

... meeting, ... 2024

1 Human rights

1.1 Title

Abridged Report of the 100th meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), 25 – 28 June 2024

Item to be considered by the GR-H at its meeting on ... 2024.

Information on the meeting

The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) held its 100th meeting in Helsinki, Finland, from 25 to 28 June 2024, with Krista OINONEN (Finland), in the Chair.

The agenda of the meeting appears in the Appendix.

Items for decision by the Committee of Ministers

The CDDH adopted the following text and decided to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers for possible adoption:

- Draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the effective protection of human rights in situations of crisis (accompanied by an explanatory memorandum).

The CDDH adopted the following text and decided to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers for its consideration:

- CDDH Comments on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendations [2272 \(2024\)](#) “Mainstreaming the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment with the Reykjavik process”, [2275 \(2024\)](#) “Ending the detention of ‘socially maladjusted’ persons”, and [2276 \(2024\)](#) “Children in the world of work: eradicating harmful child labour”.

The CDDH adopted the following text and decided to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers for information:

- Progress Report on the preparation of a CDDH Study on the need for and feasibility of a further instrument or instruments in the field of human rights and the environment.

The CDDH requested the Committee of Ministers to extend the deadline for completion of its Study on the need for and feasibility of a further instrument or instruments in the field of human rights and the environment to 31 December 2024.

Items for information of the Committee of Ministers

- The CDDH elected Tonje MEINICH (Norway) as its Vice-chairperson and two Bureau members (Elias KASTANAS (Greece) and Barra LYSAGHT (Ireland)).
- The CDDH established a new Drafting Group on the safe third country concept (CDDH-PTS) to prepare a study on the need for and the feasibility of updating the Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation No. R(97)22 to member States containing Guidelines on the application of the Safe Third Country Concept (deliverable 10 of the CDDH terms of reference for 2024–2027) and designated the following 10 member States to have the expenses of their experts’ participation in the CDDH-PTS reimbursed by the Council of Europe: Armenia, Croatia, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom.

As regards the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the CDDH:

- exchanged views on the results of the 1st meeting of the Drafting Group on the first effects of Protocols Nos. 15 and 16 to the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC-PRO);
- received information from the representative of the European Union (EU) and exchanged views on developments concerning the accession of the EU to the ECHR;

- received information from the Secretariat concerning the decisions adopted by the Ministers' Deputies based on the CDDH Report on issues relating to judges of the European Court of Human Rights.

As regards the other items on its agenda, the CDDH:

