

Enhancing the selection process of European Court
of Human Rights judges through multi-institutional dialogue

SEMINAR MARKING THE 15 YEARS OF THE ADVISORY PANEL'S WORK

27 November 2025, Strasbourg

OPENING SESSION

**Ambassador Daniela Cujbă – Permanent Representative of Moldova to the Council
of Europe; President of the Ministers' Deputies**

**Dear Mr. President of the European Court of Human Rights,
Dear Ms. Chairperson of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European
Court of Human Rights,
Dear Mr. Chair of the Advisory Panel
Dear Ms. Chairperson of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)**

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and an honour, in my capacity as President of the Ministers' Deputies, to participate at the opening of this seminar marking the 15th anniversary of the Advisory Panel of Experts on Candidates for Election as Judge to the European Court of Human Rights (the Advisory Panel). Today's event provides an important opportunity to reflect on the significant role the Panel has played, and continues to play, in strengthening the authority and legitimacy of the European Court of Human Rights. It resonates as well with one of the priorities of the Republic of Moldova's CM Presidency – supporting the Convention system implementation thus highlighting the key role played by the European Court of Human Rights in the CoE institutional and value architecture.

The creation of the Advisory Panel responded directly to the call made in the 2010 Interlaken Declaration, which invited the High Contracting Parties to the Convention and the Council of Europe to ensure that the criteria set out in Article 21 of the European Convention on Human Rights for serving as a judge at the Court (high moral character, qualifications for high judicial office, or jurisconsult of recognised competence) were fully met, and to ensure the impartiality and quality of the Court.

This initiative formed part of a broader effort to safeguard judicial independence and the quality of courts, both nationally and at European level. Member States and the Committee of Ministers recognised that additional guarantees were needed to ensure that the process of selecting judges to the Court met the highest standards of transparency, fairness and credibility.

Since its creation, the role of the Advisory Panel has continued to evolve, driven in part by the increasing engagement and expectations of the Parliamentary Assembly. To improve the quality, fairness and transparency of national selection procedures, the Committee of Ministers adopted in 2012 its Guidelines on the selection of candidates, providing States with a common framework to follow before submitting lists to the Advisory Panel and then

to the Parliamentary Assembly. In parallel, the Panel has gradually developed a consistent practice, which consolidates the criteria applied and provides a unique overview of recurring challenges and good practices across member States.

This evolution has been recognised at the highest level. I would like to highlight the decision adopted by the Committee of Ministers at its 1488th meeting on 7 February 2024, in response to the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) report on issues relating to judges of the Court. The Committee of Ministers “*welcomed the evolving practice of the Advisory Panel to assess national selection procedures and invited it to publish its views on them in an anonymised and non-country-specific manner*”. The PACE Committee on the election of judges has made similar requests, reflecting its increasingly close cooperation with the Advisory Panel.

The Advisory Panel has proved indispensable in the system of elections of judges. Its work has helped improve the quality of candidates proposed by States, thereby reinforcing the legitimacy and authority of the Court.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the Committee of Ministers' unanimous and unconditional support for the Advisory Panel. Its establishment is a clear success, and its contribution has strengthened year after year. Together with the Parliamentary Assembly and national authorities, the Committee of Ministers will continue to consider the evolving role of the Panel in response to new challenges that may arise in an increasingly challenging political context, which poses new difficulties in the election and appointment of international judges. I am confident that the Panel will continue to uphold the highest standards expected of judges of the European Court of Human Rights, thereby supporting the legitimacy and authority of the Court.

I thank you