

... meeting, ... 2025

1 Human rights

1.1 Title

Abridged Report of the 101st meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), 25 – 29 November 2024

Item to be considered by the GR-H at its meeting on ... 2025.

Information on the meeting

The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) held its 101st meeting in Strasbourg, from 25 to 29 November 2024, with Krista OINONEN (Finland), in the Chair.

The agenda of the meeting appears in appendix.

Items for decision by the Committee of Ministers

The CDDH adopted the following texts and decided to transmit them to the Committee of Ministers for information:

- CDDH Study on the need for and feasibility of a further instrument or instruments in the field of human rights and the environment;
- CDDH Report on its examination of the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)11 on the need to strengthen the protection and promotion of civil society space in Europe.

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

- CDDH Comments on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendations [2285\(2024\)](#) “Missing persons, prisoners of war and civilians in captivity as a result of the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine”, [2286 \(2024\)](#) “Guaranteeing the human right to food”.

Items for information of the Committee of Ministers

- The CDDH reelected Krista OINONEN (Finland) as its Chairperson and Tonje MEINICH (Norway) as its Vice-chairperson. It elected also two Bureau members (Milène BLANCHARD (France)) and (Elīna Luīze VĪTOLA (Latvia)) and the Chairperson of the Committee of experts on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC) (John Finbarr (Barra) LYSAGHT (Ireland)).

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

- exchanged views on the results of the 2nd 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 Secretariat concerning the preparation by the Ministers’ Deputies of a declaration based on the proposal contained in the CDDH Report on issues relating to judges of the European Court of Human Rights;
- received information from the representative of the European Union (EU) and exchanged views on developments concerning the accession of the EU to the ECHR, notably the delivery by the Court of Justice of the EU of judgments relating to the outstanding issue of judicial control over acts and omissions under the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy; welcomed the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the case of KS and KD as a promising avenue to be explored for resolving the outstanding issue concerning judicial control over acts and omissions under the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy and on this basis, encouraged the EU to take the necessary decisions at the earliest opportunity, recalling the commitment of all Council of Europe member States to the timely adoption of the accession agreement, as expressed in the Reykjavik Declaration;

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

- held a Workshop on facilitating the implementation of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)2 on measures against the trade in goods used for the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- exchanged views with Kristi VÄRK, Chairperson of the Consultation of the Parties to the Convention on access to official documents (CETS No. 205, Tromsø Convention) and received information from the Secretariat on the results of the 7th meeting of the Access Info Group established under the Tromsø Convention;
- exchanged views on the results of the 2nd meeting of the Drafting Group on the eradication of impunity for serious human rights violations (CDDH-ELI);
- exchanged views on the results of the 1st and 2nd meetings of the Drafting Group on human rights and artificial intelligence (CDDH-IA);
- exchanged views with Laurence LWOFF, Secretary of the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO), and agreed to contribute to a future event on human rights issues raised by neurotechnology, to be organised by the CDBIO in 2025;
- exchanged views on its systems of rapporteurs and focal points (representatives) in other bodies; agreed to reform these systems in order that they better correspond to priority issues under its terms of reference for 2024 – 2027; appointed rapporteurs on the following issues: gender equality (Philippe WERY, Belgium), artificial intelligence (Tim KOLK, Estonia), impunity (Hans-Jörg BEHRENS, Germany), and the environment (Nicola WENZEL, Germany); appointed representatives to the following bodies: CDBIO (Elias KASTANAS, Greece) and the Pompidou Group (Milène BLANCHARD, France);
- took note of the information provided by certain of its representatives in outside activities;
- having conducted the annual evaluation of its activities, decided to request the Committee of Ministers to extend its mandate concerning EU accession to the ECHR until the end of 2027 and to give it terms of reference to prepare a non-binding instrument on human rights, the use of spyware, and secret State surveillance; decided to inform the Committee of Ministers that in light of the preparation by the Ministers' Deputies of a declaration on the issue, it did not intend to engage in work on deliverable 9 of its terms of reference for 2024 – 2027;
- received information from the Secretariat on the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of replies to certain recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on which the CDDH had submitted comments;
- took note of the state of signatures and ratifications of the Council of Europe treaties for which it is responsible, and of recent developments concerning derogations and reservations to the ECHR;
- took note of a recent publication of the work of the CDDH;
- adopted a revised calendar of meetings during the first semester of 2025 and took note of a provisional calendar of meetings during the second semester of 2025.

Resource implications

The CDDH noted that all of the above activities were conducted within the foreseen budgetary envelopes.

Evaluation of completed activities

The CDDH undertook the annual evaluation of its activities, as required under its terms of reference for 2024 – 2027, on the basis of document CDDH(2024)21.

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 EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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

3.1.1 Drafting Group the first effects of Protocols Nos. 15 and 16 to the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC-PRO)

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

ITEM 4: ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ITEM 5: ERADICATION OF IMPUNITY FOR SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

ITEM 6: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ITEM 7: CIVIL SOCIETY

ITEM 8: PROHIBITION OF THE TRADE IN GOODS USED FOR TORTURE AND THE DEATH PENALTY

ITEM 9: ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

ITEM 10: ACCESS TO OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

ITEM 11: HUMAN RIGHTS AND BIOMEDICINE

ITEM 12: EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES

ITEM 13: CONVENTIONS

ITEM 14: REPRESENTATIVES IN OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

ITEM 15: ELECTIONS

ITEM 16: PUBLICATIONS

ITEM 17: CALENDAR

ITEM 18: OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 19: ADOPTION OF THE ABRIDGED REPORT