- held a Conference on the protection and promotion of civil society space in Europe;
- exchanged views on the results of this conference, with a view to the preparation of its future Report on its examination of implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)11 to member States on the need to strengthen the protection and promotion of the civil society space in Europe;
- exchanged views with Niklas WILHELMSSON (Finland), member of the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM), on the terms of reference and future activities of the CDDEM, including its contribution to the CDDH's examination of the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)11;
- took note of the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of replies to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendations 2252(2023) and 2254(2023), on which the CDDH had previously adopted comments;
- exchanged views on the results of the 9th and 10th meetings of the Drafting Group on human rights and environment (CDDH-ENV), notably on its preparation of a draft CDDH report on the need for and feasibility of a further instrument or instruments on human rights and the environment; on this basis, considered that the CDDH-ENV had fulfilled its mandate;
- decided that the text prepared by the CDDH-ENV would become a reference document for the ongoing work of the CDDH on this issue;
- exchanged views with Professor Helen KELLER of the University of Zürich on the recent rulings of the European Court of Human Rights in three cases concerning the effects of climate change;
- gave guidance to the Secretariat on the preparation of a draft CDDH Study on the need for and feasibility of a further instrument or instruments in the field of human rights and the environment, to be examined by the CDDH at its 101st meeting in November 2024;
- exchanged views with Rafael BENITEZ, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, notably on follow-up to Appendix V on the Council of Europe and the environment to the Reykjavik Declaration adopted at the Fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe;
- exchanged views on the results of the 6th meeting of the Drafting Group on human rights in situations of crisis (CDDH-SCR), notably on its preparation of a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation to member States on the effective protection of human rights in situations of crisis and its accompanying draft explanatory memorandum; on this basis, considered that the CDDH-SCR had fulfilled its mandate;
- took note of the launch event for the Committee of Ministers Toolkit for human rights impact assessment of the measures taken by the State in situations of crisis, on which preparatory work had been conducted by the CDDH-SCR;
- exchanged views on the results of the 1st meeting of the Drafting Group on the eradication of impunity for serious human rights violations (CDDH-ELI) and agreed with its interpretation of its terms of reference as encompassing the possibility of updating or otherwise revising the text of the Committee of Ministers Guidelines on eradicating impunity for serious human rights violations, if appropriate;
- exchanged views with Thomas SCHNEIDER (Switzerland), Chairperson of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), on the new Framework Convention on artificial intelligence and human rights, democracy and the rule of law and on the CAI's ongoing work on a methodology for risk and impact assessment of artificial intelligence systems from the point of view of human rights, democracy and the rule of law (HUDERIA);
- exchanged views on the future work of the Drafting Group on human rights and artificial intelligence (CDDH-IA) to prepare a Handbook on human rights and artificial intelligence (AI), in the light of the work of the CAI and taking note also that other Council of Europe bodies are or will be working on issues relating to AI;
- adopted a questionnaire to member States on the implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)2 to member States on measures against the trade in goods used for the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; agreed to hold a Roundtable on this issue at its 101st meeting in November 2024;
- exchanged views with Helena JÄDERBLOM, Chairperson of the Access Info Group established under the Convention on access to official documents (Tromsø Convention), notably on its adoption of baseline evaluation reports on the first eleven Parties to the Tromsø Convention;
- exchanged views with Christos GIAKOUMOPOULOS, Director General Human Rights and Rule of Law;

- exchanged views with its Rapporteur on gender equality, Philippe WERY (Belgium), on the evaluations carried out by the CDDH's subordinate groups of the gender equality aspects of their activities;
- took note of the information provided by certain of its representatives in outside activities;
- took note of the state of signatures and ratifications of the Council of Europe treaties for which the CDDH is responsible, and of recent extensions, partial withdrawals, and withdrawals of derogations to the ECHR;
- took note of recent publications of the work of the CDDH;
- adopted a revised calendar of meetings during the second semester of 2024 and took note of a provisional calendar of meetings during the first semester of 2025;
- thanked the Finnish authorities for their hospitality in hosting the meeting.

Resource implications

The CDDH noted that all of the above activities were conducted within the foreseen budgetary envelopes and that the CDDH-SCR had fulfilled its mandate with fewer meetings than initially foreseen.

Evaluation of completed activities

As noted above, the CDDH took note of the completion of the following deliverables:

Draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on the effective protection of human rights in situations of crisis and its draft explanatory memorandum.

Appendix I**Agenda**

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

ITEM 2: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ITEM 3: WORK ON THE SYSTEM OF THE CONVENTION

3.1. Committee of experts on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC)

3.1.1 Drafting Group on issues relating to judges of the European Court of Human Rights (DH-SYSC-JC)

3.2 CDDH ad hoc negotiation group on EU accession to the ECHR ("46+1 Group")

ITEM 4: ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ITEM 5: HUMAN RIGHTS IN SITUATIONS OF CRISIS

ITEM 6: ERADICATION OF IMPUNITY FOR SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

ITEM 7: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ITEM 8: CIVIL SOCIETY

ITEM 9: PROHIBITION OF THE TRADE IN GOODS USED FOR TORTURE AND THE DEATH PENALTY

ITEM 10: ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ACTORS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE CDDH

ITEM 11: FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNEMENT

ITEM 12: PLANNING OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

ITEM 13: ACCESS TO OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

ITEM 14: GENDER EQUALITY

ITEM 15: CONVENTIONS

ITEM 16: REPRESENTATIVES IN OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

ITEM 17: ELECTIONS

ITEM 18: INVITEES

ITEM 19: PUBLICATIONS

ITEM 20: CALENDAR

ITEM 21: OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 22: ADOPTION OF THE ABRIDGED REPORT