Revised Terms of reference of the **Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) 2024-2027**

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-consolidated on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Main tasks

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, and bearing in mind the Council of Europe legal standards, the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the findings and recommendations of the relevant monitoring mechanisms, the CCPE, as a consultative body composed exclusively of serving prosecutors (unique in this way at European level), representing the various existing prosecution systems in the member States, as a direct and privileged interlocutor of the prosecutors in member States and of national bodies entrusted with the management of prosecution services, is tasked with fostering the independence, impartiality and competence of prosecutors, through the elaboration of standards and guidance as regards the status and career of prosecutors and effective exercise of prosecutorial profession.

In particular, the CCPE is instructed to:

i. take due account of the Reykjavik Declaration[1] in conducting its activities and submit proposals for its implementation as appropriate;
ii. take account of the relevant key findings and challenges set out in the Secretary General's annual reports on the state of democracy, human rights and rule of law[2] and contribute, where relevant, to the process towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe;
iii. contribute to the overall preservation and further promotion of relevant European standards related to the rule of law, including in emergency situations, and in particular as regards the independence, impartiality and competence of prosecutors, as well as their status, career and effective exercise of prosecutorial profession by elaborating opinions and other texts, and promoting targeted Co-operation and regular exchanges of knowledge, good practices and experiences on issues of common interest in this area;
iv. advise the Committee of Ministers on issues regarding the independence, impartiality and competence of prosecutors, as well as their status, career and exercise of prosecutorial profession and prepare and adopt opinions for the attention of the Committee of Ministers on these issues, taking into consideration existing legal and other policy instruments, the Reports of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the state of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe and the evolving case law of the European Court of Human Rights;
v. hold regular exchanges and contribute to national and international events, highlighting and promoting the implementation of relevant standards of the Council of Europe, CCPE opinions and other texts and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, and encouraging partnerships in the prosecutorial field involving prosecution services, prosecutors and prosecutors' associations;
vi. follow the implementation of the standards that it has prepared, and where appropriate, contribute to reviews of the implementation of relevant Committee of Ministers' recommendations;
vii. provide input to the Committee of Ministers in view of the regular, high-level dialogue with member States and partners on delivering on the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy;
viii. raise-awareness about Council of Europe standards and tools in its field of competence in the member States and beyond, through the neighbourhood policy and in other international and global fora where relevant;
ix. hold an exchange of views annually in order to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued;
x. take due account of the following mainstreamed perspectives in the performance of its tasks: gender, youth, children's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and Roma and Traveller[3] issues;
xi. where relevant, contribute to strengthening meaningful engagement with civil society organisations and national human rights institutions in its work;
xii. contribute to the achievement of, and review progress towards, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regards to Goal 5: Gender Equality and Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong institutions.

[1] Reykjavík Declaration - United around our values.
[2] Cf. Secretary General's report 2025 "Towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe".
[3] The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "*Gens du voyage*", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

Main deliverables

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CCPE is instructed to complete these deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1. General opinions covering issues related to the independence, impartiality, competence, nomination, career, ethics, accountability, evaluation or other aspects of career of prosecutors or prosecutorial profession: Opinion No. 19 (2024), Opinion No. 20 (2025), Opinion No. 21 (2026) and Opinion No. 22 (2027)	1	31/12 of each year
2. Opinions or other texts concerning the specific situation of prosecutors at the request of the Committee of Ministers or other bodies of the Council of Europe, such as the Secretary General or the Parliamentary Assembly, or at the request of member States, CCPE members and observers, prosecutorial bodies or relevant associations of prosecutors, providing targeted expert advice to enable States to comply with the Council of Europe's standards concerning prosecutors	1	31/12 of each year or within the deadline requested by the Committee of Ministers
3. At least two studies covering identified or emerging issues of common interest related to the independence, impartiality, competence, nomination, career, ethics, accountability, evaluation or other aspects of career of prosecutors or prosecutorial profession	1	31/12/2025 31/12/2027

Composition

- Members

Governments of member States are entitled to designate one or more representatives (preferably one member and one deputy member) of the highest possible rank within the prosecution system. Members should be chosen in contact, where such authorities exist, with the national authorities responsible for prosecutors and with the national administration responsible for managing the prosecution service, from among serving prosecutors having a thorough knowledge of questions relating to the functioning of the prosecution system combined with utmost personal integrity.
The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each member State (two in the case of the state whose representative has been elected Chair).
Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

- Participants

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

- European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC);
- Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE);
- European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ);
- European Committee of Legal Co-operation (CDCJ);
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

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

- European Union (one or more representatives, including, as appropriate EUROJUST);
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America.

- Observers

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

- Kazakhstan;
- Morocco;
- 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 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. Online participation in meetings will be available.

	Plenary meetings ▼			Bureau meetings ▼		
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2024	47	1	2	4	2	1
2025	47	1	2	4	2	1
2026	47	1	2	4	2	1
2027	47	1	2	4	2	1

The CCPE will appoint from amongst its members up to 5 Rapporteurs on mainstreamed perspectives, including a Gender Equality Rapporteur.