

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 17 November 2023

CDBIO / Abr RAP 4

**STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN THE FIELDS OF BIOMEDICINE AND HEALTH (CDBIO)**

**4<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**14-17 November 2023**

Riga, Latvia

**Abridged report**

## **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO) held its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Riga (Latvia), at the invitation of the Latvian authorities, from 14 to 17 November 2023. The meeting was chaired by Siobhán O’Sullivan (Ireland).

The agenda of the meeting is contained in the Appendix. The full report of the meeting, including the list of participants, is available from the Secretariat (doc. CDBIO/RAP4).

## **List of items for information of the Committee of Ministers**

The CDBIO:

- praised the quality of the contributions and exchanges at the Conference on “Promoting autonomy in mental healthcare” organised on 14 November 2023, in the framework of the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, in cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia and the University of Latvia;
- adopted, by unanimity of the votes cast, with three abstentions, the Guide on child participation in decisions about their health, jointly developed with the CDENF;
- agreed to publish the replies to the questionnaire on patients’ rights centred health care systems; and to publish the analysis of the replies carried out by Rumiana Yotova (UK), as a separate document, once finalised;
- welcome the online publication of the replies to the questionnaire providing an overview of the legal framework and practices in the member states relevant to medically assisted procreation;
- welcomed the online version of the Guide on child participation in decisions about their health and exchanged on the possible follow-up to be given to the Guide; notably through the translation of the guide into non-official languages, other dissemination activities and possible development of related child-friendly materials;
- examined the draft Recommendation on respect for autonomy in mental healthcare revised in the light of comments received from delegations; agreed to submit the draft, as a working document, for a targeted consultation (4 December 2023 to 16 February 2024) with a view of finalising and approving the draft Recommendation by the end of 2024;
- examined the draft Report on the impact of AI on the ‘patient-doctor’ relationship, revised in the light of comments from delegations as well as from youth participants made during the recent pilot youth forum on AI in healthcare; agreed to organise a targeted consultation on the draft (from 1 December 2023 to 31 January 2024), with a view to finalising and adopting the report at its next plenary in June 2024;
- decided to entrust the Drafting Group on equity of access to innovative treatments and technologies with the preparation of a white paper focusing on innovative treatments and technologies in healthcare with evidence regarding their impact on the patient’s health, which scope should go beyond situations of severe or life-threatening health patient conditions;

- agreed with the proposal made by the drafting group in charge for the organisation of the horizon scanning exercise with a view to developing a new strategic action plan (2026 -2029) and exchanged on possible new topics to be considered in this context; delegations were invited to reply to the questionnaire designed to this end by 31 January 2024 and to send names of possible high level speakers for the horizon scanning event to be held on 3 April 2024 in Paris;
- agreed to set-up a drafting group to examine the feasibility of organising a large-scale youth forum in 2025, with a view to reporting back on the group’s findings at its next plenary in June 2024;
- welcomed the programme for the Conference “Health literacy and human rights – trust building and equitable access to healthcare”, to be held in Rome (Italy), on 12 December 2023. The event is organised by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the National Office Against Racial Discrimination of Italy, with the support of the Ministry of Family, Natality and Equal Opportunities and of the Ministry of Health of Italy;
- took note of the proposals made by its Gender Equality Rapporteur for possible CDBIO activities for further discussion on its work programme;
- took note of the progress made in the cooperation project carried out in Armenia on “human rights and biomedicine”, under the Armenia Action Plan;
- agreed to hold the next meetings on:
  - o 5<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting: 11-14 June 2024, in Strasbourg
  - o 6<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting: 26-29 November 2024 (tbc), in Strasbourg

### **Any changes to the composition of the Committee Bureau**

The CDBIO:

- re-elected Siobhan O’Sullivan (Ireland), as its Chair, for a new one year term;
- re-elected Tomas Dolezal (Czech Republic), as its Vice-Chair, for a new one year term;
- elected Sanne Van Weezel (The Netherlands), in the Bureau for a two years term, renewable once.

