



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ACFC/MR(2025)2

Meeting report

86th meeting

Approved by the Advisory Committee on 14 October 2025

Opening of the meeting

The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ACFC) held its 86th meeting from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Strasbourg. Petra Roter, President of the Advisory Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Advisory Committee.

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 85th meeting of the Advisory Committee

Having examined the report of its 85th meeting, the Advisory Committee approved the report as reproduced in document ACFC/MR(2025)1, without amendments.

Report from the Bureau

The President reported about the Bureau meeting held on 17 June 2025. She also informed the Advisory Committee about various state pressures on independent human rights institutions and bodies, including about the [open letter](#) in which several member states expressed their reservations regarding the European Court of Human Rights' case-law on migration.

Update by the Secretariat

Elise Cornu, Executive Secretary, informed the Advisory Committee about developments in the Committee of Ministers, including the state of negotiations of country resolutions, and updated the members of the Advisory Committee about state reports recently received. She also reminded experts to coordinate with the Secretariat when they receive requests for interviews in their capacity as members of the Advisory Committee.

The President welcomed the publication of a [factsheet on Environmental challenges and national minorities](#) prepared by the Secretariat.

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 draft Opinion on Hungary, on 2 July 2025;
- Fifth draft Opinion on Portugal, on 3 July 2025.

The Advisory Committee also decided to communicate these draft opinions to the authorities concerned, and to invite them to provide written observations until 12 September 2025.

Adoption of final opinions

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

- Sixth Opinion on Cyprus, on 1 July 2025;
- Sixth Opinion on Malta, on 1 July 2025;
- Sixth Opinion on Czechia, on 2 July 2025;
- Sixth Opinion on Spain, on 2 July 2025.

Exchange of views on gender mainstreaming in the work of the Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee's Gender Equality Rapporteur, Judith Wyttenbach, member in respect of Switzerland, presented an expanded checklist on gender mainstreaming, addressing issues related to Articles 5, 9 and 11 of the Framework Convention.

Members of the Advisory Committee stressed the importance of ensuring a gender-balanced composition of the Advisory Committee's delegations during monitoring visits, as well as collecting data on gender-related issues at the national level and considering the possible appointment of an *ad hoc* gender rapporteur within each working group.

The new expanded checklist, to be merged in the consolidated checklist (see below), will be circulated to members of the Advisory Committee, with a view to approving it at the 87th plenary session in October 2025. The Secretariat's proposal to prepare a factsheet on Gender equality and national minorities, including intersectionality, was also agreed.

Exchange about upcoming visits and ACFC working methods

The Bureau updated the Advisory Committee on the upcoming visit to Ukraine in the context of the fifth and sixth monitoring cycles. The working group expressed satisfaction with the numerous online meetings held with various interlocutors ahead of the visit and, consequently, with the hybrid format of the visit given the ongoing war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

The Advisory Committee also discussed the ACFC working methods, notably in relation to the conduct of monitoring visits and drafting opinions. The President encouraged members to use the guidelines and materials that the Advisory Committee and its Secretariat have prepared over the years so that the working groups would be fully prepared to face the increasing challenges on the ground and throughout the entire monitoring process in general. Potential ways to equip working groups for these challenges were then discussed.

Exchange of views on the SourceBook and discussion of a list of issues for the monitoring visits

The Working Group on the SourceBook presented two checklists of issues: one of a general nature, and the other focusing specifically on matters concerning Roma and Travellers, for use during monitoring visits and as preparation for collecting data and drafting opinions. These checklists draw upon material contained in the SourceBook relating to the Advisory's Committee's case law, as well as recommendations stemming from its recent opinions. They are designed as living, flexible instruments to be tailored to the context of each state party of the Framework Convention before a respective monitoring visit. Members of the Advisory Committee welcomed the checklists and proposed merging them with the aforementioned gender mainstreaming checklist, with a view to approving a final consolidated version during the Advisory Committee's plenary session in October 2025.

The President further invited members to undertake research on the issue of the display of national minority symbols in their respective states, with a view to addressing this emerging topic during the monitoring process.

Update by the members and reporting back on participation in external events

David Smith, second vice-President of the Advisory Committee, took part in the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) working group meetings on deliverables relating to national minorities, held online on 9 April and 12 May 2025. He informed the Advisory Committee about the CDADI's upcoming study on regional or minority language protection and identification of good practices in member states. The study is expected to be published in early 2026 and will be shared with the Advisory Committee.

