

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 18 June 2025

CDCJ(2025)12

**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON LEGAL CO-OPERATION
(CDCJ)**

104th plenary meeting

16-18 June 2025

Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe, Room 7

ABRIDGED MEETING REPORT

**CDCJ website: www.coe.int/cdcj
CDCJ email address: DGI-CDCJ@coe.int**

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) held its 104th plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 16-18 June 2025 with Eral Knight (United Kingdom) in the Chair.

The agenda of the meeting appears in Appendix 1.

The CDCJ devoted the morning of 16 June to a conference entitled “Protecting lawyers, preserving access to justice”, to mark the adoption and opening for signature of the [Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer \(CETS No. 226\)](#), where the keynote speakers included Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General, Michael O’Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights, Ambassador Gabriel Revel, Permanent representative of Monaco and Chair of the GR-J, Vladimir Vardanyan, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and Ambassador Patrick Engelberg, Permanent representative of Luxembourg – see the programme in Appendix 2.

List of decisions

The CDCJ:

- welcomed the new members recently appointed in respect of Armenia, Finland, Georgia and Hungary;
- took note of the information provided by the Chair and by the secretariat on the developments that occurred since the 103rd plenary meeting (19-21 November 2024) and their possible implications for CDCJ’s work, in particular (1) the opening for signature of the [Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer \(CETS No. 226\)](#) in Luxembourg on 13 May 2025, (2) the successful conference on “Protecting lawyers, preserving access to justice” of 16 June 2025 to mark the adoption and opening for signature of this convention, (3) the participation of the Chair of the CDCJ in the 3rd meeting of the Secretary General with chairs of intergovernmental committees held on 24 April 2025, (4) the adoption by the Committee of Ministers, on 28 May 2025, of two recommendations on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings ([CM/Rec\(2025\)4](#)) and care proceedings ([CM/Rec\(2025\)5](#)), prepared jointly by the CDCJ and the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), which will be launched at the next CDCJ plenary meeting in November in a joint event with the CDENF, (5) the follow-up regarding the [European Convention on Information on Foreign Law](#) (ETS No. 062) and its [Additional Protocol](#) (ETS No. 097) and the [Guide for practitioners on administration detention of migrants and asylum seekers](#), (6) the preparation of the 2025 Opinions of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) and the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE), (7) the ongoing work within the CDENF’s Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and Interagency services (ENF-JUS), (8) the outcome of the Conference of 21 May 2025 organised by the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO) on Artificial Intelligence (AI) healthcare and human rights on the impact of AI on the “patient-doctor” relationship, (9) the results of the 3rd plenary meeting of the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDem) on the revision of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2007\)14](#) on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe and its Working Group on Parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavík Principles of Democracy (GT-P) held on 6-7 March 2025, and (10) the 2025 Annual report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe “[Towards a new democratic pact for Europe](#)”;
- took note of the state of play of the implementation of the CDCJ activities in accordance with its terms of reference for 2024-2027 and, in line with the decision made by the CDCJ at its plenary meeting of November 2024, examined potential activities connected to past instruments prepared by the CDCJ or the preparation of new instruments, as well as the CDCJ deliverables and/or activity priority order for 2026-2027; took note of the revision made by the secretariat to deliverable 11 in the current CDCJ terms of reference in light of the CDCJ Bureau’s discussion at its 122nd meeting of March 2025, to carry out, as a first step, a feasibility study on the need for an instrument on AI covering policing, the administration of justice and borders/migration; exchanged views on the revised CDCJ deliverable 11 and provided guidance to the secretariat on the conduct of this activity; also took note of the information provided by the secretariat concerning (1) the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, the guidance on risk and impact assessment for AI systems (“HUDERIA”) specifically tailored to the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as (2) the draft Handbook on human rights and artificial intelligence prepared by the CDDH;

