

Concluding remarks and farewell (13:00 a.m. – 13:15 a.m.)

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- Dear Panelists, Chairs and participants,
Allow me to make some concluding remarks. First, I would like to express my thanks to all the panelists for their most interesting and thought-provoking presentations today.
I would also like to express my gratitude to the Council of Europe (Legal Secretariat) and the University of Potsdam for their tremendous efforts in organizing this Workshop. We greatly enjoyed our fruitful cooperation.
Finally, I would also like to extend my thanks to the Chairs for their moderations and the participants for their patience, attention and lively participation in our discussions.
- The ensuing discussion served as reminder that there is still no uniform practice regarding non-legally binding agreements despite their widespread use among states. However, we saw a significant number of Member States expressing their support for the idea of assembling a more detailed account of Member States' best practices. Maybe this could be the first step within the framework of the Council of Europe to create an initiative towards more standardization, similar to the project of the OAS Guidelines. However, it remains to be seen if a higher degree of standardization would not go hand in hand with a loss of flexibility – which was the reason why states turned to these kind of instruments in the first place. I am looking forward to a more detailed discussion on this issue within the CAHDI in the coming months.
- The Workshop, in my view, has underscored that the topic of non-legally binding agreements is of high interest to the Member States of the CoE. I think today's event has served its purpose of a first stock taking on our common and different experiences with these instruments. Since this topic will remain highly relevant for the near future, I am looking forward to continuing the discussion in the coming months. Thank you again, for joining us virtually today. I now wish everyone a good weekend.