Tove H. Malloy, member in respect of Denmark, attended a meeting organised by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on addressing discrimination against

women and girls belonging to national minorities. In her intervention, Tove H. Malloy explained on how gender is mainstreamed in the monitoring work of the ACFC and presented some of its findings.

Petra Roter, President of the Advisory Committee, informed the Advisory Committee about her participation in the 7th meeting of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Intercultural Inclusion (ADI-INT) on 14 May 2025. She informed the Advisory Committee of various issues of joint concern and of various documents of the ADI-INT, including on integration. In addition, with Ingeborg Birnie-Havenga, member in respect of the Netherlands, she mentioned an online meeting they attended on the [COST Action Project](#) (led by ECMI) on regional/minority language and new media. The meeting brought together various experts working on media and minority language-related issues. A presentation was given on the case law of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention concerning media. Members of the Advisory Committee discussed the role of new media, particularly social media, and its interaction with regional and minority languages. Emphasis was placed on the need to address and understand developments in new media, including through an interdisciplinary approach to this phenomenon. Developing specific questions on social media and meeting media experts (i.e. holding one dedicated session on this matter) during monitoring visits were mentioned as possible avenues. The Advisory Committee also expressed its interest in organising an exchange of views on this topic at one of its forthcoming plenaries.

■ Composition of working groups/planning of visits

The Advisory Committee exchanged on the composition of working groups and planning of visits. It agreed that the composition of future working groups would be circulated among the members and invited all members to come forward with their preferences, and that the bureau would look at the composition of working groups.

■ Future plenary meetings

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

- 87th plenary from 13 to 17 October 2025;
- 88th plenary from 9 to 13 February 2026;
- 89th plenary from 18 to 22 May 2026.

Appendix I – Agenda

Monday, 30 June 2025

- 09.45 – 10.30 Opening of the meeting
Adoption of the Agenda & Order of Business
Approval of the 85th meeting report
Report from the Bureau
Update by the Secretariat
- 10.30 – 12.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Sixth Opinion on Hungary
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 18.00 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Sixth Opinion on Hungary

Tuesday, 1 July 2025

- 09.30 – 10.30 Monitoring: Reading and final adoption of the draft Sixth Opinion on Malta
Reading and final adoption of the draft Sixth Opinion on Cyprus
- 10.30 – 12.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Portugal
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 18.00 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Portugal

Wednesday, 2 July 2025

- 09.30 – 10.30 Monitoring: Reading and final adoption of the draft Sixth Opinion on Spain
Reading and final adoption of the draft Sixth Opinion on Czechia
- 10.30 – 12.30 Exchange of views on gender mainstreaming in the work of the Advisory Committee
Exchange about upcoming visits and ACFC working methods
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 18.00 Monitoring: Second reading and approval of the draft Sixth Opinion on Hungary
Exchange of views on the Sourcebook and discussion of list of issues for monitoring visits
Update by members and reporting back on participation in external events

Thursday, 3 July 2025

- 09.00 – 11.30 Monitoring: Second reading and possible approval of the draft Fifth Opinion on Portugal
- 11.30 – 12.30 Composition of working groups/planning of visits
Next meetings
Any other business
List of decisions adopted during the meeting

Appendix II – List of participants

▪ Ordinary Members

Pedro AGUILERA CORTÉS (Spain)
 Evis ALIMEHMETI (Albania)
 Ingeborg BIRNIE-HAVENGA (Netherlands)
 Besarion BOKHASHVILI (Georgia)
 Laura-Maria CRĂCIUNEAN-TATU (Romania)
 Vladimir DJURIĆ (Serbia)
 Yuliia FYSUN (Ukraine) *online*
 Tomáš HRUSTIČ (Slovak Republic)
 Šarūnas LIEKIS (Lithuania)
 Tove H. MALLOY (Denmark)
 Egly PANTELAKIS (Cyprus)
 Klaus POIER (Austria)
 Detlev REIN (Germany)
 Petra ROTER (Slovenia)
 Roksana RUDEVIČA (Latvia)
 Elisabeth SÁNDOR-SZALAYNÉ (Hungary)
 David SMITH (United Kingdom)
 Judith WYTTEBACH (Switzerland)

▪ Additional Members:

Harald Christian SCHEU (Czechia) *online*

➤ 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
 Snežana LALIČIĆ, Administrative Assistant
 Tom SCHIEBER, Project Assistant
 Sara CAMUSSI, Trainee