

## SECRETARIAT GENERAL

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY  
GENERAL FOR ORGANISATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM



6 May 2011

### For the attention of the Committee Chairpersons

#### Re: New intergovernmental design

Dear Chairperson,

Following my letter of last March, I would like to inform you that on 2 May 2011, the Committee of Ministers adopted the Secretary General's proposals concerning a new set-up to implement the Council of Europe's intergovernmental work. This decision has been taken following more than one month of intensive consultations with member states. You will find enclosed the document as approved by the Ministers' Deputies.

I would like to recall that the reform of the intergovernmental committee structure has been carried out with the main following purposes:

- to allow for better interaction between the Committee of Ministers and intergovernmental committees in implementing the Organisation's key priorities;
- to set-up steering committees with over-arching responsibility for a priority sector;
- to ensure strengthened input from the relevant specialised ministries and policy-level representation.

I would also like to draw your attention to the following decisions regarding this reform:

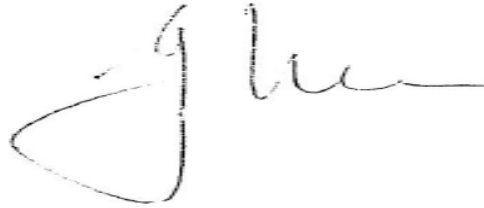
- most fields of work currently run by intergovernmental committees will be continued. The decision to merge certain committees will ensure that their work responds to priorities and that their activities are further streamlined;
- as from 2012, all intergovernmental structures will be time-limited and will be given a clear mandate linked to the programme cycle. None will be automatically renewed or prolonged;
- the Committee of Ministers will be invited to adopt the terms of reference of all steering committees and subordinate structures before the end of 2011. These terms of reference will relate to the programme of activities for 2012-2013. The Heads of Major Administrative Entities will be requested to co-ordinate the preparation of these terms of reference, for the attention of the Committee of Ministers. In 2013, new terms of reference will be worked out, for the attention of the Committee of Ministers, with a view to the implementation of the biennial programme of activities for 2013-2014;
- the titles of the committees are not definite and might be subject to changes to better reflect their mission;
- a critical review on the functioning of the new intergovernmental set-up will be carried out before the end of March 2013.

.../...

As indicated in the enclosed document, this process will be encompassed by new working methods. Please do not hesitate to make any proposals in this respect, should you wish to contribute to this aspect of reform.

I would also encourage you to transmit this information to your Bureau and other committee members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Stoudmann', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Gérard Stoudmann

Enc: - [SG/ Inf \(2011\) 9 final](#)  
- [CM \(2011\) 48](#)

Copy: Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Bjorn Berge, concerned Directors General, Committee Secretaries