



Strasbourg, 28 November 2024

CDBIO / Abr RAP 6

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

6th meeting

26-28 November 2024

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 6th meeting in Strasbourg from 26 to 28 November 2024. 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/RAP6).

Items for decision by the Committee of Ministers

The CDBIO:

- Approved, by unanimity, the draft Recommendation on respect of autonomy in mental healthcare and agreed to send it to the Committee of Ministers with a view to its adoption; it noted that this was the last deliverable the Committee had been requested to complete by the Committee of Ministers¹ on the protection of human rights in mental healthcare;
- Subject to the insertion of references to the Guide on children participation in decision relevant to their health and the Guide on public debate, agreed on the Explanatory Memorandum to the draft Recommendation and to send it to the Committee of Ministers for it to take note.

List of items for information of the Committee of Ministers

The CDBIO:

- Examined the draft white paper on equitable and timely access to appropriate innovative treatments and technologies in healthcare, and invited delegations to make any written comments by 20 December 2024, with a view to its revision and finalisation at its next plenary in June 2025;
- Discussed the preparatory elements for a new Strategic Action Plan (2026-2030) (New SAP) prepared by the Drafting Group in charge, and invited delegations to make written comments by 15 January 2025, namely on the CDBIO missions and the strategic objectives for the new SAP;
- Took note of the proposals made by its gender equality rapporteur with a view to integrating gender equality issues and perspectives in the Strategic Action Plan 2026-2030;
- Agreed to set up a group to prepare a workshop on human rights legal framework and neurotechnologies, and invite the CDDH to be represented in the group;
- Welcomed the information provided by Italy on the conference on health literacy and human rights, to be held in Rome on 5 December 2024;
- Welcomed also the information provided by Finland on the conference on the impact of AI on the 'patient-doctor' relationship, to be held in Helsinki on 21 May 2025;
- Took note of the proposals of the rapporteur for the integration of a youth perspective to ensure an active role for youth in the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan 2026-2030;

¹ [CM/Del/Dec\(2022\)1434/4.2](#)

- Took note of the invitation of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) to make comments on the draft Recommendation on equal rights for intersex persons by 13 January 2025; invited the delegations to send to the Secretariat by 15 December 2024, their comments on the draft in the light of the provisions of the Oviedo Convention and entrusted its Bureau to prepare the CDBIO comments on the basis of those that will be sent by delegations;
- Elected by acclamation for a one-year term renewable once, Tomas Dolezal (Czech Republic) as Chair of the Committee, Damaris Carnal (Switzerland) as Vice-Chair of the Committee; for a term of two years renewable once, Iuliia Davydova (Ukraine) as member of the Bureau, and re-elected in the Bureau Anne Forus (Norway), Andreas Valentin (Austria) and Luisa Borgia (San Marino) for a second two years term;
- Agreed to hold the next meetings on:
 - o 7th plenary meeting: 3-6 June 2025, in Strasbourg
 - o 8th plenary meeting: 18-21 November 2025, in Strasbourg

Appendix
Agenda

Tuesday 26 November 2024 (09.30-18.00)

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

- New CDBIO members invited to introduce themselves
- Reminder about the main decisions to be taken during the meeting

2. Equitable and timely access to appropriate innovative treatments and technologies in healthcare

Objective: *Examination of a draft White Paper with a view to give guidance to the Drafting Group for its finalisation*

3. Draft Recommendation on respect for autonomy in mental healthcare

Objectives:

- *Approval of the draft Recommendation to be sent to the Committee of Ministers for adoption*
- *Finalisation of the draft Explanatory Memorandum*

Wednesday 27 November 2024 (09.30-18.00)

4. Preparation of a new strategic action plan (SAP(2026-2030))

Objectives:

- *Discussion on an outline of the new SAP (2026-2030) with a view to give guidance to the Drafting Group*
- *Presentation of proposals, based on the Gender Equality Strategy of the Council of Europe, for possible activities to be included in the new SAP*

5. Neurotechnologies

Objectives:

- *Examination of the proposal from the Bureau with a view to an agreement on the way forward*
- *Finalisation of the comments on the UNESCO draft Recommendation on the Ethics of Neurotechnology*

6. Other business

- a. Artificial Intelligence Report follow-up
- b. Follow up to the Guide to children’s participation in decisions about their health
Information on the preparation of related child-friendly materials and of an event in the context of the Mid Term Conference on the Strategy for the Rights of the Child
- c. Youth
Information by the Rapporteur for the integration of a Youth perspective on the cooperation with the Youth Advisory Council and outcome of the survey undertaken with NEC and *possible proposals* on the way forward
Information on the progress on a reference framework on the integration of a youth perspective at the level of the Council of Europe and member States.
- d. Action Plan Armenia and other possible cooperation projects
- e. Health literacy Guide follow-up

7. Bureau Election

- Election of the Chair and Vice Chair
- Election of a new Bureau member (Assunta Morresi terms have come to an end)

Submission for nominations should be sent in writing to the Secretariat by Wednesday 27 November 2024 at 2.00 pm.

8. Dates of the next meetings

- *7th meeting of the CDBIO: 3-6 June 2025, Strasbourg*
- *8th meeting of the CDBIO: 18-21 November 2025, Strasbourg*

9. Adoption of decisions taken by the CDBIO at its 6th meeting

Objective: *Approval of the abridged meeting report*

POINTS TO BE DEALT WITH IN WRITING



10. Developments in the field of bioethics

Delegations, including observers, are invited to send information in writing.

- a. Developments in member states and other states
- b. Developments in the field of bioethics in international organisations
- c. Developments in other Council of Europe bodies
- d. Developments at the European Court of Human Rights
- e. Developments in the field of bioethics in the Decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)



11. 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



12. 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)