

Terms of reference of the

Committee of Experts on combatting the smuggling of migrants (PC-TM)

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 2026 – 31 December 2027
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-TM is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1. Draft comprehensive Recommendation on deterring and fighting the smuggling of migrants (SoM), through legal means and other actions, and on international cooperation, taking into account the CDPC Report on the need for and feasibility of a possible new Council of Europe Instrument on the smuggling of migrants, with full respect for their human rights.	1	31/12/2027
2. Implementation review report on the Action Plan on Fostering International Co-operation and Investigative Strategies in Fighting the Smuggling of Migrants.	1	31/12/2027

Composition

• Members

Governments of member States are invited to designate one or more representatives of the highest possible rank with recognised expertise in fighting the smuggling of migrants and criminal law. To achieve cost-effective solutions, States are encouraged to appoint their delegates to the Council of Europe Network of Prosecutors on smuggling of migrants.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each member State (two in the case of the State whose representative has been elected Chair).

Each member of the Committee of Experts 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;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- 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:

- 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 Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL); Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

• **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;
- 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.

Plenary meetings ▼			
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2026	47	2	2
2027	47	2	2

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

The Chair of the PC-TM will be invited to attend meetings of the CDPC and/or its Bureau to inform them on progress with its work.

Budgetary information*

	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members reimbursed	Plenary in €K	Bureau in €K	Working groups in €K	Secretariat (A, B)
2026	2	2	47	79.7	-	-	0.5 A; 0.5 B
2027	2	2	47	79.7	-	-	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.