

... meeting, ... 2025

1 Human rights

1.1 Title

Abridged Report of the 102nd meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), 25 – 27 June 2025

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 102nd meeting in Strasbourg, from 25 to 27 June 2025, 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 Report on the first effects of Protocol No. 15 to the European Convention on Human Rights;
- CDDH Report on the first effects of Protocol No. 16 to the European Convention on Human Rights;
- CDDH Report on the implementation of 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 (including recommendations for possible further action within the Council of Europe).

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

- CDDH Comments on Recommendations of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities [525 \(2025\)](#) “Foreign interference in electoral processes at local and regional levels” and [527 \(2025\)](#) “Empowering cities and regions to combat human trafficking for labour exploitation”.

Items for information of the Committee of Ministers

- The CDDH appointed Krista OINONEN (Finland) as its representative to the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM);
- The CDDH took note of the resignation of John Finbarr (Barra) LYSAGHT (Ireland) as a member of its Bureau and decided to defer election of his successor until its meeting in November 2025, so that the newly elected member would be able to serve a full two-year mandate, once renewable.

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

- exchanged views with Mattias GUYOMAR, President of the European Court of Human Rights;
- exchanged views on the results of the 7th meeting of the Committee of experts on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC), in particular the Conference on “The system of the European Convention on Human Rights: responding to new trends and challenges” held on the occasion of that meeting; took note that the Committee of Ministers would take decisions on the DH-SYSC as part of its mid-term review of the terms of reference of intergovernmental committees, with no consequences for the CDDH's own existing mandate in relation to issues relating to the European Convention on Human Rights (the Convention) (see also below);
- noted that the Drafting Group on the first effects of Protocols Nos. 15 and 16 to the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC-PRO) has completed its work ahead of schedule and, on that basis, decided that it had fulfilled its terms of reference;
- received information from the representative of the European Union (EU) and exchanged views on developments concerning the accession of the EU to the Convention, notably the prospects for submission by the European Commission of a request to the Court of Justice of the EU for an opinion on the compatibility of the revised draft accession instruments with the EU treaties and ongoing work to prepare the internal rules necessary for the EU to participate in the system of the

Convention, following its accession; received information from the Secretariat on the adoption by the Parliamentary Assembly of Resolution 2601 (2025) “Legal aspects of the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights”.

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

- exchanged views with Aoife NOLAN, Chairperson of the European Committee on Social Rights; underlined its commitment to the social rights dimension of its work and expressed its interest in further developing its work in relation to the system of the European Social Charter; asked the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to make proposals to this end, to be examined at the meeting in November 2025;
- exchanged views on the results of the 3rd and 4th meetings of the Drafting Group on the eradication of impunity for serious human rights violations (CDDH-ELI) and asked members to reflect, in advance of the Group’s next meeting in October 2025, on whether issues it had identified would best be incorporated into a revised version of the Committee of Ministers Guidelines or (a) supplementary instrument(s);
- exchanged views on the results of the 3rd and 4th meetings of the Drafting Group on human rights and artificial intelligence (CDDH-IA) and on procedural issues relating to possible finalisation of the draft Handbook on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights at its next meeting in October 2025;
- exchanged views on the results of the 1st meeting of the Drafting Group on the safe third country concept (CDDH-PTS) and on preparations for its 2nd meeting in September;
- took note of information provided by the Secretariat on the establishment of the Drafting Committee on Human Rights and Drug Policies (DH-PDA) in advance of its 1st meeting (1–2 July 2025);
- exchanged views on the possibility of conducting public consultations when preparing draft texts in future; agreed to return to this issue at its meeting in November 2025 and to this end, asked the Secretariat to prepare possible elements for criteria to be used by its subordinate bodies when deciding whether or not to hold a public consultation;
- exchanged views on the results of the 8th and 9th meetings of the Access Info Group (AIG) of the Tromsø Convention on access to official documents (CETS 205) and on the future work of the AIG and the Consultation of the Parties to the Tromsø Convention, including preparations for a joint event to be organised by the AIG and the T-PD committee of Convention 108 on data protection; exchanged views on its future thematic debate on the right of access to official documents;
- exchanged views on working methods for its future examination of the implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendations CM/Rec(2019)6 (Ombudsperson institutions) and CM/Rec(2021)1 (national human rights institutions); agreed to hold a workshop on the occasion of its meeting in November 2025 and asked the Bureau to prepare a draft questionnaire to member States, to be administered in advance of the workshop;
- exchanged views on possible working methods for its future examination of the implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2019\)5](#) (the Convention in university education and professional training);
- exchanged views on the Committee of Ministers’ mid-term review of intergovernmental committees’ terms of reference, including proposals for possible new activities on the right to vote and to stand for election under the Convention and the human rights of older persons, and on the possible future status of the DH-SYSC;
- took note of discussions in the Committee of Ministers of issues relating to possible activation of the mandate of the Drafting Committee on human rights and the environment (DH-ENV);
- took note of the information provided by its thematic rapporteurs and its representatives to other committees;
- 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 second semester of 2025 and took note of a provisional calendar of meetings during the first semester of 2026.

Resource implications

The CDDH noted that all of the above activities were conducted within the foreseen budgetary envelopes and that the DH-SYSC-PRO had completed its work ahead of schedule.

Evaluation of completed activities

The CDDH agreed to undertake the next annual evaluation of its activities, as required under its terms of reference for 2024 – 2027, at its meeting in November 2025.

Appendix I

Agenda

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

ITEM 2: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

ITEM 3: 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: ERADICATION OF IMPUNITY FOR SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

ITEM 5: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ITEM 6: SAFE THIRD COUNTRY CONCEPT

ITEM 7: HUMAN RIGHTS AND DRUG POLICIES

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

ITEM 9: NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS & OMBUDSPERSON INSTITUTIONS

ITEM 10: ECHR IN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

ITEM 11: INVITED PERSONALITIES

ITEM 12: THEMATIC RAPPORTEURS & REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER COMMITTEES

ITEM 13: GENDER EQUALITY

ITEM 14: PLANIFICATION OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

ITEM 15: ACCESS TO OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

ITEM 16: ELECTIONS

ITEM 17: CONVENTIONS

ITEM 18: PUBLICATIONS

ITEM 19: CALENDAR

ITEM 20: OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 21: ADOPTION OF THE ABRIDGED REPORT