



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ACFC/MR(2023)3

Meeting report

80th meeting

Approved by the Advisory Committee on 9 October 2023

Opening of the meeting

The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities held its 80th plenary meeting from 5 to 9 June 2023 in Strasbourg in hybrid format. Petra Roter, President of the Advisory Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Advisory Committee.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Alan Phillips, one of the early members of the Advisory Committee and its President from 2006 to 2010.

Adoption of the Agenda and Order of Business

The Agenda and Order of Business, as reproduced in Appendix I, were adopted without amendments.

Approval of the report of the 79th meeting of the Advisory Committee

Having examined the report of its 79th meeting, the Advisory Committee approved it as produced in document ACFC/MR(2023)2prov without amendments.

Report from the Bureau

The President reported on the Bureau meeting held on 25 May 2023. She raised the issue of online participation of the members of the Advisory Committee, highlighting the wish of the Bureau to move towards in person participation only. It was agreed that all plenaries should be held in person and that online participation would be decided in exceptional circumstances by the Bureau on a case-by-case basis, with a request being sent to the Bureau and the Head of the Secretariat. The need for working group members to be present in person and for national experts when opinions drafted by a respective working group or on a specific state party are examined was underlined. Experts should volunteer to such working groups for which they can guarantee their physical presence at the plenaries when the respective opinion is being approved and adopted. National experts should also be present when the opinion on their state is being discussed for approval and adoption.

The President informed the Advisory Committee of her upcoming participation in a meeting with the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on 20 June 2023 in Strasbourg.

Update by the Secretariat

The Secretariat informed the Advisory Committee about the latest developments in the Committee of Ministers, including the state of play relating to the negotiation of resolutions, as well as about state reports received.

Approval of draft opinions

In application of Rule 37 of Resolution CM/Res(2019)49, the Advisory Committee unanimously approved the following draft opinions:

- Sixth Opinion on Liechtenstein on 8 June 2023,
- Fourth Opinion on Latvia on 8 June 2023,
- Fifth Opinion on Sweden on 9 June 2023.

The Advisory Committee also decided to communicate these draft opinions to the authorities concerned, and to invite the authorities of Liechtenstein, Latvia and Sweden to provide their respective written observations by 16 August 2023.

Adoption of final opinions

In application of Rule 25 of Resolution CM/Res(2019)49, the Advisory Committee unanimously adopted the following opinions:

- Fifth Opinion on Albania on 6 June 2023,
- Fifth Opinion on the Republic of Moldova on 7 June 2023,

- Fifth Opinion on Austria on 8 June 2023.

The opinions will be sent to the states concerned for comments and be made public during the second half of October 2023.

Exchanges of views

On 7 June, the Advisory Committee held an exchange of views on current challenges in the field of minority protection with Kairat Abdrakhmanov, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, and Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of the Anti-Discrimination Directorate of the Council of Europe. The new [joint webpage on OSCE/Council of Europe standards in relation to minority rights](#), which was launched to mark the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, as well as the 30th anniversary of the opening of the office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in The Hague, was presented.

On 8 June, the Advisory Committee held an exchange of views with Aurora Ailincăi, Executive Director of the Council of Europe's [Observatory on History Teaching in Europe](#), who presented the Observatory, its mission, and activities. During the exchange, experts underlined the relevance of the work done by the Observatory for the Advisory Committee's upcoming monitoring visits and expressed interest in collecting data on national minorities in history teaching.

Thematic work

The Advisory Committee took note of a presentation of the draft outline on the revision of the thematic commentary on education prepared by the Working Group on the revision of the thematic commentary. The Working Group emphasised the importance of involving all members of the Advisory Committee in the preparation of the revised thematic commentary. Members of the Advisory Committee were invited to share their views on the proposed outline and the approach to be taken by the Working Group. The Working Group will continue to update the Advisory Committee on the thematic work, with a view to asking for written input on the basis of a text in forthcoming plenaries.

The Secretariat updated the Advisory Committee about the Source Book. The members of the Advisory Committee were invited to make suggestions with regard to principles contained in the newly adopted Opinions to be included into the Source Book.

