

Terms of reference of the

Committee of Experts on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (PC-FIMI)

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\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Category: Subordinate body
Duration: 1 January – 15 April 2026
Programme: Upholding safety, security and integrity of society and persons
Sub-programme: Criminal Law - Terrorism

Deliverable

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, and of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), the PC-FIMI is instructed to complete the following deliverable within the following deadline:

Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1	15/04/2026 ¹

1. Feasibility study on the possible elaboration of a Council of Europe legal instrument on foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), including disinformation, exploring challenges in relation to election interference, media concentration and capture, media freedom and democratic and information literacy, organised crime, cybercrime, corruption, and the malign use of AI and other technologies. This study examines legal challenges and gaps regarding the criminalisation of certain conducts related to FIMI, and identifies potential approaches regarding prevention, awareness-raising and education measures on disinformation and FIMI, including disinformation

Composition

• Members

The Committee of Experts shall be composed of 12 representatives of the highest possible rank in the fields of criminal law and of countering foreign information manipulation and interference and intelligence, law enforcement, elections integrity, media and information and AI regulation. This work will be carried out in accordance with the fundamental rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights, notably freedom of expression, and the relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

The Committee shall be composed in accordance with Article 6 of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of these 12 members. Other member States may send a representative to the meetings of the Committee of Experts without defrayment of expenses.

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 the voting.

• 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;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI), and the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM), the Steering Committee on New and Emerging Digital Technologies (CD-NET), and the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY);
- The PC-FIMI will send the draft feasibility study to CDDEM, CDDH and CDMSI for comments before its approval by the CDPC.

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

- European Union (one or more representatives, including as appropriate, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Co-operation (Eurojust), the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Co-operation (Europol));
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- Other international organisations, including United Nations, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

¹ This deadline may be extended if the feasibility study is not completed.

- **Observers**

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

- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- States having been invited by decision of the Committee of Ministers to participate in the negotiations;
- interested organisations from Civil Society: the Council of Europe welcomes and promotes the widest participation of civil society, in line with the Guidance note on Civil Society Participation in the Intergovernmental Work of the Council of Europe CDDEM(2024)14, as Observers. Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Working methods

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. Online participation in meetings will be available.

The PC-FIMI will take into account the ongoing mapping exercise carried out by the Venice Commission on this topic.

Plenary meetings ▼			
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2026	12	4	3

The PC-FIMI will appoint from amongst its members one Gender Equality Rapporteur.

Budgetary information*

	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members reimbursed	Plenary in €K	Bureau in €K	Working groups in €K	Secretariat (A, B)
2026	4	3	12	87.2			0.5 A, 0.5 B

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