COMMITTEE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (CAI)

4th Bureau Meeting

Paris

2 March 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 5th Plenary meeting of the Committee.

2. Mr Patrick PENNINCKX, Head of the Information Society Department, welcomed the members of Bureau and stated the importance of the work of the CAI and the promotion of the future [framework] Convention as the first legally binding global standard in this sphere. He welcomed the beginning of negotiations on the Convention and emphasized that the working methods of the CAI have been transparent and inclusive. He reiterated that the Bureau plays an important role in organising the work of the Committee, ensuring its smooth functioning and gently supporting the work of the Chair.

3. He further noted various events the Secretariat has been involved in both externally and internally, the preparations for 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, and lastly mentioned the need to reflect on the format and substance of the work to be undertaken by the Council of Europe on AI and new digital technologies after the CAI has completed its mandate.

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 Secretariat informed the Bureau about a recent mission to Slovenia and fruitful exchanges with Dr STOJMENOVA DUH, Slovenian Minister of Digital Transformation, who in addition to supporting the work of the CAI also expressed interest in participating in a test run of HUDERIA. In addition, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Council of Europe, with immediate effect, has decided to hold all meetings of its committees in person only. It noted that exceptionally, however, passive livestreaming of CAI Plenary meetings will be made available for registered Delegations via Zoom, with the possibility to watch and listen to the meeting but without the possibility to take the floor or provide comments online. There will be no online interpretation.

6. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the side event to the next Plenary meeting will be dedicated to the topic of "AI and Gender" and take place on 19 April 2023 during lunch break. It was announced that the next meeting of the AI Coordination Group would take place on 29 March 2023. A brochure presenting the AI-related activities of the Council of Europe is being prepared by the Secretariat and will be translated into four additional languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Japanese).

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

7. The Chair and the Secretariat updated the Bureau about the next steps in the elaboration of the draft [framework] Convention, namely the specific Chapters of the draft text to be examined by the Drafting Group and the Plenary.

8. Bureau members held an exchange on the above topics, having mentioned that it may prove difficult to negotiate three chapters during one Plenary meeting and that steps needed to be taken to facilitate negotiations. Among the ideas discussed were, for example, improving time allocation during meetings of the Plenary and the Drafting Group, considering the possibility

of having intersessional meetings or preparing briefing papers on certain issues in order to facilitate the negotiations. Among such questions was the relationship between the scope of the draft [framework] Convention and the national security/military matters, as well as a more detailed explanation as to how the need for protection of democracy and the rule of law is reflected in the "Revised Zero Draft". Bureau members also mentioned the need to bear in mind the progress of on-going discussions at the EU level about the draft AI Act**.**

9. The Bureau also held a discussion about the order in which the Committee should examine the relevant provisions of the revised "Zero Draft" during the 5th Plenary meeting and agreed that, in view of the contents of the provisions in question, Chapter IV should be examined first, followed by Chapter V and finally Chapter I.

5. Preparation of the 5th CAI Plenary meeting (19 – 21 April 2023)

10. The Chair and the Secretariat updated the Bureau about the items on agenda on the 5th Plenary meeting, in particular the need to conduct elections of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and a Bureau member. They presented the procedure and rules regarding the elections, mentioned that the Committee would examine two more applications for observer status and that Mr Ralph KASS (Luxembourg), Chair of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), will attend the 5th Plenary meeting of the CAI and make a presentation under agenda item 5.a) other Council of Europe intergovernmental committees and entities.

6. Any other business

11. Bureau members held an exchange about the format and substance of future consultations about HUDERIA with various stakeholders. They considered, in particular, that consultations should focus specifically on receiving and using feedback on the planned HUDERIA methodology from governmental agencies and industry representatives, including large companies and SMEs.

12. The Bureau discussed the dates of its next meetings and agreed that they would take place on the following dates and in the following location:

- 5th Bureau meeting: 4 May (Strasbourg)
- 6th Bureau meeting: 15 June (Strasbourg)
- 7th Bureau meeting: 7 September (Paris)