



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

T-ES(2017)14\_en

## LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe  
Convention on the protection of children against sexual  
exploitation and sexual abuse

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### Report

#### 17<sup>th</sup> meeting

Strasbourg, 1-3 March 2017

Prepared by the Secretariat of the Lanzarote Committee

1. The Committee of the Parties (hereinafter referred to as “the Lanzarote Committee” or “the Committee”) to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (hereinafter referred to as “the Lanzarote Convention” or “the Convention”) held its 17th meeting in Strasbourg on 1-3 March 2017. The agenda of the meeting, as adopted, appears in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.

## **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND UP-DATE ON RATIFICATIONS OF THE LANZAROTE CONVENTION**

2. Mr JANIZZI (Luxembourg), Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee, opened the meeting by welcoming the interest in acceding to the Convention manifested by Tunisia.

3. Ms MORENO (Head of the new Children’s Rights and Sports’ Values Department) informed the Committee of a recent restructuring within the Secretariat of the Council of Europe, which resulted in the piecing together into one Department of the various Secretariats dealing with Children’s Rights and the Sports’ Values. The Committee welcomed the potential synergies in the respective areas of work.

## **2. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LANZAROTE CONVENTION**

### ***2.1 Urgent monitoring: special report***

4. Mr JANIZZI recalled that during its 16th meeting in Lyon (23-25 November 2016), the Committee held a 1st reading of the draft special report on “*Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual abuse and exploitation*” and asked its Secretariat to revise the draft on the basis of the suggestions and comments made during that meeting and thereafter.

5. Following a second in-depth reading of the revised draft, the Committee adopted the special report and its Appendices. The executive summary of the special report is reproduced in Appendix III.

### ***2.2 2nd monitoring round***

#### **a. Draft Interpretative Opinion on “Applicability of the Lanzarote Convention to sexual offences against children facilitated through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)” (document T-ES(2017)03\_en)**

6. It was recalled that during its 16th meeting in Lyon (23-25 November 2016), the Committee decided “that an interpretative statement (“guidance note” or similar) should be prepared before the launching of the 2nd monitoring round and that a joint meeting of the Working Group on Trends in Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and of the Bureau should prepare such an interpretation (see [decision 5](#)).

7. In his capacity as Chairperson of the Working Group on Trends as well as of the Bureau, Mr JANIZZI informed the Committee that the above joint meeting took place on 1-2 February 2017. He pointed out that during this meeting Dr GREIJER (independent expert) presented various international law options to achieve a dynamic interpretation of the Convention. In the discussion that followed the presentation, it was agreed to prepare a draft “Interpretative Opinion”.

8. Mr JANIZZI recalled that the decision on the denomination of the document as well as on its content was now in the remit of the Committee.

9. The Committee exchanged preliminary views on the draft Interpretative Opinion and decided to resume its work on this issue at its 18th meeting (10-12 May 2017). It was agreed that members, participants and observers of the Lanzarote Committee should send to the Secretariat ([lanzarote.committee@coe.int](mailto:lanzarote.committee@coe.int)) any additional comments and/or amendments to the draft Interpretative Opinion by 31 March 2017.

#### **b. Draft Thematic Questionnaire to launch the 2nd monitoring round (document T-ES(2017)04\_en)**

10. It was recalled that during its 16th meeting in Lyon (23-25 November 2016), the Committee had also decided that the above mentioned joint meeting of its Working Group on Trends and of the Bureau should prepare a draft questionnaire to launch the Committee's 2nd ordinary thematic monitoring round (see [decision 5](#)). During this joint meeting, a draft questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat was discussed at length and the text as amended during the meeting was submitted to the Committee as a basis to agree on the content of the questionnaire as well as on the title of the monitoring round.

11. The Committee exchanged preliminary views on the draft Questionnaire and decided to resume its work on this issue at its 18th meeting (10-12 May 2017). It was also agreed that members, participants and observers of the Lanzarote Committee should send to the Secretariat ([lanzarote.committee@coe.int](mailto:lanzarote.committee@coe.int)) any additional comments and/or amendments to the draft Questionnaire by 31 March 2017.

