

SUMMARIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TREATIES

The summaries available hereunder are designed to meet a practical need, that of supplying the public at large with concise descriptions of the Council of Europe treaties. The summaries are necessarily short and can therefore only give a first introduction to the main features of each treaty.

Subject-matter: PROTECTION OF VICTIMS

European Convention on the Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes ([ETS No. 116](#)), open for signature, in Strasbourg, on 24 November 1983.

Entry into force: 1 February 1988.

This Convention puts upon States that become a Party to it the obligation to compensate the victims of intentional and violent offences resulting in bodily injury or death. The obligation to compensate is limited to offences committed on the territory of the State concerned, regardless of the nationality of the victim.

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Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings ([CETS No. 197](#)), open for signature, in Warsaw, on 16 May 2005.

Entry into force: 1 February 2008.

The Convention is a comprehensive treaty mainly focused on the protection of victims of trafficking and the safeguard of their rights. It also aims at preventing trafficking as well as prosecuting traffickers.

The Convention applies to all forms of trafficking; whether national or transnational, whether or not related to organised crime and whoever the victim, women, men or children and whatever the form of exploitation, sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, etc.

The Convention provides for the setting up of an independent monitoring mechanism ("GRETA") guaranteeing Parties' compliance with its provisions.

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Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse ([CETS No. 201](#)), open for signature, in Lanzarote, on 25 October 2007.

Entry into force: 1 July 2010.

This Convention is the first instrument to establish the various forms of sexual abuse of children as criminal offences, including such abuse committed in the home or family, with the use of force, coercion or threats.

Preventive measures outlined in the Convention include the screening, recruitment and training of people working in contact with children, making children aware of the risks and teaching them to protect themselves, as well as monitoring measures for offenders and potential offenders.

The Convention also establishes programmes to support victims, encourages people to report suspected sexual exploitation and abuse, and sets up telephone and internet helplines for children. It also ensures that certain types of conduct are classified as criminal offences, such as engaging in sexual activities with a child below the legal age and child prostitution and pornography. The Convention also criminalises the solicitation of children for sexual purposes ("grooming") and "sex tourism".

With the aim of combating child sex tourism, the Convention establishes that individuals can be prosecuted for some offences even when the act is committed abroad. The new legal tool also ensures that child victims are protected during judicial proceedings, for example with regard to their identity and privacy.

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Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ([CETS No. 210](#)), open for signature, in Istanbul, on 11 May 2011.

Entry into force: 1 August 2014.

This new landmark treaty of the Council of Europe opens the path for creating a legal framework at pan-European level to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence.

The Convention also establishes a specific monitoring mechanism ("GREVIO") in order to ensure effective implementation of its provisions by the Parties.

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Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health ([CETS No. 211](#)), open for signature, in Moscow on 28 October 2011

Entry into force: 1 January 2016.

The "Medicrime Convention" is the first international criminal law instrument to oblige States Parties to criminalise:

- the manufacturing of counterfeit medical products;
- supplying, offering to supply and trafficking in counterfeit medical products;
- the falsification of documents;
- the unauthorised manufacturing or supplying of medicinal products and the placing on the market of medical devices which do not comply with conformity requirements.

The Convention provides a framework for national and international co-operation across the different sectors of the public administration, measures for coordination at national level, preventive measures for use by public and private sectors and protection of victims and witnesses. Furthermore, it foresees the establishment of a monitoring body to oversee the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties.

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Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs ([CETS No. 216](#)), open for signature, in St Jacques-de-Compostelle, on 25 March 2015.

Entry into force: 1 March 2018.

The Convention calls on governments to establish as a criminal offence the illegal removal of human organs from living or deceased donors:

- where the removal is performed without the free, informed and specific consent of the living or deceased donor, or, in the case of the deceased donor, without the removal being authorised under its domestic law;
- where, in exchange for the removal of organs, the living donor, or a third party, receives a financial gain or comparable advantage;
- where in exchange for the removal of organs from a deceased donor, a third party receives a financial gain or comparable advantage.

The Convention also provides protection measures and compensation for victims as well as prevention measures to ensure transparency and equitable access to transplantation services.