- took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the preparation of the first thematic review by the CDCJ focused on the career and training of judges, as a follow-up to the [Council of Europe Plan of Action on Strengthening Judicial Independence and Impartiality](#) (Sofia Action Plan), and examined the draft report in the light of the additional information received from the members of the CDCJ and of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) in response to the questionnaire which was circulated in view to update the data;
- took note of the update provided by the secretariat and one of the consultants on the preparation of a draft study on national climate litigation, examined the revised detailed outline of the draft study, and provided the consultants with the necessary guidance to finalise the work before submission to the CDCJ for an adoption at its 105th plenary meeting;
- took note of the progress made by the CDCJ limited working group on migration (CDCJ-MIG), including the outcome of its 3rd meeting (23-25 April 2025) and its updated workplan for 2025-2026; examined, with the assistance of the consultant of the CDCJ-MIG, the draft revised Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)13 on the nationality of children and the draft compendium of good practice on access to nationality for stateless children and provided the necessary guidance to pursue the preparation of these deliverables; took note of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness's Inter-Regional Network Lab "Regional Action, Global Impact – Leveraging Regional Approaches and the Role of Inter-Governmental Organizations in Addressing Statelessness" co-organised by the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States (OAS), CLARCIEV, and the UNHCR on 20 May 2025;
- took note of the update by the secretariat on the start of the work of the recently established Committee of Experts on access to origins (CJ-OR) on a draft recommendation on the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins, including the report of its first meeting held on 3-5 June 2025; exchanged views with the chair and the consultant of the CJ-OR on the ongoing work and provided the necessary guidance to pursue the work; examined the request by Child Identity Protection (CHIP) for observer status to the CJ-OR in light of the established criteria to assess such requests, and decided to grant it observer status;
- discussed the draft report on the thematic review of the Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines at a joint session with the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) where one of the two consultants responsible for the preparation of the thematic review report, together with the secretariat of the CDENF, presented the preliminary draft thematic review and indicated what would be the next steps of the preparation including to ensure the full involvement of the CDCJ and CDPC;
- took note of the update provided by the secretariat on the promotion of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer (CETS No. 226) after its adoption by the Committee of Ministers on 12 March 2025 and opening for signature in Luxembourg on 13 May 2025, as well as the various events around the Convention that are planned in the coming months, in particular in co-operation with the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE);
- took note of the information provided by a number of member states on their legislative developments in the area of private law since the 102nd CDCJ plenary meeting (11-13 June 2024) and thanked the delegations concerned for their contributions;
- took note of the information provided by Council of Europe bodies and committees (the CDENF and the Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, also called "the Lanzarote Committee" – T-ES), other international organisations (the Hague Conference on Private International Law - HCCH) in the area of private law and thanked the contributors for this information;
- took note of the updated calendar of its meetings and events for 2025-2026, including the dates of its 105th plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2025);
- adopted the abridged report of its 104th plenary meeting.

Appendix 1

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business
3. Statement of the Chair and Secretariat
4. Tour de table: interventions by newly designated members of the CDCJ
5. Review of progress

Justice and the Rule of Law

6. Council of Europe Plan of Action on Strengthening Judicial Independence and Impartiality (Sofia Action Plan) (*main deliverable 10*)
7. The use of artificial intelligence for policing, the administration of justice and borders/migration – Study on the feasibility of a draft legal instrument (*main deliverable 11*)

Public Law

8. National climate litigation (*main deliverable 4*)
9. Statelessness and access to nationality (*main deliverables 6 and 7*)

Family law and children's rights

10. Rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins (*main deliverable 8*)
11. Thematic review of the guidelines on child-friendly justice (focus: civil and administrative proceedings) (*main deliverable 9*)
12. 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 (*main task xiv*)
13. Developments in member States in the area of private law
14. Co-operation with other relevant Council of Europe bodies and committees, other international organisations and civil society in the area of private law
15. CDCJ Opinions (if any) (*main deliverable 13*)
16. Any other business
17. Dates and place of the next meetings
18. Adoption of the abridged meeting report

Appendix 2

Programme of the Conference to mark the adoption and opening for signature of the Council of Europe Convention Protection of the Profession of Lawyer (16 June 2025)

“Protecting lawyers, preserving access to justice”

10:00 Opening words

Gianluca Esposito, Director general, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law

10:05 Keynote addresses

- Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- Ambassador Gabriel Revel, Permanent representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe and Chair of the Committee of Ministers’ Rapporteur Group on Legal Co-operation (GR-J)
- Michael O’Flaherty, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- Vladimir Vardanyan, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
- Eral Knight, Chair of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)

10:40 Coffee break

11:00 Panel discussion: Why lawyers and their professional associations deserve protection

- Topics: The key role of lawyers in states governed by the rule of law to make access to justice effective; how the convention addresses challenges faced by lawyers worldwide; the importance of the role, independence and protection of their professional associations

Moderator:

Daniele Cangemi, Head of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standard Setting activities Department, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law

Panellists:

- Margaret Satterthwaite, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers
- Christoph Henrichs, member of the CDCJ and former Chair of the Committee of Experts on the Protection of Lawyers (CJ-AV)
- Laurent Pettiti, Chair of the Working Group “European Convention”, Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)
- Judith Lichtenberg, Board member, “Lawyers for lawyers” Foundation

Question and answers

11:45 Closing remarks: The next steps for the Convention

Ambassador Patrick Engelberg, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe

12:00 Family photo followed by reception hosted by the Ambassador of Luxembourg