

... meeting, ... 2026

1 Human rights

1.1 Title

Abridged Report of the 104th meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), 30 June – 3 July 2026

Item to be considered by the GR-H at its meeting on ... 2026.

Information on the meeting

The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) held its 104th meeting in Strasbourg, from 30 June to 3 July 2026, with Tonje MEINICH (Norway), 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:

- Study on the need for and feasibility of updating Recommendation No. R(97)22 of the Committee of Ministers to member State containing guidelines on the application of the safe third country concept;
- Report on the examination of implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendations to member States CM/Rec(2019)6 on the development of the Ombudsperson institution and CM/Rec(2021)1 on the development and strengthening of effective, pluralist and independent national human rights institutions.

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

- CDDH Comments on PACE Recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly [2306 \(2026\)](#) "Procedure for the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights" and [2307 \(2026\)](#) "European guidelines to counter social dumping and labour exploitation", as well as on Recommendations of the Congress of local and regional authorities [543 \(2026\)](#) "Free elections at the local and regional level: A fundamental right to strengthen grassroots democracy" and [548 \(2026\)](#) "Implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights by local and regional authorities: lessons from the case law of the European Court of Human Rights".

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

- Presentations by invited speakers at the discussion on the possible implications of the conclusions of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 23 July 2025 on the obligations of States with respect to climate change and those of the advisory opinion A0-32/35 of 29 May 2025 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on the climate emergency and human rights.

Items for information of the Committee of Ministers

The CDDH,

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

- Exchanged views on the results of the first meeting of its Drafting Group on the use of new technologies by the European Court of Human Rights and new tendencies in litigation before the European Court of Human Rights (CDDH-TE) and on preparations for its second meeting;
- Received information from the Secretariat on the adoption of the Chişinău Declaration; took note that the Committee of Ministers had not taken decisions on possible follow-up to the Declaration and that so far, the CDDH had no mandate in this respect; recalled that paragraph 58 of the Declaration was of general application and not intended to be specific to the context of migration;

As regards the other items on its agenda:

- Held a discussion on the possible implications of the conclusions of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 23 July 2025 on the obligations of States with respect to climate change and those of the advisory opinion A0-32/35 of 28 May 2025 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on the climate emergency and human rights, with the participation of Rodrigo MUDROVITSCH, President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Bogdan-Lucian AURESCU, judge of the International Court of Justice, and Professor Jannika JAHN, University of Trier;
- Held a thematic debate on the right of access to official documents, with the participation of Helena JÄDERBLOM, Chairperson of the Council of Europe Access Info Group, Mateja PREŠERN, Vice-chairperson of the Consultation of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on access to official documents, Professor Päivi KORPISAARI, member of the Council of Europe Access Info Group, and Boglarka BENKO, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights;
- Exchanged views with Eerik-Niiles KROSS, Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- Exchanged views with Maria-Adriani KOSTOPOULOU, Chairperson of the Group of experts on action against violence against women and domestic violence (GREVIO), in the context of its examination of conventions for which it has been given responsibility;
- Held a preliminary exchange of views on a draft Report on possible amendment of Appendices 1 and 3 to 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 and on the possibility of introducing a simplified amendment procedure for Appendix 2, with the participation of Dr Alice Jill EDWARDS, United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and Dr Michael CROWLEY, Omega Research Foundation;
- Exchanged views on the results of the fourth meeting of its Drafting Group on the safe third country concept (CDDH-PTS); decided that following the adoption of the Study on the need for and feasibility of updating Recommendation No. R(97)22 of the Committee of Ministers to member States containing guidelines on the application of the safe third country concept, the CDDH-PTS had fulfilled its mandate;
- Exchanged views on the results of the third meeting of its Drafting Committee on human rights and drug policies (DH-PDA) and on preparations for its fourth meeting; noted the difficulties posed by resource constraints to the preparation of an explanatory memorandum to the draft recommendation being prepared by the DH-PDA;
- Took note of the decisions taken by the Ministers Deputies in March 2026 on follow-up to the CDDH study on the need for and feasibility of (an) additional non-binding instrument(s) to complement the 2011 Committee of Ministers' Guidelines on eradicating impunity for serious human rights violations; exchanged views on preparations for the seventh meeting of its Drafting Group on eradication of impunity for serious human rights violations (CDDH-ELI), taking note that this meeting had been postponed due to the need to hold three extraordinary CDDH plenary meetings between January and March 2026;
- Exchanged views on working methods for its examination of the implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)5 to member States on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training; in this context, received information from members of the Council of Europe Secretariat on other standards and activities relating to human rights education;
- Held a preliminary exchange of views on working methods for its examination of the implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)4 to member States on the publication and dissemination of the European Convention on Human Rights, the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and other relevant texts, noting the connection between this recommendation and Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)5;
- Expressed its interest in working on the system of the European Social Charter, in particular on ensuring effective follow-up to decisions of the European Committee on Social Rights concerning collective complaints; decided to include this issue in its future proposals for deliverables under its terms of reference for 2028-2031;
- Exchanged views on enhancing integration of the youth perspective into its future work; appointed Elīna Luīze VĪTOLA (Latvia) as its youth rapporteur;
- Adopted criteria to be applied by CDDH subordinate bodies in relation to public consultations on texts under preparation;
- Adopted criteria to be applied when examining requests for observer status with the CDDH; examined requests for observer status with the CDDH submitted by the European Law Institute (ELI) and the Association européenne pour la Défense des Droits et des Libertés (ASSEDEL); decided to accept the request by ELI and to reject the request by ASSEDEL;

