

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 19 December 2025

CDCJ(2025)24

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

105th plenary meeting

18-20 November 2025
Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe, Room 7

and

Launch event jointly organised with the CDENF
19 November 2025
Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe, Room 1

MEETING REPORT

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

1-2. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda and order of business

1. The European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) held its 105th plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 18-20 November 2025, with Eral Knight (United Kingdom) in the chair.

2. The agenda of the meeting appears in Appendix I. The list of participants¹ appears in Appendix II. The abridged and full reports of the meeting including the list of participants are available on the CDCJ's website.

3. In addition to its agenda, the CDCJ and the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) jointly organised an event to launch and promote Recommendation CM/Rec(2025)4 on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings and Recommendation CM/Rec(2025)5 on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in care proceedings, as well as the checklists designed as a practical tool for policy makers to facilitate and optimise the implementation of these recommendations – see the programme in Appendix III.

3. Tour de table: interventions by newly designated members of the CDCJ

4. The CDCJ welcomed the newly designated member (Croatia) and substitute representatives (Azerbaijan, Lithuania and Türkiye) participating in the meeting for the first time.

4. Information by the Chair and Secretariat

5. The CDCJ took note of the information provided by the Chair and by the secretariat on the developments that had occurred since the 104th plenary meeting (16-18 June 2025) and their possible implications for the CDCJ's work.

6. The CDCJ was informed, in particular, of the work of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) and the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) with the adoption of, respectively, Opinion No. 28 (2025) on the importance of judicial well-being for the delivery of justice, Opinion No. 20 (2025) on diversity and inclusivity within prosecution services, and the CCJE's third party intervention in respect of the case of *Kuijt v. the Netherlands* (application No. 19365/19) prepared upon invitation of the President of the European Court of Human Rights under Article 36 of the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as the future work of these two Councils for 2026.

7. It also noted the publication by the Parliamentary Assembly of a toolkit for parliamentarians to prevent and address cases of missing migrants, which refers to Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)12 on principles concerning missing persons and the presumption of death, which had been prepared by the CDCJ, as well as the work underway at the Parliamentary Assembly on the reports on "Ensuring better protection of whistle-blowers in Europe" and "Safeguarding human rights in the artificial intelligence-driven public sector".

8. Further, it was informed of the work conducted by the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM) to prepare draft parameters for the implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for democracy, concerning which the CDCJ Bureau provided written comments, and a new recommendation on the legal status of civil society organisations (update of Recommendation CM(2007)14 on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe, prepared by the CDCJ), concerning which the CDCJ provided written comments relayed by its representative, James D'Agostino (Malta) during the relevant meetings of the CDDEM and its working group.

9. James D'Agostino (Malta) also provided information on the Conference on safeguarding the best interests of the child held in Malta on 23 October 2025 as part of the Malta Presidency of the Committee of Ministers at which he spoke on child-friendly justice.

10. Finally, the secretariat informed the CDCJ that several new translations of the guide for practitioners on the administrative detention of migrants and asylum seekers had been published (Armenian, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic) or were underway (German and Portuguese).

¹ At this plenary meeting of CDCJ, 33 member states were represented by 35 participants: 17 women and 18 men, 48,57% and 51,43% respectively.

5. Review of progress

11. The CDCJ took note of the state of play of the implementation of the CDCJ activities since the 104th plenary meeting of the CDCJ.

12. It examined proposals for future work and agreed to continue discussions on several avenues proposed, including possible new activities concerning the safeguarding of democratic institutions and the civil service, medical liability, the role of justice as a driver of economic growth and financial stability, and the human rights dimension of personal insolvency and debt-enforcement proceedings at its next plenary meeting.

13. The secretariat provided clarifications on the framework and timetable for these activities; those retained by the committee would be included in the new terms of reference of the CDCJ from 2028 onwards. These topics will be further explored in breakout sessions during the next plenary meeting of the CDCJ to foster engagement and in-depth exchanges among members. In the meantime, CDCJ members were encouraged to propose additional proposals to the secretariat in good time to facilitate the necessary preparations ahead of the next plenary meeting.

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)*

14. The CDCJ took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the preparation of the draft report on 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).

15. It examined the draft report in the light of the comments and suggestions made by CDCJ delegations, with a view of its adoption at its 106th plenary meeting (2-4 June 2026). The Committee took note that the draft report would be circulated for a final round of written comments of CDCJ members before its examination and adoption during the next plenary meeting.

