

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 5 January 2023

CAI-BU(2023)01

COMMITTEE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (CAI)

3rd Bureau Meeting

Online

5 January 2023

10 am - 12 pm and 2 - 4 pm (CET)

ABRIDGED REPORT

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1. Opening of the meeting

1. The Chair of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), Mr Thomas SCHNEIDER (Switzerland) welcomed the members of the Bureau and outlined the main aims of the meeting namely, to examine the next steps in the elaboration of the [framework] Convention and to prepare the 3rd Plenary meeting of the Committee.
2. Mrs Claudia LUCIANI, Director, Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, welcomed all participants to the 3rd meeting of the CAI Bureau. She stated that 2023 will be an extremely important year for the Committee, and would hopefully result in the adoption of the Council of Europe's [framework] Convention on Artificial Intelligence by November, as set out in the Committee's Terms of Reference. She informed the Bureau of the outcomes of recent fruitful meetings between the Secretariat and the European Commission, during which both organisations discussed their respective functioning and initiatives on artificial intelligence, namely the Council of Europe's [framework] Convention and the European Union's AI Act, and coordinated to best lead these activities in a parallel and concerted manner.
3. Mr Jan KLEIJSEN, Director, Information Society – Action against Crime, also welcomed the Bureau members. He added that another major event for the Council of Europe in 2023 is the organisation of the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, which will take place in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 16-17 May 2023. He further stated that the opportunity should be seized on this crucial occasion to mention the overarching importance of digital technologies in our modern societies, and to promote the Council of Europe's [framework] Convention on Artificial Intelligence as the first legally binding global instrument on AI.

2. Adoption of the agenda

4. The Bureau adopted the agenda without amendments.

3. Information provided by the Chair, Secretariat, and Bureau members

5. The Chair informed the Bureau of his participation in regional and international fora, inter alia the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the OECD Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting in Gran Canaria, Spain. Mr SCHNEIDER reiterated the strong interest at global level for the work of the Committee, and informed the Bureau of his discussions in particular with representatives of Brazil and countries from the African continent.
6. Mr Kristian BARTHOLIN, Secretary to the CAI, further mentioned the Secretariat's participation in the two aforementioned conferences, and highlighted the particular interest brought by the Committee's work on the risk and impact assessment of AI systems, which is widely being recognised as particularly innovative and unique.
7. Mr BARTHOLIN additionally mentioned a correspondence from a group of observer organisations to the Committee received the previous evening by the Secretariat and all Bureau members.
8. Having examined and discussed this issue in detail, the Bureau considered that the decision concerning the composition and working methods of the Drafting Group taken at the 2nd Plenary meeting of the CAI should be upheld and therefore would not recommend for the CAI to reconsider its decision in this regard. At the same time, the Bureau considered that it was important to fully and clearly explain to the CAI at the upcoming Plenary meeting how

the working methods of the Drafting Group would be implemented and the interplay with the Plenary would be organised, in order to allow for a continued meaningful participation of all stakeholders in the work of the CAI.

4. Next steps in the elaboration of the [framework] Convention

9. The Bureau examined and discussed a revised version of the “Zero Draft” [framework] Convention prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the comments received on the “Zero Draft” [framework] Convention both in written procedure and during the 2nd Plenary meeting of the Committee.
10. The Bureau commended the quality of this revised version of the “Zero Draft” which reflects the comments made by Delegations and instructed the Secretariat to distribute it, as amended after the Bureau meeting, to the Committee ahead of the 3rd Plenary meeting.

5. Preparation of the 3rd CAI Plenary meeting (11 - 13 January 2023)

11. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that Ms Thórhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR (Iceland), Chair of the Parliamentary Assembly’s Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, has confirmed her participation in the upcoming Plenary meeting.
12. The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to amend the Draft Agenda of the 3rd Plenary meeting in order to allow for the introduction of an agenda item presenting the working methods for the drafting of the [framework] Convention and examining the revised Roadmap.

6. Any other business

13. The Bureau members examined the possibility of holding the meetings of the Drafting Group in a hybrid format, pursuant to a request stemming from some Delegations.
14. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to explore ways to provide online streaming of the sessions without interpretation to members of the Drafting Group, taking into account available resources.