Composition of Working Groups/Planning of visits

The Advisory Committee agreed on the composition of working groups and planning of visits as listed in ACFC/DOC(2023)3. The Advisory Committee also took note of the list of planned visits in the first quarter of 2024. The President asked the interested members to put themselves forward for the planned visits, including as backup members, and to seek to ensure gender diversity in working groups.

The Advisory Committee appointed David Smith as its new representative to the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), replacing Emma Lantschner as of 1 July 2023.

Update on standing working groups on the Russian Federation and on Ukraine

The standing working groups on Ukraine and on the Russian Federation and the Secretariat shared information about latest developments. The Advisory Committee decided to continue following the developments closely.

Report back

Emma Lantschner, representative to the CDADI, informed the Advisory Committee of the recent developments within the CDADI, including the upcoming finalisation of the draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the active political participation of national minority youth.

■ **Next meetings:**

2023: 9 to 13 October 2023 (Graz, Austria). 15 members having confirmed their participation in person, the holding of the plenary in Graz was confirmed.

2024: 5 to 9 February 2024; 27 to 31 May 2024; and 14 to 18 October 2024.

Appendix I – Agenda

Monday 5 June 2023

- 9.00 – 9.30 Opening of the meeting
 Adoption of the agenda & Order of Business
 Approval of the 79th meeting report
 Report from the Bureau
 Recent developments
 Update by the Secretariat
- 9.30 – 12.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Latvia
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 18.00 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Latvia (cont'd)

Tuesday 6 June 2023

- 9.00 – 12.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Sweden
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 17.00 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Sweden (cont'd)
- 17.00 – 18.00 Monitoring: Reading and final adoption of the draft Fifth Opinion on Albania

Wednesday 7 June 2023

- 9.00 – 11.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Sixth Opinion on Liechtenstein
- 11.30 – 12.30 Monitoring: Reading and final adoption of the draft Fifth Opinion on the Republic of Moldova
- 12.30 – 14.15 Break
- 14.15 – 15.15 Thematic work: Revision of the thematic commentary on education
- 15.30 – 17.30 Exchange of views on current challenges in the minority protection, with the participation of:
 - Kairat Abdrakhmanov, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities,
 - Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director, Directorate of Anti-Discrimination, Council of Europe.

Thursday 8 June 2023

- 9.00 – 10.00 Exchange of views with Aurora Ailincăi, Executive Director of the Council of Europe's Observatory on History Teaching in Europe
- 10.00 – 11.00 Monitoring: Reading and final adoption of the draft Fifth Opinion on Austria
- 11.00 – 12.30 Monitoring: Second reading and possible approval of the draft Sixth Opinion on Liechtenstein (cont'd)
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 17.00 Monitoring: Second reading and possible approval of the draft Fifth Opinion on Latvia (cont'd)
- 17.00 – 18.00 Update on standing working groups on Ukraine and on the Russian Federation

Friday 9 June 2023

- 9.00 – 12.00 Monitoring: Second reading and possible approval of the draft Fifth Opinion on Sweden (cont'd)
- 12.00 – 13.00 Working methods and composition of Working groups/Planning of visits
 Thematic work: Source Book
 Recent developments: Update by members and reporting back on participation in external events
 Any other business
 List of decisions

Appendix II – List of participants

- Ordinary members:

Pedro AGUILERA CORTÉS (Spain)
Alexandra CASTRO (Portugal)
Laura-Maria CRACIUNEAN-TATU (Romania)
Emilia DRUMEVA (Bulgaria)
Tomáš HRUSTIČ (Slovak Republic)
Emma LANTSCHNER (Italy) – First Vice-President
Nicolas LEVRAT (Switzerland) – Second Vice-President
Oliver LOODE (Estonia)
Teymur MALIK-ASLANOV (Azerbaijan)
Jørgen MØLLEKÆR (Denmark)
Egly PANTELAKIS (Cyprus)
Mārtiņš PĀPARINSKIS (Latvia)
Klaus POIER (Austria)
Mikko PUUMALAINEN (Finland)
Petra ROTER (Slovenia) – President
Harald Christian SCHEU (Czech Republic)
David SMITH (United Kingdom)
Nebojša VUČINIĆ (Montenegro)

- Additional members:

Evis ALIMEHMETI (Albania)
Ian FELDMAN (Republic of Moldova)
Marie HAGSGÅRD (Sweden)