#### **2.3 1st monitoring round, 2nd part: observations on reporting, screening and disqualification**

12. The Committee pursued its assessment work of the replies to the remaining questions ("Reporting suspicion of sexual abuse"; "Recruitment and screening"; "Denial of exercise of professional or voluntary activity) of its Thematic Questionnaire related to the 1st monitoring round on "*Protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust*", on the basis of working documents prepared by Rapporteurs and the Secretariat.

#### **Question 8: Reporting suspicion of sexual abuse**

13. It was recalled the observations prepared by Rapporteur FORNER ROVIRA, Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), on replies to this question (concerning Article 12 of the Convention) had already been presented during the Lanzarote Committee's 15th meeting (14-17 June 2016)<sup>1</sup>. During this meeting the Committee had agreed to pursue its examination of the specific situation in Belgium based on an information note to be circulated in advance. Ms DE CRAIM (Belgium) thus presented the information note highlighting in particular that in Belgium it is accepted that professionals working together in multidisciplinary teams share information, which amounts to "shared or joint professional secrecy". She also reiterated that the joint information of professionals assisting child victims may not be shared with the police and magistrates. The professional who knows that a child has been a victim of child abuse may report to the prosecutor but is not under any obligation to do so. She further explained that there are "confidentiality centres" specialised in cases of sexual abuse that may be notified instead. These centres are obliged to examine reports of child abuse at the request of any

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<sup>1</sup> See [Report of the 15th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee](#), paras 13 and 14.

person or institution and must provide appropriate help. They may refer cases to the public prosecutor but are not obliged to do so.

14. The Committee was concerned that the above situation might not result in an effective protection of children in the specific cases of child sexual abuse in the circle of trust. This may, in particular, be the case in the family. It thus agreed that the implementation report should invite Belgium to submit evidence that child victims of sexual abuse within the circle of trust are effectively assisted and no longer victimised when the reporting of such cases and the preventive and protective measures related to them remain within the context of the “confidentiality centres”.

### **Question 3: Recruitment and screening**

15. Mr JANIZZI thanked Ms ILCHUK (Ukraine), Rapporteur, for having prepared observations on the replies to Question 3 (Article 5§3 of the Convention) of the Thematic Questionnaire.

16. After a discussion on a few issues in the observations, the Lanzarote Committee endorsed the conclusions delivered by the Rapporteur. It in particular agreed to refer to the Dutch certificate for good conduct (“VOG”) as a promising practice because the procedure to issue this certificated strikes an interesting balance between child protection and right to privacy.

17. Members of the Lanzarote Committee were called upon to verify the data concerning the situation in their country as reflected in the observations and, if appropriate, to send any corrections to the Secretariat ([lanzarote.committee@coe.int](mailto:lanzarote.committee@coe.int)).

### **Question 9b: Denial of exercise of professional or voluntary activity**

18. Mr JANIZZI thanked Ms MUSCAT (Malta), for presenting the observations prepared by the Rapporteur, Mr AZZOPARDI (Malta) and asked her to convey the Committee’s thanks to him for having prepared observations on the replies to Question 9b (Article 27§3 of the Convention) of the Thematic Questionnaire.

19. After a discussion on a few issues in the observations, the Lanzarote Committee endorsed the conclusions of the Rapporteur. It in particular agreed that the part of the implementation report dedicated to this and the previous question (screening) should also take into account the [results of the Survey carried out by Missing children Europe, ECPAT and eNACSO](#) on the transposition of EU Directive 2011/93.

20. Members of the Lanzarote Committee were called upon to verify the data concerning the situation in their country as reflected in the observations and, if appropriate, to send any corrections to the Secretariat ([lanzarote.committee@coe.int](mailto:lanzarote.committee@coe.int)).

## **3. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, EXPERIENCES AND GOOD PRACTICES**

### **3.1 Presentation by ECPAT International of the project ReACT**

21. The Committee was informed by Ms DECLERCQ and Ms COUVREUR (ECPAT International) of the main conclusions of the report of the [ReACT](#) Project (REinforcing Assistance to Child victims of Trafficking) – Better support, better protection – Steps lawyers and guardians can take to better identify and protect trafficked children. The Committee agreed to refer to the tools developed within the context of this project in its [special report](#) on “Protecting children

*affected by the refugee crisis from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation”.*

### **3.2 Presentation of relevant initiatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe**

22. Due to lack of time, the presentation of relevant initiatives by the Parliamentary Assembly and Congress of Regional and Local Authorities was postponed to the 18th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee (10-12 May 2017).

