

The Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE)

Recognising the essential role played by the public prosecution services in the criminal justice system within a state governed by the rule of law, the Committee of Ministers decided in July 2005 to set up the Consultative Council of European prosecutors (CCPE), drawing on the experience of the European General Prosecutors' conferences.

Composition

The 47 member states of the Council of Europe can be represented in the CCPE. These representatives, appointed by the competent national authorities, are serving prosecutors, of the utmost personal integrity, with in-depth knowledge of the functioning of the prosecution system. The members of the CCPE act in their own name.

The following entities may also participate in the CCPE meetings: the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC); the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE); the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ); the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ); representatives from the European Union, as well as observers such as the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) and the association "Magistrats européens pour la démocratie et les libertés" (MEDEL).

General mission

The main tasks of the CCPE are to contribute to the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2000)19 on the role of public prosecution in the criminal justice system and to collect information on the functioning of the public prosecution services department and on the professional activities of European prosecutors. The CCPE gives advice to the Committee of Ministers, and also to member states, on questions relating to the status of prosecutors and to the exercise of their duties.

Opinions of the CCPE to the Committee of Ministers

The main function of the CCPE is to draw up opinions on subjects concerning the status of the prosecutor or the exercise of his or her duties. These opinions are prepared by a working group, usually on the basis of surveys previously carried out upon member states, and adopted at its plenary meetings. The opinions are transmitted to the Committee of Ministers and the member states in charge of looking after their domestic implementation.

As of 2011, the CCPE has adopted the following opinions for the attention of the Committee of Ministers:

- Opinion No. 1 (2007) on ways to improve international co-operation in the criminal justice field;
- Opinion No. 2 (2008) on alternatives to prosecution;
- Opinion No. 3 (2008) on the role of prosecution services outside the criminal law field;
- Opinion No. 4 (2009) on relations between judges and prosecutors in a democratic society;

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- Opinion No. 5 (2010) on public prosecution and juvenile justice;
- Opinion No. 6 (2011) on the relationship between prosecutors and prison administration.

These opinions are available in several languages on the CCPE website (www.coe.int/ccpe) or can be obtained on request by writing to ccpe@coe.int.

Specific tasks

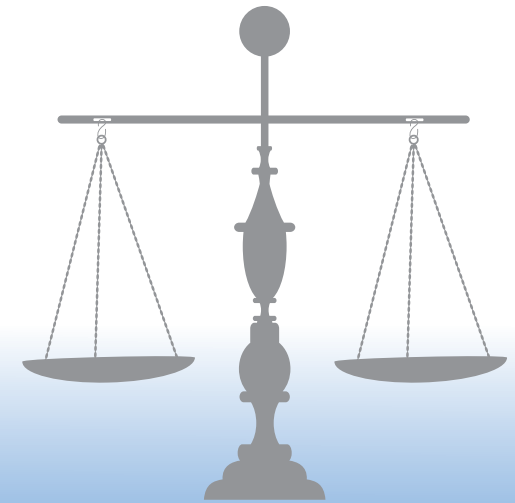
The CCPE pays particular attention to specific problems in the field of public prosecution in a given member state. It may be called for assistance by an entity of the Council of Europe (Committee of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly, Secretary General) or by one of its members to provide answers to topical questions and provide support to the states in order to allow them to comply with European standards on particular situations concerning prosecutors. The CCPE may visit the country concerned to discuss ways of improving the existing situation in the legislative and organisational fields.

For further information:

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