- Exchanged views on the integration of the gender equality dimension into its work; took note of the thematic form submitted by the Chairperson of the CDDH-PTS following completion of this group's work;
- Took note of the information provided by its thematic rapporteurs and its representatives to other committees; took note in particular of the conclusions of the Workshop on neurotechnologies and human rights organised by the Steering Committee on human rights in biomedicine and health (CDBIO), including those concerning Article 9 (freedom of thought) of the European Convention on Human Rights;
- Took note of the state of signatures and ratifications of the Council of Europe treaties for which it has been given responsibility, and of recent developments concerning derogations and reservations to the European Convention on Human Rights; recalled its existing and envisaged activities in relation to the European Convention on Human Rights and related treaties, the European Social Charter and related treaties, and the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine and related treaties; agreed to keep the other treaties under active review;
- Took note of recent publications of the work of the CDDH;
- Took note of the proposed revised CDDH website;
- Took note of the new online platform for the CDDH Handbook on human rights and artificial intelligence;
- Adopted a revised calendar of meetings during the second semester of 2026 and took note of a provisional calendar of meetings during the first semester of 2027.

Resource implications

The CDDH noted that all of the above activities were conducted within the foreseen budgetary envelopes and that the CDDH-PTS had completed its deliverable within the expected deadlines.

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

The use of new technologies by the European Court of Human Rights / new tendencies in litigation before the European Court of Human Rights

ITEM 4: MINISTERIAL SESSION - CHIȘINĂU

ITEM 5: SAFE THIRD COUNTRY CONCEPT

ITEM 6: HUMAN RIGHTS AND DRUG POLICIES

ITEM 7: ERADICATION OF IMPUNITY FOR SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

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: PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE ECHR, THE CASELAW OF THE COURT AND RELATED TEXTS

ITEM 12: HELP PROGRAMME

ITEM 13: EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

ITEM 14: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ITEM 15: ACCESS TO OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

ITEM 16: INTEGRATION OF THE YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

ITEM 17: PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

ITEM 18: INVITED PERSONALITIES

ITEM 19: THEMATIC RAPPORTEURS & REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER COMMITTEES

ITEM 20: OBSERVERS

ITEM 21: GENDER EQUALITY

ITEM 22: CONVENTIONS

ITEM 23: CDDH WEBSITES

ITEM 24: PUBLICATIONS

ITEM 25: CALENDAR

ITEM 26: OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 27: ADOPTION OF THE ABRIDGED REPORT