Appendix  
Agenda

Tuesday 14 November 2023 (09.00-17.30)	
	<a href="#"><u>Conference “Promoting autonomy in mental healthcare”</u></a>
Wednesday 15 November 2023 (09.00-12.30 / 14.00-17.30)	
	<p><b>1. Adoption of the draft agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ New CDBIO members invited to introduce themselves</li><li>○ Reminder about the main decisions to be taken during the meeting</li></ul>
	<p><b>2. Draft Recommendation on respect for autonomy in mental healthcare</b></p> <p><i>Objective: Agreement on the launching of a consultation on the draft Recommendation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Examination of the draft Recommendation revised by the Bureau</li><li>- Agreement to launch a consultation on the draft Recommendation</li></ul>
	<p><b>3. Artificial intelligence and biomedicine</b></p> <p><i>Objective: Guidance to the Drafting Group for the further development of the report</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Examination of a revised draft report</li><li>- Consideration of possible targeted consultation of the draft report</li></ul>
	<p><b>9.a Youth Forum (Where necessary to continue on Friday)</b></p> <p><i>Objective: Presentation of the rapporteur report on the Pilot Youth Forum – Key elements for the preparation of the 2025 Youth Forum</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation of her report by Tesi Aschan, rapporteur:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First part on the discussion on AI in healthcare</li><li>Second part on the planning and organisation process</li></ul></li><li>- Discussion on key elements for the preparation of the 2025 Youth Forum</li></ul>

**Thursday 16 November 2023 (09.00-12.30 / 14.00-17.30)**

**4. Overview of legislation and practices on patients' rights**

*Objectives: Examination of the replies to the questionnaire and their analysis, with a view to its publication*

- Presentation of the analysis by Dr Rumiana Yotova and discussion on the document
- Decision on the next steps:
  - presentation to CM and publication
  - consideration under the Horizon scanning exercise

**5. Equitable access to appropriate innovative treatments and technologies in healthcare**

*Objective: Guidance for the further development of the draft discussion paper*

- Presentation of the discussion paper and the note of the Bureau
- Decisions on next steps

**6. Guide on children participation in decision-making process on matters relevant to their health**

*Objective: **Adoption** of the guide (adoption by the CDENF is also on the agenda its plenary meeting the same week)*

- Presentation of the final draft revised in the light of the comments received from CDENF and CDBIO delegations
- Subject to the adoption of the guide, launching of the guide, possible translation(s) in non-official languages and development of related materials

**Friday 17 November 2023 (09.00-12.30)**

**7. Preparation of a new strategic action plan (SAP II)**

*Objective: agreement on the methodology for the horizon scanning*

- Examination of the proposal made by the Group for the preparation of the horizon scanning event with a view to its approval


**8. Bureau election**

*Objective: Election of the Chair and Vice Chair  
Election of a new Bureau member for a two-years term renewable once*

- Submission for nominations should be sent in writing to the Secretariat by Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 2.00 pm.

	<p><b>9. Other business</b></p> <p>a. Youth Forum <i>(to continue where necessary)</i></p> <p>b. CDBIO Guide to health literacy <i>Objective: Information on the launch of the guide - organised with the support and cooperation of the Ministry for Family, Natality &amp; Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Health of Italy – to be held in Rome, on 12 December 2023</i></p> <p>c. Armenia Action Plan II <i>Objective: Information on the cooperation project Human Rights and Biomedicine II</i></p> <p>d. Replies to questionnaire on PMA <i>Objective: presentation of the online version of the replies</i></p> <p>e. Gender equality <i>Objective: brief presentation of proposals by the CDBIO Gender Equality rapporteur</i></p> <p>f. PACE Recommendation 2263 (2023) – “Mental health and well-being of children and young adults” <i>Objective: Entrusting the Bureau with the preparation of the comments on the Recommendation in the light of the relevant work of the CDBIO and the remarks made by CDBIO delegations</i></p>
	<p><b>10. Dates of the next meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CDBIO: 11-14 June 2024, Strasbourg</i></li> <li>○ <i>6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CDBIO: [26-29 November] 2024, Strasbourg</i></li> </ul>
	<p><b>11. Adoption of decisions taken by the CDBIO at its 4th meeting</b></p> <p><i>Objective: Approval of the abridged meeting report</i></p>

## POINTS TO BE DEALT WITH IN WRITING

	<p><b>12. Developments in the field of bioethics</b></p> <p>Delegations, including observers, are invited to send information in writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Developments in member states and other states</li> <li>b. Developments in the field of bioethics in international organisations</li> <li>c. Developments in other Council of Europe bodies</li> <li>d. Developments at the European Court of Human Rights</li> </ul>



**13. Chart of signatures and ratifications of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, the Protocol on the Prohibition of Cloning Human Beings, the Protocol concerning Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of Human Origin, the Protocol concerning Biomedical Research and the Protocol concerning Genetic Testing for Health Purpose**



**14. Cooperation with other committees**

- a. Steering Committee for Human rights (CDDH)
- b. European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO)
- c. European Committee on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS)
- d. Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (T-PD)
- e. Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)
- f. Steering Committee for Legal Cooperation (CDCJ)