### **3.3 Participation of Lanzarote Committee in outside events**

23. Due to lack of time, debriefings of participation of members of the Lanzarote Committee in outside events on the Committee’s behalf had to be postponed to a forthcoming meeting.

### **3.4 Presentation of relevant activities by national authorities, international governmental and non-governmental organisations, experts, as well as services of the Council of Europe**

24. Ms ATABEKOVA (Russian Federation) [presented the website](#) the Russian Federation authorities developed on the Lanzarote Convention. The Committee took note that the English version of such website is: <http://lanzarote.rudn.ru/en/>

25. Mr AIT AAZIZI (Morocco) [presented the programme for the protection of children on the Internet](#), which is part of the Moroccan integrated public policy for the protection of children. The Committee looked forward to being kept informed of its implementation, in particular during the course of its examination of promising practices related to the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by the use of ICTs.

## **4. PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

### **4.1 Elections: Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau**

26. The Committee re-elected by acclamation, for a second term of office, Mr JANIZZI (Luxembourg), as Chairperson of the Committee, Ms DE CRAIM (Belgium) and Ms BOLLINI (San Marino), as members of the Committee’s Bureau.

27. The Committee also elected by acclamation, for a first term of office, Mr NIKOLAIDIS (Greece), as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, and Mr POPOVIC (Serbia), as member of the Committee’s Bureau.

28. The Committee thanked Ms VERZIVOLLI for having been Vice-Chairperson for 1 year and wished her success as Chairperson of the Council of Europe’s Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF).

### **4.2 Appointment of the Gender Equality Rapporteur**

29. The Committee elected by acclamation Ms CASTELLO-BRANCO (Portugal) as Gender Equality Rapporteur and thanked Mr AZZOPARDI for having been the first member of the Committee to act as Gender Equality Rapporteur.

#### **4.3 *Enhancing visibility of the role and impact of civil society's representatives in the work of the Lanzarote Committee***

30. Due to lack of time, the Committee had to postpone to a forthcoming meeting the discussion on enhancing the visibility of the role and impact of civil society's representatives in the work of the Lanzarote Committee.

#### **4.4 *Adoption of the list of decisions of the 17th meeting***

31. The Lanzarote Committee adopted the list of decisions of the current meeting.

#### **5. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS**

32. The Lanzarote Committee took note that the dates for its next meetings are:

- 18th meeting: 10-12 May 2017, Strasbourg
- 19th meeting: 25-27 October 2017, Lanzarote (venue to be confirmed)

## Appendix I

### Agenda

1. **Opening of the meeting, adoption of the agenda and up-date on ratifications of the Lanzarote Convention**
2. **Monitoring of the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention**
  - 2.1 Urgent monitoring round: 2nd reading and adoption of the revised special report *“Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse”*
  - 2.2 2nd monitoring round: based on suggestions by the Working Group on Trends in Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, exchange of views and decision on:
    - a. the draft Interpretative Opinion on *“Applicability of the Lanzarote Convention to sexual offences against children facilitated through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)”*;
    - b. the draft Thematic Questionnaire to launch the monitoring round on *“Criminal use of child self-generated sexual images and videos facilitated by information and communication technologies”*.
  - 2.3 1st monitoring round, 2nd part: exchange of views on the observations prepared by Rapporteurs on replies to Thematic Questionnaire:
    - a. Question 3 (*Recruitment and screening*), Ms Svitlana ILCHUK;
    - b. Question 9b (*Denial of exercise of professional or voluntary activity*), Mr Charlie AZZOPARDI / Ms Lorna MUSCAT;
    - c. Question 8 (*Reporting suspicion of sexual abuse*) (continued), Mr Joan FORNER ROVIRA.
3. **Exchange of information, experiences and good practices**
  - 3.1 Presentation by ECPAT International of the report of the [ReACT](#) Project (*REinforcing Assistance to Child victims of Trafficking*) – Better support, better protection – Steps lawyers and guardians can take to better identify and protect trafficked children
  - 3.2 Presentation of relevant initiatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe
  - 3.3 Participation of the Lanzarote Committee in outside events
  - 3.4 Presentation of relevant activities by national authorities, international governmental and non-governmental organisations, experts, as well as services of the Council of Europe