16. The CDCJ also examined the proposal for follow-up action to give to this first thematic review and agreed to organise a conference back-to-back with the CDCJ plenary meeting in November 2026.

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)*

17. The CDCJ took note of the update provided by the secretariat on the CDCJ activity related to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for policing, the administration of justice and borders/migration, preparations made for conducting a feasibility study on possible draft legal instrument on these areas, to be initiated in 2026. The secretariat also drew attention to a recent presentation of the Commissioner for Human Rights on the use of AI as part of policing made at the 15th Europol Data Protection Experts Network (EDEN) conference “Data Protection & Cybersecurity in Law Enforcement”, including concerns on the possible misuse of such tools with the result of curtailing human rights.

Public Law

8. National climate litigation *(main deliverable 4)*

18. The CDCJ took note of the information provided by the secretariat on progress made on the draft study on national climate litigation. It examined the draft study, with the assistance of Joanna Setzer (Grantham Research Institute, London School of Economics), one of the two consultants who prepared it. It authorised its publication, subject to drafting changes agreed during the meeting and to a final editorial review, and with the usual disclaimer that the views expressed in the study are the responsibility of the authors.

9. Statelessness and access to nationality (*main deliverables 6 and 7*)

19. The CDCJ took note of the update provided by the Chair of the CDCJ Limited Working Group on Migration (CDCJ-MIG), Francesco Crisafulli (Italy), and by the secretariat. It took note of the list of decisions made by the CDCJ-MIG at its 4th meeting (29 September-1 October 2025).

20. It examined and adopted the draft compendium of promising practices on access to nationality for stateless children and instructed the secretariat to take the necessary steps for its publication.

21. The CDCJ also examined the draft revised Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)13 on the nationality of children, in the presence of the consultant of the CDCJ-MIG, Professor René De Groot. The committee agreed to convey to the CDCJ-MIG the following guidance:

- continue revising Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)13 on the nationality of children as a whole, as per the conclusion of the feasibility study adopted by the CDCJ and given the interconnectedness between access to nationality of children and child statelessness. The committee instructed the CDCJ-MIG to identify any principle which would not be connected with the statelessness of children;
- keep principle 10 on access to nationality by right of blood if, as a result of a birth conceived through medically assisted reproductive techniques, a child-parent family relationship is established or recognised by law considering that this principle already featured in the original recommendation as principle 12;
- exclude provision(s) on access to nationality in case of adoption as suggested in the conclusion of the feasibility study adopted by the CDCJ;
- keep the condition of “lawful” residence contained in principles 2 and 5 in brackets at this stage of the drafting process as views on keeping or deleting this element were split in the CDCJ, and invited the CDCJ delegations of member states who do not require this condition in their national legislation to share their experience before the next meeting of CDCJ-MIG (24-26 February 2026).

22. A number of other points were raised by delegations which were taken on board by the consultant and the secretariat for inclusion in the next draft to be considered by the CDCJ-MIG.

23. The committee took note of the new composition of the working group following of the resignation of some of its members, namely:

- Katarina Franjkovic (Croatia) has been replaced by Ivana Lučev (Croatia), Senior Advisor - Specialist from the Ministry of the Interior;
- Delphine Thouillon (France) has been replaced by Estelle Brestovski (France), Head of the Nationality Office, Civil Affairs and Seal Directorate, Ministry of Justice (Cheffe du Bureau de la nationalité, Direction des affaires civiles et du Sceau, ministère de la Justice); and
- Armen Ghazaryan (Armenia) has been replaced by Vardan Matevosyan (Armenia), Deputy Head of the Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

24. The secretariat also informed the CDCJ on a number of events it had attended since the 104th CDCJ plenary meeting, which included the presentation of the CDCJ-MIG work to a delegation of Migration and Citizenship Service from Armenia (10 September 2025); the participation in the 2nd Townhall meeting of the Global Alliance to end statelessness, to present the takeaways of the Inter-Regional Network Lab as well as the work of the CDCJ-MIG (23 September 2025); the participation in the multistakeholder conference in Luxembourg on “Statelessness in the EU pact on migration and asylum: with focus on statelessness as a vulnerability” organised by the European Migration Network (EMN) (27 October 2025); the participation in the conference on “Statelessness & Innovation: Building Power Through Collective Action” in Berlin (6-7 November 2025) - event co-organised by the European Network on Statelessness (ENS) and Statefree; and the presentation of the Guide on the administrative detention of migrants and asylum seekers as well as the work on CDCJ-MIG on statelessness to a delegation of representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova (12 November 2025).

