

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION (CD-P-TO)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Type of committee: Steering Committee

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021**

PILLAR/PROGRAMME/SUB-PROGRAMME
<p>Pillar: Rule of Law Programme: Action against crime, safety and security of citizens Sub-Programme: Quality of Medicines and Healthcare (EDQM, Pharmacopoeia)</p>
MAIN TASKS
<p>Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, in its composition restricted to the representatives of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia, without prejudice to the competences of the other relevant committees, the CD-P-TO will oversee and co-ordinate the Council of Europe's work in the field of transplantation of organs, tissues and cells and advise the Committee of Ministers on all questions within its field of competence. Taking due account of relevant transversal perspectives, the overall aim is to promote the principle of non-commercialisation of organ, tissue and cell donation, strengthen measures to avoid trafficking of organs, tissues and cells and, in general, elaborate high ethical, safety and quality standards in the field of organ transplantation and tissues and cells for human application. In particular, the CD-P-TO is instructed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) monitor practices in Europe and identify and study emerging challenges with regards to ethical, quality and safety standards for the donation and transplantation/human application of organs, tissues and cells of human origin; (ii) elaborate quality and safety standards in the field and provide guidance for their implementation; in particular, by carrying out regular revisions and updates to the Guide on the quality and safety of organs for transplantation, and the Guide on the quality and safety of tissues and cells for human application; (iii) assist member States in improving their donation and transplantation services, whilst promoting the principle of voluntary non-remunerated donation; (iv) examine the organisational structures concerning donation and transplantation/human application of organs, tissues and cells of human origin with a view to addressing the causes of shortage; (v) regularly collect and analyse international data on donation and transplantation/human application of organs, tissues and cells of human origin, including biovigilance, for publication; (vi) elaborate legal and policy guidance in the field, in particular by approving proposals for resolutions prepared for adoption by the Committee of Ministers, in its composition restricted to the representatives of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia; (vii) assist member States in improving their transplantation services, in particular by developing links between national health authorities responsible for the donation and transplantation/human application of organs, tissues and cells of human origin and experts throughout Europe and ensure the transfer of knowledge and expertise; (viii) provide, upon request, assistance to States with observer status to the European Pharmacopoeia Commission in developing policies, laws and regulations relating to the donation and transplantation/human application of organs, tissues and cells of human origin, improving their donation and transplantation programmes, combatting organ shortage and improving access to transplant health services; (ix) oversee the successful implementation of EU/EDQM funded activities, aiming at implementing both EU and Council of Europe standards and harmonising practices in Europe; (x) reinforce co-operation and synergies with other international organisations and professional societies working in the field; (xi) contribute to the training of health professionals on organ, tissue and cell donation and transplantation/human application through the identification of needs and the elaboration of tailored support material; (xii) raise awareness among the general public on organ, tissue and cell donation and transplantation/human application and to provide information on matters of interest; (xiii) co-operate with the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO) in the implementation of all aspects of transplantation covered by the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (ETS No. 164) and its Additional Protocol on transplantation of organs and tissues of human origin (ETS No. 168); (xiv) co-operate with the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the implementation of all aspects of the fight against trafficking in human beings for the purpose of organ removal covered by the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ETS No. 197);

- (xv) co-operate with the Committee on Crime Problems (CD-PC) in the implementation of all aspects of the fight against trafficking in human organs covered by the Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (ETS No. 216);
- (xvi) hold an exchange of views annually in order to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued;
- (xvii) take due account of a gender perspective in the performance of its tasks;
- (xviii) take the pertinent aspects of the European Convention on Human Rights into consideration in its thematic work;
- (xix) in accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which it has been given responsibility,¹ in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers;
- (xx) contribute to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regards to Goal 3: Good health and well-being.

SPECIFIC TASKS

- (i) Update and publish the Guide to quality and safety of organs for transplantation and the Guide to the quality and safety of tissues and cells for human application.
- (ii) Perform international surveys on organ transplantation and donation and regularly publish results in the Newsletter Transplant.
- (iii) Elaborate tools for member States to promote constant improvements in ethical, legal, regulatory and organisational frameworks for donation and transplantation by means of resolutions, policy guidelines, position papers, technical reports and any other means that may be deemed appropriate.
- (iv) Support national initiatives and participate in assistance activities to support national organisations in improving their donation and transplantation programmes, to promote the principles defended by the Council of Europe and to raise public and professional awareness on donation and transplantation issues.
- (v) Actively contribute to the fight against organ trafficking by:
 - collecting information on possible illicit transplantation activities in the member States through the network of National Focal Points (NFP) on transplant-related crimes, in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2013)55;
 - elaborating technical and guidance documents for health authorities and health professionals to prevent, detect and combat organ trafficking and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of organ removal, in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings;
 - providing training and supporting multidisciplinary co-operation among relevant Authorities and bodies involved in the fight against transplant-related crimes through the network of NFP;
 - actively promoting and disseminating the aforementioned Conventions, contributing to their broad ratification, acceptance or approval and implementation; and
 - supporting the future Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs with regard to ethical and technical matters.
- (vi) Promote the organisation of the European Organ Donation Day, hosted every year in a different country with the support of local governmental organisations and/or others.
- (vii) Review progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), as evidenced by monitoring mechanisms and promoted through standard-setting and exchange of experiences and good practices.

COMPOSITION

Members:

Governments of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia are invited to designate one representative of the highest possible rank with expertise in the field of organ transplantation and/or one representative of the highest possible rank with expertise in the field of tissues and cells for human application. Each member of the committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in voting.

The sending authorities of the member States will bear the travel and subsistence expenses for their representatives' participation in the meetings of the CD-P-TO. The travel and subsistence expenses of the Chair will be borne by the EDQM budget.

¹ Cf. relevant decisions of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2) and list of Conventions in document CM(2019)132.

In accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, in cases where there is no convention-based body including all the Parties, non-member States are invited to take part, with a right to vote, in the committee meetings pertaining to the conventions to which they are Parties.

Participants:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO);
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- Council of Europe member States other than those mentioned above under "Members" and other States with observer status to the European Pharmacopoeia Commission;
- European Union;
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- World Health Organisation (WHO).

Observers:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- international professional societies, intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on topics related to the tasks of the Committee.

WORKING METHODS

Plenary meetings:

38 members, 2 meetings in 2020, 2 days

38 members, 2 meetings in 2021, 2 days

Representatives taking part in the CD-P-TO and its subordinate bodies shall complete a declaration of interests and confidentiality undertaking form (EDQM Form/226).

Extraordinary meetings of the CD-P-TO can be convened upon request by the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

Bureau meetings:

8 members, 1 meeting in 2020, 1 day

8 members, 1 meeting in 2021, 1 day

The Committee will also appoint a Gender Equality Rapporteur from amongst its members.

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

With a view to reaching its objectives and to enable multidisciplinary working methods, the committee may, in derogation of CM/Res(2011)24 and within the limit of budgetary attributions, create subordinate bodies.

Whenever appropriate, it will prioritise environmentally sound working methods, such as virtual meetings facilitated by information technology and written consultations.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION*

	Meetings per year	Number of days	Members	Plenary €K	Bureau €K	Working groups	Secretariat (A, B)
2020	2	2	38	8.3	-	-	1 A; 1 B
2021	2	2	38	8.3	-	-	1 A; 1 B

*The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of the 2020 standard costs.