

Call for candidates - Data Protection Commissioner at the Council of Europe

Closing date: 30/04/2025

Location: Strasbourg

The Council of Europe is currently looking for a Data Protection Commissioner to serve a four-year term, renewable once, starting on 1 July 2025.

With some 3000 staff members from 46 member states, the Council of Europe offers the successful candidate a multicultural environment in which to perform the tasks as Data Protection Commissioner.

Context

The Data Protection Commissioner is appointed at the Council of Europe to oversee and ensure compliance with its personal data protection framework. As provided for by Resolution [CM/Res\(2022\)14](#) on establishing the Council of Europe Regulations on the Protection of Personal Data, the Data Protection Commissioner is elected by representatives of the member states in the Convention Committee established under Article 22 of the “Convention 108+”¹ (pending the entry into force of that legal instrument, the election is held by the Convention Committee established under Article 18 of the “Convention 108”²), from a list of names drawn up by the Secretary General, for a term of four years, renewable once. The election of the Data Protection Commissioner will take place on 18 June 2025.

The Data Protection Commissioner is independent and is not a Council of Europe staff member.

The Data Protection Commissioner monitors and ensures the application of the Council of Europe Regulations on the Protection of Personal Data (“the Regulations”) and examines complaints from data subjects concerning alleged infringements of their rights under the Regulations. The Data Protection Commissioner conducts a series of meetings with data controllers and other key interlocutors at the Council of Europe every year. These meetings are held at the headquarters of the Organisation in Strasbourg or by videoconference. The Data Protection Commissioner is assisted by an internal secretariat.

Mission

The Data Protection Commissioner is responsible for monitoring and ensuring the protection of personal data at the Council of Europe in line with the Regulations.

The Data Protection Commissioner is completely independent and impartial in performing the functions and exercising the powers pursuant to the Regulations, and in doing so shall neither seek nor accept instructions. The Data Protection Commissioner shall refrain from any action incompatible with the aforesaid functions and powers and shall not, during the term of office, engage in any incompatible occupation, whether gainful or not.

¹ Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (CETS No. 223).

² Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108).

Key activities

As the Data Protection Commissioner, your main responsibilities will be:

- to monitor and ensure the application of the Regulations;
- to examine complaints from data subjects concerning alleged infringement of their rights under the Regulations and to order remedial action as necessary;
- to conduct inquiries into the application of the Regulations, either on your own initiative or in order to examine a complaint from a data subject;
- to formulate opinions at the request of the Data Protection Officer or a controller on any matter relating to the implementation of the Regulations;
- to make recommendations to a controller who shall subsequently report to the Data Protection Commissioner on their implementation;
- to prepare an annual activity report, present it for information to the Convention Committee established under Article 22 of the “Convention 108+” (pending the entry into force of that legal instrument, to the Convention Committee established under Article 18 of the “Convention 108”), transmit it to the Secretary General, and make it public.

For more information, please consult the [website of the Data Protection Commissioner](#).

Eligibility requirements

Qualifications:

University degree, preferably at Master’s level.

Experience:

Experience and expert knowledge of data protection standards and practices and skills required to perform the duties specified in Article 16 of the Regulations.

Language requirements:

Very good knowledge of one of the official languages (English or French) and good knowledge of the other.

Nationality:

Nationality of one of the 46 Council of Europe member states.

Core Values and competencies

The Council of Europe [Policy on Respect and Dignity in the Council of Europe](#) and the [Code of Conduct](#) apply to staff members and anyone working with the Council of Europe.

Essential competencies

- Professional and technical expertise
 - In-depth knowledge of data protection legal frameworks, both domestic and international
 - Awareness of emerging trends in data protection

- Experience in regulatory decision-making
- Knowledge of problems specific to large public organisations or administrations
- Communication
- Drafting skills
- Negotiating
- Discretion
- Initiative
- Planning and work organisation
- Results orientation

Remuneration

In accordance with the modalities established by the Committee of Ministers, the Data Protection Commissioner receives a daily allowance for time spent carrying the above-mentioned functions, in addition to the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses.

Applications

Applications (including a curriculum vitae and a letter of motivation) in English or French, must be sent by email at the latest by **30 April 2025** to dga@coe.int with the subject header “Election of the Data Protection Commissioner” and enclosing relevant diplomas and proof.

The selection procedure involves the Secretary General drawing up a list of candidates who meet the eligibility requirements above. The Convention Committee established under Article 18 of the “Convention 108” will then elect the Data Protection Commissioner from among the candidates on the list at its Plenary meeting on 18 June 2025.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all suitably qualified candidates, irrespective of marital or parental status, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic or social origin, religion, or belief.

During the different stages of the selection procedure, specific measures may be taken to ensure equal opportunities for candidates with disabilities.

The Organisation

The **Council of Europe** is the continent’s leading organisation in the protection of human rights, democracy and rule of law. It was founded in 1949 in order to promote greater unity between its members and now includes 46 member states, all having signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights.

By Statute, the Council of Europe has two constituent organs: the Committee of Ministers, composed of the member states’ Ministers for Foreign Affairs, and the Parliamentary Assembly, comprising delegations from the national parliaments. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe represents the entities of local and regional self-government within the member states. The Commissioner for Human Rights is an independent and impartial institution within the Council of Europe mandated to promote the awareness of and respect for human rights in member states.

The European Court of Human Rights is the judicial body which oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states. Individuals can bring complaints of human rights violations to the Strasbourg Court once all possibilities of appeal have been exhausted in the member state concerned.

The Council of Europe has its permanent headquarters in Strasbourg (France) and in addition it maintains external presence in more than twenty countries. (For more information: [Council of Europe external presence](#))