Family law and children's rights

10. Rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins (*main deliverable 8*)

25. The CDCJ took note of the information provided by the chair of the Committee of Experts on Access to Origins (CJ-OR), Thomas Knoll-Biermann (Germany); with the assistance of the consultant of the

CJ-OR, Laurence Brunet, on the work of the committee and progress made to date, and took note of the report of the 2nd meeting of the CJ-OR (28-30 October 2025).

26. The CDCJ provided to the CJ-OR and its consultant guidance for the further preparation of the draft recommendation on the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins and its accompanying draft explanatory memorandum. The CDCJ specifically asked the CJ-OR to take into account the resource implications of mechanisms and setups proposed in the current draft, as well as carefully consider and balance the rights of different stakeholders. Concerns were expressed about possible provisions addressing cross-border donations. The committee noted that a revised draft recommendation would be circulated in good time before the 106th plenary meeting to facilitate consultations in the capitals and allow CDCJ members to submit written comments ahead of the said plenary meeting.

27. The CDCJ concurred with its Bureau that complex issues were at stake and that legal frameworks varied across Europe which constituted a challenge considering the deadline set in the terms of reference for completion of the draft recommendation.

28. The CDCJ also examined the candidatures received in response to the call for interest concerning the seat left vacant after the representative of Denmark had stepped down and selected Ivy van Dijke (The Netherlands) as new member of the CJ-OR. The CDCJ instructed the secretariat to inform the CJ-OR and Ivy van Dijke on the results and thank Dr Virginia Peraki (Greece), the second candidate, for her interest in the work of the CJ-OR. The CDCJ recalled that any member state may send a representative to the meetings of the CJ-OR without defrayal of expenses.

11. Thematic review of the guidelines on child-friendly justice (focus: civil and administrative proceedings) (main deliverable 9)

29. During a joint session with the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) and the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC, online), the CDCJ took note of the information provided by the secretariat concerning the deadline and future steps for completing the thematic review on the Guidelines on child-friendly justice. It also took note of the information provided by Susanna Greijer, one of the two independent consultants preparing the draft report on the thematic review, on the results of the consultation process that took place since last summer. The presentation included results from the consultation of children and youth representatives from their perspective. In this context, delegations pointed out as a first reaction that any outcome of the review process had to be realistic and feasible for states to implement. The consultant confirmed that the intention was to arrive at pragmatic and balanced proposals in the thematic review. The CDCJ was also informed about the exchange of views that took place between the Bureau of the CDCJ (123rd meeting, 25-26 September 2025) and the Bureau of the CDENF.

12. Promote and facilitate the functioning, implementation and where necessary the ratification of Council of Europe conventions, agreements and protocols within its area of competence (main task iv)

30. The CDCJ took note of the information provided by the secretariat on signatures and ratifications that have taken place since the last plenary meeting in June 2025, in particular the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (ETS No. 127).

31. It was also informed by the secretariat that responsibility for treaties relating to animal rights had been transferred from CDCJ to other intergovernmental committees.

13. 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)

13.1 Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer Treaty Office (CETS No. 226) – follow-up

a. Tour de table on signatures and ratifications of the Luxembourg Convention

32. The CDCJ welcomed the recent signatures of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection

of the Profession of Lawyer (CETS No. 226, the “Luxembourg Convention”) having taken place since the opening for signature and bringing the total of signatures to 23. It held a tour de table on the state of play regarding signatures/ratifications. European Union (EU) member states indicated that they were awaiting the EU Commission’s position on EU competencies with regard to the Convention to allow the states that already signed the Convention to proceed with its ratification. The representative of the EU representation to the Council of Europe indicated that the European Commission welcomed the adoption of the convention and was actively preparing the necessary proposals for decisions for the Council of EU by the end of this year or early 2026 to allow signature and ratification. Concerns were expressed about the impact of the delay in EU decision-making could have on reaching the necessary threshold required for the entry into force of the convention and opportunities for non-member states to joint this unique initiative.

