

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 5 June 2025

CDBIO / Abr RAP 7

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

**7<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**3-5 June 2025**

**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 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in Strasbourg from 3 to 5 June 2025. The meeting was chaired by Tomas Dolezal (Czechia).

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/RAP7).

Rafael Benitez, Director of Social rights, Health and Environment, in an opening address, underlined the importance of the work of the Committee. He highlighted the priority challenges in the health field for the Council of Europe using, as a basis, the Reykjavik Declaration and the New Democratic Pact launched by the Secretary General.

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

The CDBIO:

- Agreed on the principle of holding a workshop on neurotechnologies and human rights, to be held on 18 November 2025, as well as on the approach and draft programme proposed by the Preparatory Group. Delegations were invited to send by 10 July 2025, the names of legal practitioners (notably judges, lawyers) who could be invited to participate in the workshop, where possible, indicating the topic for which the person is suggested;
- Agreed on the White paper on equitable and timely access to appropriate innovative treatments and technologies in healthcare, subject to editorial changes to be made in the light of the comments that delegations are invited to send by 10 July 2025;
- Agreed, subject to some editorial changes, on the approach, strategic goals and objectives proposed by the Drafting Group for the new Strategic Action Plan (2026-2030); Delegations were invited to send proposals for possible actions under each strategic objective by 10 July 2025;
- Agreed to collect information from delegations on the impact of actions carried out in the framework of the current Strategic Action Plan (2020-2025) using, as a basis, the concept note prepared by the Bureau with a view to integrating a relevant section in the final report of the SAP to be presented to the Committee of Ministers at the end of the year;
- Took note of the evaluation report carried out with the support of the DIO, on the cooperation project on “Human rights in Biomedicine”, carried out in the framework of the Armenian Action Plan;
- Welcomed the outcomes of the Conference “AI healthcare and human rights - supporting patients, enabling doctors, safeguarding the therapeutic relationship”, held in Helsinki on 21 May 2025; and thanked the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland for co-organising and hosting the event;
- Took note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law and its implementation, notably the guidance on risk and impact assessment for AI systems (“HUDERIA”) specifically tailored to the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law;

- Designated:
  - a representative to be a member of the Drafting Committee on Human Rights and Drug Policies (DH-PDA);
  - a representative to participate in the meetings of the European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO), as observer;
- Welcomed the outcomes of the session “Children participation in decision about their health” at the Mid-Term review Conference of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027);
- Agreed to hold the next meetings on:
  - 8<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting: 18-21 November 2025, in Strasbourg
  - 9<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting: 2-5 June 2026, in Strasbourg

Appendix  
Agenda

**Tuesday 3 June 2025 (09.30-18.00)**

**Allocution by Rafael Benitez**  
**Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, DGI**

**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. Neurotechnologies and human rights**

Objectives:

- *Discussion on the proposal for a workshop made by the Preparatory group with a view to its finalisation*

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

Objective: *Examination of a revised draft White Paper with a view to its finalisation - Dissemination strategy – Possible follow up action(s)*

**Wednesday 4 June 2025 (09.30-18.00)**

**4. Strategic Action Plan**

**a. SAP (2020-2025)**

Objective: *Preparation of an impact assessment of the SAP, to be integrated in the Final report*

**b. Preparation of SAP (2026-2030)**

Objective: *Discussion on the draft SAP (2026-2030) to give guidance to the Drafting Group with a view to the finalisation and adoption at the 8<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*

## Thursday 5 June 2025 (09.00-12.30)

### 5. Artificial Intelligence

#### Objectives:

- Summary of the outcome of the conference held in Helsinki on 21 May 2025
- Update on the CoE work in relation to the CoE Convention on AI

### 6. Other business

#### a. Human Rights and drug policies

Objective: Designation of an expert to participate in the work of the DH-PDA

In charge of developing a draft Recommendation on bringing human rights to the heart of drug and addiction policies

#### b. Human rights in mental health care

Objective: Update on the examination process of the legal instruments by the Committee of Ministers

#### c. Session on “Children’s participation in decisions about their health” of the Mid-Term Review Conference of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) follow-up

Objective: Summary of the outcome of the session held in Strasbourg on 4 April 2025

#### d. Action Plan Armenia

Objectives: - Information on the progress made in the cooperation activities

- Presentation by the Directorate of Internal Oversight (DIO) of the Evaluation report of the cooperation project on “human rights in Biomedicine”

#### e. Organ transplantation

Objective: Designation of a CDBIO representative in the European Committee on organ transplantation (CD-P-TO)




### 7. Dates of the next meetings

- 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CDBIO: 18-21 November 2025, Strasbourg (Workshop on human rights and neurotechnologies on 18 November)
- 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CDBIO: 2-5 June 2026, Strasbourg

### 8. Adoption of decisions taken by the CDBIO at its 7th meeting

Objective: Approval of the abridged meeting report

## POINTS TO BE DEALT WITH IN WRITING

	<p><b>9. 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> <li>e. Developments in the field of bioethics in the Decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>10. 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</b></p>
	<p><b>11. Cooperation with other committees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Steering Committee for Human rights (CDDH)</li> <li>b. European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO)</li> <li>c. European Committee on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS)</li> <li>d. Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (T-PD)</li> <li>e. Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)</li> <li>f. Steering Committee for Legal Cooperation (CDCJ)</li> </ul>