



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ACFC/MR(2024)2

Meeting report

83rd meeting

Approved by the Advisory Committee on 14 October 2024

Opening of the meeting

The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ACFC) held its 83rd meeting from 27 to 31 May 2024 in Strasbourg. Petra Roter, President of the Advisory Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Advisory Committee. She congratulated Tove Malloy on her recent election as ordinary member.

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 82nd meeting of the Advisory Committee

Having examined the report of its 82nd meeting, the Advisory Committee approved the report as reproduced in document ACFC/MR(2024)1prov without amendments.

Report from the Bureau

Referring to the Bureau meeting held on 14 May 2024, the President shared several suggestions from the Bureau regarding the presentation of draft opinions, which were unanimously agreed by the Advisory Committee. The President also informed that Tomáš Hrustić, as the longest-serving member of the Advisory Committee attending the meeting in person, would chair the discussions on the draft 14th activity report and the revised draft Thematic Commentary on Education, as the Bureau members were all part of these working groups.

Update by the Secretariat

Elise Cornu, Executive Secretary, informed members of the Advisory Committee about the latest developments in the Committee of Ministers, including the state of play relating to the negotiation of resolutions, election of experts and state reports received.

Approval of draft opinions

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

- Fifth opinion on Ireland, on 29 May 2024;
- Fifth opinion on Lithuania, on 30 May 2024.

The Advisory Committee also decided to communicate these draft opinions to the authorities concerned, and to invite the authorities of Ireland and Lithuania to provide their respective written observations by 30 August 2024.

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 Bulgaria, on 29 May 2024;
- Fifth opinion on Azerbaijan, on 30 May 2024;
- Fourth opinion on Montenegro, on 30 May 2024.

Composition of Working Groups/Planning of visits

The Advisory Committee took note of the composition of working groups and planning visits as listed in document ACFC/DOC(2024)3.

The Secretariat provided an update on the situation in Ukraine and on recent legal developments and emphasised that the Secretariat remains closely engaged with the current situation and in dialogue with the authorities. The Secretariat indicated that, based on the received information, Ukraine's state report, due on 1 May 2024, is being prepared but may be submitted with some delays.

The Advisory Committee also exchanged information on upcoming visits (Czechia and Serbia).

Thematic Work

The Advisory Committee adopted the Thematic Commentary No. 1 (2024) on Education under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, revising and replacing the Thematic Commentary No. 1 (2006). It agreed to organise a launch event during the Advisory Committee plenary meeting in October 2024 and to reflect on possible ways for disseminating the Thematic Commentary.

The Advisory Committee also adopted its 14th Activity Report covering the period 1 June 2022-31 May 2024, which will be presented to the Committee of Ministers by the President on 25 September 2024.

Alexandra Castro, Gender Equality Rapporteur, and the Secretariat presented an information document on gender mainstreaming in the work of the Advisory Committee (2021-2024). The Advisory Committee welcomed the progress achieved in ensuring gender mainstreaming in its work. It took note of the information document and agreed to publish its appendices which contain a gender-sensitive analysis of the opinions of the Advisory Committee covering the period 2017-2020 and 2021-2024. It was also suggested to update the Gender Equality Checklist to include questions relating to culture and media.

The Advisory Committee also exchanged on the Glossary and on the personal and territorial scope of application of the Framework Convention. The Advisory Committee took note of the documents prepared by the Secretariat and highlighted their value for its internal work and preparation of future visits.

Reporting back on participation in external events

Emma Lantschner, as a member of the working group on Sweden, and Elise Cornu, Executive Secretary, reported about their participation in the [follow-up meeting](#) on the recommendations in the Advisory Committee's Fifth Opinion on Sweden, held in Stockholm, on 19 April 2024.

David Smith, as a ACFC representative to the CDADI, reported on his participation in the first meeting of the CDADI working group on deliverables regarding national minorities, held online on 22 May 2024. He reported on the state of play of the CDADI "Study on the recurrent problematic areas in the field of regional or minority language protection and identification of good practices in member states" and informed that his proposal to present the Thematic Commentary on Education at the next meeting of this working group had been accepted.

Dates of the next plenary meetings and concluding remarks

The Advisory Committee confirmed the dates of the following plenary meetings:

- 85th plenary from 24 to 28 February 2025;
- 86th plenary from 30 June to 4 July 2025;
- 87th plenary from 13 to 17 October 2025.

The President thanked the members of the Advisory Committee whose term of office expires on 31 May 2024 for their contribution and for their constructive and friendly attitudes. She also thanked Sandra Veloy-Mateu who will be leaving the Secretariat as of July 2024.

Appendix I – Agenda

Monday 27 May 2024

- 9.30 – 10.00 Opening of the meeting
Adoption of the Agenda & Order of Business
Approval of the 82nd meeting report
Report from the Bureau
Update by the Secretariat
- 10.00 – 12.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Ireland
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 18.00 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Ireland (cont'd)

Tuesday 28 May 2024

- 9.00 – 12.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Lithuania
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 17.00 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Lithuania (cont'd)
- 17.00 – 18.00 Thematic work: Reading of the substantive section of the 14th Biennial Activity Report and Gender mainstreaming in the ACFC's work

Wednesday 29 May 2024

- 9.00 – 12.30 Monitoring: Second reading and possible approval of the draft Fifth Opinion on Ireland
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 17.00 Thematic work: draft revised Thematic Commentary on Education
- 17.00 – 18.00 Composition of Working groups/Planning of visits and exchange about upcoming visits

Thursday 30 May 2024

- 9.00 – 12.30 Monitoring: Second reading and possible approval of the draft Fifth Opinion on Lithuania
- 12.30 – 14.15 Break
- 14.15 – 17.30 Monitoring: Reading and final adoption of the draft Fourth Opinion on Montenegro, reading and final adoption of the draft Fifth Opinion on Azerbaijan and reading and final adoption of the draft Fifth Opinion on Bulgaria

Friday 31 May 2024

- 9.00 – 12:00 Thematic work: Adoption of the draft revised Thematic Commentary on Education, approval of the 14th Biennial Activity Report, and presentation of the updated Glossary and the document on Personal and territorial scope of the application of the FCNM
- 12.00 – 12.30 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)
 Tove HANSEN MALLOY (Denmark)
 Tomáš HRUSTIČ (Slovak Republic)
 Emma LANTSCHNER (Italy) – First Vice-President
 Oliver LOODE (Estonia)
 Egly PANTELAKIS (Cyprus)
 Klaus POIER (Austria)
 Mikko PUUMALAINEN (Finland)
 Petra ROTER (Slovenia) – President
 Harald Christian SCHEU (Czechia)
 David SMITH (United Kingdom) - Second Vice-President
 Nebojša VUČINIĆ (Montenegro)

▪ Additional members:

Thomas MCCANN (Ireland)
 Šarūnas LIEKIS (Lithuania)

▪ Excused:

Teymur MALIK-ASLANOV (Azerbaijan)

► Secretariat of the Council of Europe

Elise CORNU, Executive Secretary and Head of the National Minorities and Minority Languages Division
 Lusine DRAMPYAN, Administrator
 Michaël GUET, Administrator, Policy Adviser
 Jörg HORN, Administrator, Policy Adviser
 Maxime HUOT, Administrator
 Kinga JENSEN-MAGYAR, Administrator
 Zeynep USAL-KANZLER, Administrator
 Sandra VELOY MATEU, Senior Project Officer
 Amona ZEMON, Project Officer
 Kristina DEDAJ, Administrative Assistant
 Snežana LALIČIĆ, Administrative Assistant
 Tom SCHIEBER, Trainee