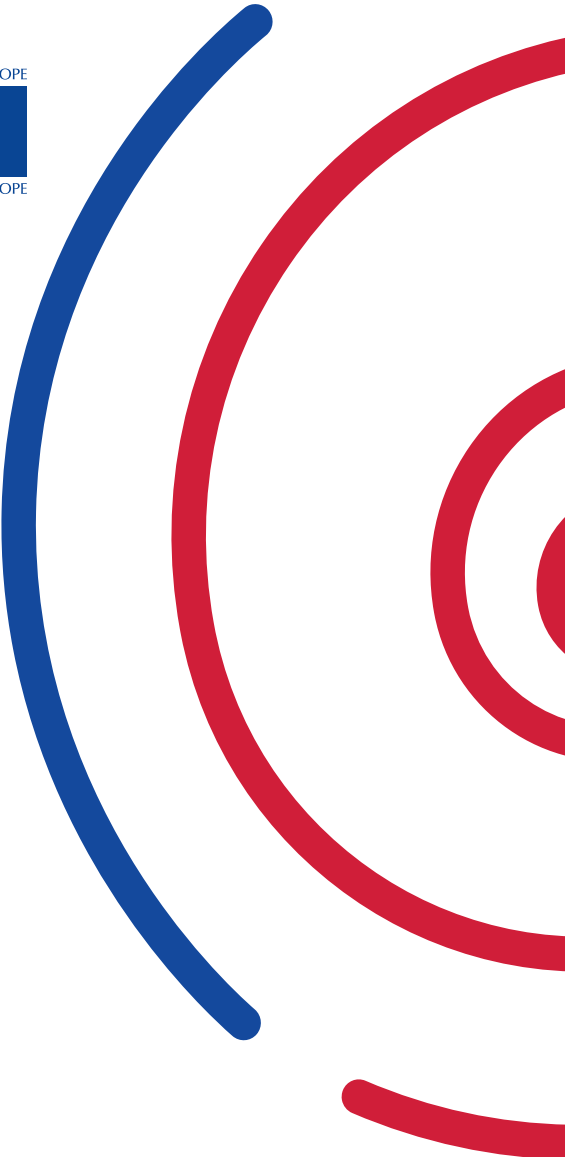




Presidency of Malta
Council of Europe
May - November 2025

Présidence de Malte
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai - Novembre 2025



Third meeting of the representatives of national co-ordinating bodies established under the Istanbul Convention

**Chaplain's Hall, Villa Bighi, Malta
6th November 2025**

**Third meeting of the representatives of national co-ordinating bodies
established under the Istanbul Convention**

Programme

08:30 Welcome Coffee

Part 1: Welcome Words (media presence)

09:00 Hon. Rebecca Buttigieg, Parliamentary Secretary for Equality and Reforms, Malta

09:10 Samantha Pace Gasan, Commissioner on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence, Malta

Media & Parliamentary Secretary Exit

Part 2: Opening of the Meeting

09:30 Marja Ruotanen, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe (video recording)

09:35 Tanja Gonggrijp, President of the Committee of the Parties, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe (video recording)

Part 3: The role and involvement of the Judiciary

09:45 Keynote speech: Maria Andriani Kostopoulou, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

10:00 Panel Discussion – Experiences from parties to the Istanbul Convention
Moderator:

- Sasha Na Jeong Farrugia, Assistant Director, Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence

Presentations:

- Jovana Radifković, Director of the Directorate for Protection against Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence, Ministry of Social Affairs, Family and Demography, Montenegro
- Lisa Gormley LLM, Solicitor (non-practising) Visiting Fellow, the Centre for Women, Peace and Security, the London School of Economics and Political Science
- Svetlana Cvetkovska, Head of the Department for Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Social Policy, Demography and Youth, North Macedonia

10:30 Questions and Discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

Part 4: Investigations and Prosecution (Articles 49 – 51, 54, 55)

- 11:30 **Presentation:**
Brian Belling, Chief Superintendent, North Zealand Police, Denmark
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- 11:40 **Panel Discussion**
Moderator:
- Françoise Kempf, Senior Project manager, Violence against women Division, Council of Europe
- Presentations:**
- Miriam Bahamonde Blanco, Senior prosecutor, General Prosecutor's Office, Spain
 - Hilda Holmström, Legal advisor - Men's violence against women, Swedish National Gender Equality Agency, Sweden
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- 12:10 **Questions and Discussion**

12:30 Photo session and lunch

Part 5: Restraining, Protection and Emergency Barring Orders (Articles 52 & 53, 56)

- 13:30 **Moderator:**
- Marceline Naudi, Academic and Activist, Malta
- Presentations:**
- Marie-Theres Prantner, Head of Department, and Verena Wehmeyer, Advisor, Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research, Department for the Prevention of and Protection from Violence and National Coordination Body for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention
 - Jovana Stanar Vukovic, Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry without portfolio in charge of gender equality, prevention of the domestic violence and economical and political empowerment of women, Serbia
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- 14:00 **Questions and Discussion**
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- 14:30 **Coffee Break**

Part 6: The Role of Co-ordinating bodies in addressing these challenges

- 15:00 **Structured workshops designed for idea generation and action development**
Facilitators:
- Prof. Margaret Mangion, The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation, University of Malta
 - Prof. Leonie Baldacchino, The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation, University of Malta
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- 16:00 **Plenary Session**
Rapporteurs to present outcomes of workshops
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- 16:30 **Discussion**
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Part 7: Closing of the Meeting

17:00	Françoise Kempf, Senior Project manager, Violence against women Division, Council of Europe
17:10	Samantha Pace Gasan, Commissioner on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence, Malta
17:20	End of Programme

Followed by Aperitif dinner offered by Maltese Authorities

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