#### **4. Procedural matters**

- 4.1 Elections: Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau
- 4.2 Appointment of the Gender Equality Rapporteur
- 4.3 Enhancing visibility of the role and impact of civil society's representatives in the work of the Lanzarote Committee
- 4.4 Adoption of the list of decisions of the meeting

#### **5. Dates of the next meetings**

- 18th meeting: 10-12 May 2017, Strasbourg
- 19th meeting: 25-27 October 2017, Lanzarote (venue to be confirmed)



## Appendix II

### List of participants

#### 1. MEMBERS / MEMBRES

##### STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION / ETATS PARTIES A LA CONVENTION

##### ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms Ina VERZIVOLLI  
Chairperson  
State Agency on protection of Children's  
Rights  
Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth

##### ANDORRA / ANDORRE

Mme Rebeca ARMENGOL ASENJO  
*Apologised / Excusée*  
Psychologue  
Unité spécialisée dans la protection de  
l'enfance  
Service responsable de l'enfance et de  
l'adolescence  
Ministère des Affaires sociales, de la Justice  
et de l'Intérieur

Mme Cristina CANALES CERVERA  
Travailleur social  
Unité spécialisée dans la protection de  
l'enfance  
Service responsable de l'enfance et de  
l'adolescence  
Ministère des Affaires sociales, de la Justice  
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##### AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Ms Martina KLEIN  
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Legal Adviser  
Directorate General for Criminal Law  
Federal Ministry of Justice

##### BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Ms Christel DE CRAIM  
Head of Service ad interim  
Service for Criminal Policy  
Ministry of Justice

##### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA /

##### BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

Ms Tijana BOROVIČANIN-MARIĆ  
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Sector for Human Rights  
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees

##### BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Ms Petya DIMITROVA  
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State Expert  
State Policy for Children Directorate  
State Agency for Child Protection

##### CROATIA / CROATIE

Ms Ana VLAHOVIĆ STANIĆ  
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Head of Department  
Department for Substantive Criminal and  
Misdemeanour Regulations  
Directorate for Criminal Law and Probation  
Ministry of Justice

Ms Marlena JUKIĆ  
Higher Senior Adviser  
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Directorate for Criminal Law and Probation  
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##### CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Ms Hara TAPANIDOU  
*Apologised / Excusée*  
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##### CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Ms Martina LIČKOVÁ  
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**FINLAND / FINLANDE**

Ms Satu SISTONEN  
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Ministry for Foreign Affairs

**FRANCE**

M. Francis STOLIAROFF  
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**GEORGIA / GÉORGIE**

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**GREECE / GRÈCE**

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Abuse and Neglect  
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Ms Maria Andriana KOSTOPOULOU  
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**HUNGARY / HONGRIE**

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Ms Csenge Diána TÓTH  
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**ICELAND / ISLANDE**

Mr Bragi GUÐBRANDSSON  
General Director  
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**ITALY / ITALIE**

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Presidency of the Council of Ministers

**LATVIA / LETTONIE**

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Ministry of Justice

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

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Unit for Human Rights and International  
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*Apologised / Excusée*  
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**LUXEMBOURG**

M. Claude JANIZZI  
*Chairperson / Président*  
Conseiller de direction 1<sup>re</sup> classe  
Service des droits de l'enfant / Service des  
relations internationales  
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de  
l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse

**MALTA / MALTE**

Mr Andy ELLUL  
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Ministry for Family and Social Solidarity

Ms Lorna MUSCAT  
Ministry for Family and Social Solidarity

**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA /  
REPUBLICQUE DE MOLDOVA**

Ms Cristina LESNIC  
Head of General Department for  
International Relations and European  
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**MONACO**

Mme Justine AMBROSINI  
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Direction des Affaires Internationales  
Ministère d'Etat

Mme Corinne MAGAIL  
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Direction des Affaires Internationales  
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**MONTENEGRO**

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**NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS**

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Ministry of Security and Justice

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**PORTUGAL**

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**ROMANIA / ROUMANIE**

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**RUSSIAN FEDERATION /  
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Mr Evgeny SILYANOV  
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Ministry of Education and Science

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People's Friendship University (RUDN  
University)

**SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN**

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**SERBIA / SERBIE**

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**SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE**

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**SWEDEN / SUÈDE**

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Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

