

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 8 September 2023

CAI-BU(2023)08

COMMITTEE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (CAI)

7th Bureau Meeting

Paris

7 September 2023

2 - 5 pm (CET)

ABRIDGED REPORT

www.coe.int/cai

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 introduced Mrs Hanne JUNCHER, who had been appointed Director of Information Society and Action against Crime as of 1 September 2023. He further outlined the main aims of the meeting, namely to discuss the next steps in the elaboration of the Framework Convention and to prepare the 7th Plenary meeting of the Committee.
2. Mrs Hanne JUNCHER thanked the Chair for his introduction and welcoming words, expressed her pleasure in joining the CAI negotiations and assured the Bureau members of her full dedication to and support for their work. She also noted the fruitful discussions in the informal Drafting Group and expressed her belief that the process would be successful and the Framework Convention adopted in due time.
3. Mrs Claudia LUCIANI, Director, Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, welcomed all participants to the meeting. She reiterated that the timely finalisation of the Framework Convention remained the top priority of the Organisation, as also stated during the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe and in the Reykjavik Declaration. She further informed the Bureau that in order to facilitate the smooth completion of this process, the Secretariat was in ongoing contact with the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly and that both had confirmed their full support in facilitating the adoption of the Framework Convention in a timely fashion. Finally, she reiterated both Directorates' commitment to coordinating the work on AI within the Council of Europe Secretariat, and informed the Bureau that the next meeting of the AI Coordination Group would take place on 27 September 2023.

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 that four Latin American States had formally requested observer status in the CAI and that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe would examine and decide on these requests before the next Plenary meeting. The Secretariat explained that non-member States to which the status is granted would be invited to participate in the October Plenary.
6. The Secretariat noted that the period between the readings of the draft Framework Convention at the October and December Plenary meetings was particularly opportune for interested stakeholders, and in particular non-member States, to join the negotiations. It called on the Bureau members to continue promoting the work of the CAI and encouraging interested non-member States to join the Committee in their bilateral contacts with these States.
7. Mrs Siiri AULIK (Estonia) informed the Bureau that she had kindly agreed to represent the CAI during a Conference organised on 11 September 2023 in Riga, Latvia under the auspices of the Latvian Presidency, during which she would take part in a panel discussion on "Balancing legal frameworks with technological progress: upholding democracy in the digital era of new and emerging technologies and artificial intelligence".
8. Mr Mario HERNANDEZ RAMOS (Spain) informed the Bureau that he was invited to participate in the "Foro Global América Latina y el Caribe 2023" organised by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) on 20-22 September

2023, in New York City, United States of America, and to give a presentation about the work of the CAI. The Bureau endorsed Mr HERNANDEZ RAMOS' participation in this event.

9. The Bureau held a general exchange of views on its members' attendance at events and representation of the Committee and thanked the aforementioned members for their willingness to represent the CAI.
10. Mr Blake BOWER (United Kingdom) informed the Bureau that the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe had agreed on the organisation in London, United Kingdom, of a major event to mark the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe. This event would take place in the course of the first week of May 2024, and the Framework Convention on AI could be adopted during an extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Ministers held on this occasion.

4. Next steps in the elaboration of the Framework Convention

11. The Bureau welcomed the successful organisation of the informal meetings of the Drafting Group held in July and September, which had enabled its members to advance on a number of key topics.

5. Preparation of the 7th CAI Plenary meeting (24 - 26 October 2023)

12. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Committee would examine five more applications for observer status during its next Plenary meeting.
13. The Secretariat announced that in order to facilitate the participation of the largest possible number of stakeholders and allow new potential observer States to join the negotiations, it had been decided to allow for active online participation in the Plenary meetings, without, however, interpretation being provided for online participants. The Bureau took note of this information.
14. The Bureau was informed that two side events would be organised by ALLAI and the International Chamber of Commerce, respectively, on the first and second days of the October Plenary meeting.
15. The Bureau confirmed the adoption of the draft Agenda of the 7th Plenary meeting, a decision it had already taken at its last meeting.

6. Any other business

16. The Bureau decided that in order to best prepare for the second reading of the draft Framework Convention, and in order to provide information about the outcomes of the two first informal meetings of the Drafting Group to representatives of delegations which were not present in the Drafting Group, it would offer these representatives the opportunity to meet virtually ahead of the October Plenary meeting. The date of this meeting remained to be decided.