



## **High-level event DIO evaluation**

**Remarks by Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni,  
Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

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Dear Ambassadors and representatives of Permanent  
Representations,  
Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to today's High-Level Event "Towards a New  
Evaluation Culture and Policy".

I also extend my warmest welcome to our high-level guest  
speakers from UNESCO, the OECD, the European  
Commission and the Oversight Advisory Committee and thank  
them for their willingness to share with us their experience on  
standards and practices with regard to evaluation functions in  
international organisations.

Let me also thank our colleagues from the Evaluation team of the Directorate of Internal Oversight for having organised this important event at such a timely and pivotal moment as the Council of Europe currently revises its own Evaluation Policy: a policy that dates from 2008 and which was last amended in 2014.

In the revision process that has been steered and co-ordinated by the Directorate of Internal Oversight, consideration was given to the recommendations of the Oversight Advisory Committee as well as the findings of the “Peer Assessment of the Evaluation Function of the Council of Europe” that was carried out by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in 2017.

Particular attention was also paid to international standards in the field of evaluation. These include reference points developed by the UN Evaluation Group and the OECD concerning, among other things, the independence, credibility and utility of the evaluation function and the publication of evaluation results: these standards have inspired the text of our revised policy. Today presents a perfect opportunity for all of us to obtain information on applicable international standards, ask

questions and participate in the discussions with our expert guest speakers.

It is of course also important that these standards are applied and implemented in a manner that complies with the statutory roles and responsibilities of the different entities and stakeholders within our Organisation and with the procedures as defined in our internal regulations. At the Council of Europe, evaluation forms part of the Organisation's governance system and this falls within the remit of the Secretary General's responsibilities. Different models of evaluation functions exist in other international organisations and today we will hear more about those at UNESCO, the OECD and the EU.

The Secretary General and I are very committed to the further development of a strong evaluation culture within the Organisation. Indeed, the important impact of the evaluation of our activities and programmes on the Council of Europe's ongoing reform process was highlighted by the Secretary General on previous occasions. This is about learning, changing and improving.

Let me emphasise in this context that I am convinced that the strengthening of the evaluation culture within the Organisation is only possible where a strong participation of all stakeholders in the evaluation process is guaranteed.

This participatory approach was also followed during the current revision of the Council of Europe's evaluation policy and the draft revised text is the result of an inclusive process reflecting the positions of concerned stakeholders. It constitutes a further decisive step towards an enhanced evaluation culture within the Organisation.

The revised policy will be presented to the Committee of Minister's Rapporteur Group on Programme, Budget and Administration at its next meeting on 22 November.

We have the honour to have the Chair of this Rapporteur Group, Ambassador Torbjörn Haak, with us today who has kindly agreed to make a few opening remarks and to whom I would now like to give the floor.