**SWITZERLAND / SUISSE**

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Unité Droit pénal international  
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**“THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF  
MACEDONIA” / « L’EX-REPUBLIQUE  
YUGOSLAVE DE MACEDOINE »**

Ms Elka TODOROVA  
*Apologised / Excusée*  
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Mr Darko NUSHEV  
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Crime Police Department  
Ministry of Interior

**TURKEY / TURQUIE**

Mr Tuğrul UZUN  
Rapporteur Judge  
Directorate General for International Law  
and Foreign Relations  
Ministry of Justice

Mr Yusuf GÜLAÇTI  
Rapporteur Judge  
Directorate General for International Law  
and Foreign Relations  
Ministry of Justice

Ms Sibel ERKAN  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Representation of Turkey to the  
Council of Europe

**UKRAINE**

Ms Svitlana ILCHUK  
Head of Division  
Legal Support and Monitoring of the  
Implementation of the UN Convention on  
Children’s Rights  
Ministry of Social Policy

**2. PARTICIPANTS**

**2.1 COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER  
STATES NOT PARTY TO THE  
CONVENTION / ETATS MEMBRES  
DU CONSEIL DE L’EUROPE NON  
PARTIES A LA CONVENTION**

**ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE**

Ms Karine SOUDJIAN  
*Apologised / Excusée*  
Head of Human Rights and Humanitarian  
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International Organizations Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN**

Ms Jeyran RAHMATULLAYEVA

*Apologised / Excusée*

Chief of Staff

State Committee on Family, Women and  
Children Affairs

**IRELAND / IRLANDE**

No official nomination / Pas de nomination  
officielle

**NORWAY / NORVÈGE**

No official nomination / Pas de nomination  
officielle

**UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI**

No official nomination / Pas de nomination  
officielle

**2.2 COUNCIL OF EUROPE OBSERVER  
STATES / ETATS OBSERVATEURS  
AUPRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

**HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIÈGE**

Mme Alessandra AULA

Secrétaire Générale

Bureau international catholique de  
l'enfance (BICE)

Genève, Suisse

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / ÉTATS-UNIS  
D'AMÉRIQUE**

No official nomination / Pas de nomination  
officielle

**CANADA**

No official nomination / Pas de nomination  
officielle

**JAPAN / JAPON**

Ms Hoshie SHINOZAKI

*Apologised / Excusée*

Superintendent, Assistant Director

Juvenile Division Community Safety Bureau

National Police Agency of Japan

Ms Wakana FUJITA

Researcher / Advisor

Consulat Général du Japon

Strasbourg

**MEXICO / Mexique**

No official nomination / Pas de nomination  
officielle

Mme Lorena ALVARADO QUEZADA

Adjointe à l'Observateur Permanent

Mission Permanente du Mexique auprès du

Conseil de l'Europe

**2.3 STATE HAVING REQUESTED  
ACCESSION TO THE CONVENTION /  
ÉTAT AYANT DEMANDE  
D'ADHERER A LA CONVENTION**

**MOROCCO / MAROC**

M. Mohamed AIT AAZIZI

Directeur de la Protection de la Famille, de  
l'Enfance et des Personnes Agées

Ministère de la Solidarité, de la Femme, de

la Famille et du Développement Social

**2.4 NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS /  
PARTENARIATS DE VOISINAGE**

**JORDAN / JORDANIE**

Mr Mohammed MOGDADI

Deputy Secretary General

National Council for Family Affairs

**TUNISIA / TUNISIE**

Mme Nidhal HLAYEM

*Apologised / Excusée*

Chargée du service des études, rapports et  
législations

Sous-direction des droits de l'enfant

Ministère des Affaires de la Femme, de la

Famille et de l'Enfance

**2.5 INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANISATIONS /  
ORGANISATIONS  
INTERNATIONALES**

**COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES (CBSS) /  
CONSEIL DES ETATS DE LA MER BALTIQUE  
(CEMB)**

Ms Turid HEIBERG

*Apologised / Excusée*

Senior Adviser & Head of the Unit for  
Children at Risk (CAR)

**ENOC (European Network of Ombudspersons for Children) / ENOC (Réseau Européen des Ombudsmans pour Enfants)**

Ms Leda KOURSOUNBA  
*Apologised / Excusée*  
Commissioner for the Protection of  
Children's Rights  
Cyprus

