

**STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FIELDS OF
BIOMEDICINE AND HEALTH (CDBIO)**

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION GROUP
ON DRUGS AND ADDICTIONS (POMPIDOU GROUP)**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Drafting Committee on Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions
(BIO-ALN)**

(as adopted by the Committee of Ministers at 1554th meeting, 12 March 2026)

Drafting Committee on Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions (BIO-ALN)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Type of committee: Subordinate body

Terms of reference valid from: 1 September 2026 until 31 December 2027

PILLAR/PROGRAMME/SUB-PROGRAMME

Pillar: Human Rights / Rule of Law

Programme: Advancing social justice, good health and a sustainable environment

Sub-programme: Health and human rights

DELIVERABLE

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, and of the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO), the BIO-ALN is instructed to complete Draft recommendation on Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions, based notably on the policy document: “Strategies and regulatory options aimed at reducing risks and harms related to online gaming and online gambling” adopted by the Permanent Correspondents of the Council of Europe International Cooperation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group) at their 94th meeting in Naples, on 30th May 2024.

COMPOSITION

Members

The Committee shall be composed of **15 members**, comprising of two experts designated by the Pompidou Group; one expert designated by the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO); one expert designated by the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI); one expert designated by the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF); one expert designated by the Steering Committee for the New Emerging Technologies (CDNET); one expert designated by the Committee of Convention 108 (T-PD); one expert designated by the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY); one expert designated by Steering Committee on Education (CDEDU); one expert designated by Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS); one expert designated from the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) one expert designated by the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH); one expert designated by the Gender Equality Commission (GEC); and two independent experts designated by the Secretary General.

The designated experts shall have established expertise at least in one of the following areas:

- knowledge and experience in addiction research, particularly concerning online gaming, gambling and technology-facilitated addictions and addictive behaviours;
- background in public health, epidemiology, or a related field with a focus on behavioural health and addiction prevention;
- expertise in mental health, addiction psychiatry, and psychology, particularly related to internet usage and digital behaviours;

- knowledge of digital gaming design, online applications and how these technologies can foster addictive behaviours.

The Committee is composed in accordance with Article 6 of Resolution CM/Res(2021)3-consolidated regarding intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

The Pompidou Group will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of these 15 members. Other member States of the Council of Europe and of the Pompidou Group may send a representative to the meetings of the Drafting Committee without defrayal of expenses.

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them can take part in the voting.

Participants:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their respective corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send a representative without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union;
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, United States of America;
- other international organisations (United Nations including the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO);
- World Health Organisation (WHO); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); and Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD/OAS)).

Observers:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- States having been invited by decision of the Committee of Ministers to participate in the negotiations;
- interested organisations from Civil Society: the Council of Europe welcomes and promotes the widest participation of civil society, in line with the Guidance note on Civil Society Participation in the Intergovernmental Work of the Council of Europe CDDEM(2024)14, as Observers. Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of Resolution CM/Res(2021)3-consolidated on intergovernmental

committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

WORKING METHODS

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution CM/Res(2021)3-consolidated regarding intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Meetings:

15 members, 1 meeting in 2026, 2 days per meeting;
15 members, 2 meetings in 2027, 2 days per meeting.

The BIO-ALN will appoint from amongst its members a Gender Equality Rapporteur.

The Chair will be invited to attend meetings of the CDBIO and/or its Bureau to inform them on progress with its work.