12 May 2021).

The Ministers are invited to adopt the following draft decision:

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| *Decision proposed for adoption without debate:**“Having regard to the conflicts and crises in Europe, the Committee of Ministers took note of the position of national delegations and of the work conducted by the Council of Europe in this respect. The Committee of Ministers also took note of the 23rd consolidated report on the conflict in Georgia (October 2020 – March 2021) of the Secretary General (**[SG/Inf(2021)10](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=SG/Inf(2021)10" \o "Consolidated report on the conflict in Georgia (October 2020 – March 2021))) as well as statements of member States on this matter.”* |

**Item 3 of the agenda Securing the long-term effectiveness of the system of the**

 **European Convention on Human Rights**

At their 130th Session the Committee of Ministers evaluated the Interlaken process and agreed inter alia, to continue to enhance the efficiency of the process of supervision of execution of the Court’s judgments, particularly its Human Rights meetings, including by appropriate recourse to political leverage to deal with cases of non-execution or persistent refusal to execute the Court’s judgments. The Ministers are invited to adopt the following draft decisions:

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| *Decisions proposed for adoption without debate:**“The Committee of Ministers**Recognising the importance of securing the long-term effectiveness of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights in challenging times for the rule of law and human rights in democratic societies caused, inter alia, by the Covid-19 pandemic and the measures to combat its effects;**Recalling that, whilst no comprehensive reform of the Convention machinery is now needed, further efforts should be pursued by the Council of Europe as a whole to ensure that the Convention system can continue to respond effectively to the numerous human rights challenges Europe faces;**Reaffirming the unconditional obligation of States Parties to abide by the final judgments to which they are Party and their responsibility to resolve the systemic and structural human rights problems identified by the Court;**Reiterating the fundamental importance of an efficient supervision of the execution of judgments in order to ensure the long-term sustainability and credibility of the Convention system;**Recalling the various decisions adopted during the Interlaken process to this effect, most recently at the 130th Ministerial Session (Athens), at which the Committee agreed to continue to enhance the efficiency of the process of supervision of execution of the Court’s judgments, particularly its Human Rights meetings, including by appropriate recourse to political leverage to deal with cases of non-execution or persistent refusal to execute the Court’s judgments;*1. *instructed the Ministers’ Deputies to examine whether and how to enhance the tools available to the Committee to supervise cases of non-execution or persistent refusal to execute the final judgments of the Court;*
2. *welcomed the intergovernmental work on the effective processing and resolution of cases relating to inter-State disputes and instructed the Ministers’ Deputies to examine also questions arising from the process of the execution of judgments in such cases;*
3. *welcomed the intergovernmental work on enhancing the national implementation of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights and in particular the progress made on Guidelines to member States on preventing, and ensuring remedies for, violations of the Convention, and encouraged their rapid conclusion; called upon the States Parties to continue strengthening the implementation of the Convention at the national level in accordance with previous declarations on securing the long-term effectiveness of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights;*

*4. welcomed the imminent entry into force of Protocol No. 15 to the Convention.”* |

**Item 4 of the agenda** **Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union**

The Ministers’ Deputies have prepared a report on co-operation between the two organisations, which appears in document [CM(2021)25-final](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2021)25-final" \o "[131st Session] Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union - Summary Report on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union). The Ministers are invited to adopt the following draft decisions:

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| *Decisions proposed for adoption without debate:* *“The Committee of Ministers**1. noted with satisfaction the development of co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union, as it appears in document* *[CM(2021)25-final](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2021)25-final" \o "[131st Session] Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union - Summary Report on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union);**2. welcomed the fact that co-operation with the European Union, main institutional partner of the Council of Europe in political, legal and financial terms, continues to be strengthened in order to face the growing challenges in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe, including with regard to the Covid-19 crisis;**3. encouraged EU participation in or accession to Council of Europe instruments, as appropriate, as a way of achieving coherence and complementarity and promoting synergies and, in that context, reiterated in particular its commitment to EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights.”* |

**Item 5 of the agenda Other business**

Under this item, the Ministers may briefly raise other general or specific issues, which should be notified to the chairmanship beforehand.

**Item 6 of the agenda Transfer of the chairmanship between Germany and Hungary**

Under this item, the outgoing Chairmanship of Germany will officially hand over its powers to the incoming Chairmanship of Hungary.

**a. Report by the German Presidency**

The Chair will present the results of the outgoing chairmanship. A written report will be available for participants (document [CM/Inf(2021)8](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Inf(2021)8" \o "Stocktaking of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (18 November 2020 – 21 May 2021))).

**b. Priorities of the Hungarian Chairmanship**

The incoming Chairperson will present the priorities of the Chairmanship of Hungary for the next six months. A written report will be available for participants (document [CM/Inf(2021)9](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Inf(2021)9" \o "Priorities of the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (21 May – 17 November 2021))).

**Item 7 of the agenda Date and place of the next Session**

Under this item, the Ministers will be invited to agree that:

- the 132nd Session of the Committee of Ministers will be held in May 2022;

- the handover of the Chairmanship from Hungary to Italy will take place on 17 November 2021.