**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (ENNHRI) / RESEAU EUROPEEN DES INSTITUTIONS NATIONALES DE PROMOTION ET DE PROTECTION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME**

Ms Debbie KOHNER  
*Apologised / Excusée*  
Secretary General  
Permanent Secretariat

**EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPÉENNE**

Mr César ALONSO IRIARTE  
*Apologised / Excusé*  
Unit A.2: Fight against organised crime  
DG Home Affairs  
European Commission

**EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (FRA) / AGENCE DES DROITS FONDAMENTAUX DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE (FRA)**

Ms Astrid PODSIADLOWSKI  
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**Directorate General of Democracy /  
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## Appendix III

### Special Report Executive Summary:

#### Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

1. This Special Report is the outcome of an urgent monitoring round launched by the Lanzarote Committee to focus on how Parties to the Lanzarote Convention are protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. It covers the situation in the 41 States which were Parties to the Convention at the time the urgent submission for a report was called for by the Lanzarote Committee.
2. The Special Report draws on replies from the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention and other stakeholders to a focused questionnaire. This questionnaire sought to evince answers that would allow the mapping of the Parties' responses to the increased risks of sexual violence that confronts children affected by the refugee crisis. Information was sought on four broad topics: 1) Data; 2) Prevention; 3) Protection; and 4) Co-operation.
3. A number of the systemic challenges that have been brought into sharp focus by the increased numbers of people arriving in Europe looking for international protection are raised by the Report. These challenges can have particularly worrying consequences for children affected by the refugee crisis, exposing them to a risk of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. They are particularly pertinent for both those children who arrive in Europe unaccompanied, and those who go missing after arrival, with their heightened vulnerability posing an increased risk of them falling victim to sexual violence. The Lanzarote Committee commends Parties who have put in place procedures to address such challenges.
4. The Special Report regrets that it remains the case that data collection is sporadic and non-comprehensive across Parties. It is probable that the number of instances of sexual exploitation and abuse is significantly underreported. There are no specific data collection mechanisms or focal points tasked with collecting data on child sexual exploitation and abuse within the context of the refugee crisis. Reasons explaining the difficulties in capturing such data cut across a number of sectors such as limited capacity, insufficient training, abuse not reported due to linguistic or trust issues, or practical difficulties in establishing the number of migrant children on the territory. It is clear that more accurate data would help all relevant actors and stakeholders frame, adjust, and evaluate policies in this field.
5. The uneven distribution across the continent of children affected by the refugee crisis is stark, with some Parties reporting very few or no such children on their territories, whereas other Parties are receiving thousands of such children. Therefore some Parties' child support services are bearing a disproportionately large burden, while others have not tested the implementation of their child protection approaches in this context.
6. Reception centres need to provide adequate protection for children, with prolonged stays in inappropriate conditions increasing a child's risk of exposure to sexual exploitation or sexual abuse. Parties have taken steps to improve the available facilities and lodging solutions for children, and work in this sphere must continue to ensure that children can be

helped and assisted in a non-traumatising environment. It is reiterated that unaccompanied children should be separated from adults in reception centres, and that robust complaint mechanisms to report abuse must be effective.

7. Parties have indicated that a number of children go missing from reception facilities. This is of concern, and steps to identify the children that are at particular risk of going missing and to develop specific protocols to support those children to avoid their disappearance are needed to confront this. A number of Parties are implementing methods to avoid that children go missing through increased co-operation between relevant authorities to record and trace disappearances. These efforts could be further fortified by transnational development of common strategies and procedures.

8. The Committee notes that numerous challenges need to be met to ensure effective preventive measures are taken to target the specific needs of children affected by the refugee crisis. Culture and language differences can pose problems for Parties when screening children for signs of sexual exploitation and abuse, and for transmitting relevant information and advice. Appropriate arrangements should be made to ensure that children receive information on their rights, on care facilities and on procedures available to them in a language they understand, that is culturally and gender appropriate. Equally, all personnel (professional or voluntary) that come into contact with children should be adequately trained, and screened in order to give the best possible protection to children affected by the refugee crisis.

9. Specific recommendations by the Lanzarote Committee on steps to improve or reinforce the protection of children affected by the refugee crisis against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the areas covered by this report are found in each chapter. All chapters also highlight a number of promising practices. Co-operation between all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, is essential to ensure that effective measures against child sexual abuse are enacted.