b. Exchange of views with two judges of the European Court of Human Rights

33. The CDCJ held an exchange of views with Judge Rădulețu and Judge Mercer of the European Court of Human Rights on the protection of the profession of lawyer, in particular in the light of the Court's case law. Both judges expressed deep appreciation for the invaluable contribution of the Luxembourg Convention to reinforcing the protection and rights of the legal profession, making it a relevant source of law in the area.

c. Promotion of the Luxembourg Convention

34. The CDCJ took note of the information provided by the secretariat on activities and events aiming to promote the Luxembourg Convention. The secretariat drew the attention of the committee to a dedicated webpage for the Convention created to increase visibility and accessibility, and to a factsheet which was being prepared by the secretariat to help CDCJ members to promote and raise the awareness of the new treaty among the non-member states.

13.2 European Convention on Information on Foreign Law (ETS No. 62) and its Additional Protocol (ETS No. 97) (main deliverable 5)

35. CDCJ took note of the draft programme of the webinar planned for 4 December 2025 on “Enhancing access to information on Foreign Law” to promote the European Convention on Information on Foreign Law (ETS No. 62) and its Additional Protocol (ETS No. 97) and the practical tools designed to facilitate the implementation of these treaties. It agreed to disseminate the invitation to the relevant national authorities. The CDCJ took note of a suggestion by a CDCJ member to organise further events, focusing on more practical points for exchange of views between the relevant authorities, following the webinar, in order to continue promotion of the Convention.

14. Transversal issues:

a. Mainstreaming gender, youth, children’s rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and Roma and Traveller² issues (*main task xvi*)

36. The CDCJ assessed the mainstreaming of perspectives related to gender, youth, children’s rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and Roma and Traveller issues, in the performance of its tasks.

b. Contribution to the UNSDGs - [Goal 5: Gender equality](#), [Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries](#), [Goal 13: Climate Change](#) and [Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions](#) (*main task xix*)

37. The CDCJ also assessed the contribution of the committee’s work to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) 5, 10, 13 and 16. It identified, among the activities within its current mandate, and in particular:

- the Convention for the protection of the profession of lawyer, prepared by the CDCJ and opened for signature on 13 May 2025, takes into account the Gender Equality Strategy and contributes to UNSDGs 5 and 16;

² 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.

- the work on stateless children and their access to nationality contributes to UNSDG 10 and 16;
- the work on the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins contributes to UNSDG 10 and 16;
- the study on national climate change litigation and possible follow up to it will contribute to UNSDG 13;
- the work undertaken as a follow-up action to give effect to its report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Plan of Action on Strengthening Judicial Independence and Impartiality contributes to UNSDG 16.

15. Developments in member states in the area of public law

38. The CDCJ took note of the information provided by a number of member states on recent developments in the area of public law (document [CDCJ\(2025\)17](#)) and thanked the delegations concerned for their contributions.

16. Co-operation with other relevant Council of Europe bodies and committees, other international organisations and civil society in the area of public law

39. The CDCJ took note of the information provided by relevant Council of Europe bodies and committees in areas of interest to the CDCJ (document [CDCJ\(2025\)18](#)) and as presented orally – see below:

40. The secretariat of the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM) presented a state of play of the key deliverables developed by that the CDDEM during the past year and a half, namely (1) draft Parameters to facilitate the application and implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy and (2) update of Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe. The CDDEM is expected to approve the draft recommendation and to adopt the Explanatory Memorandum to the recommendation at its next plenary meeting (26-28 November 2025). The committee should also adopt the said Parameters (see paragraph 8).

41. The secretariat of the Council of Europe Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU) updated the CDCJ on its peer-review and rapid-response work to support member states hosting children from Ukraine. Composed of 43 member states and other key stakeholders, the CGU has focused in its first mandate (2023-2025) on priority issues such as risks of trafficking, access to education, complex private international law questions and conditions for the safe return of children. It has produced a practical package (coordination form, checklist, mapping of focal points) currently piloted in seven countries. Its mandate has been extended to 31 December 2026 to address new priorities (children's role in accountability and access to justice, effects of indoctrination, bullying). The CGU is a platform for dialogue rather than a standard-setting body; it will make its tools and information available online when they are ready.

42. The Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency service (ENF-JUS), under the authority of the CDENF, is mandated to prepare by 31 December 2026 a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation on multidisciplinary and inter-institutional services for child-friendly justice. It informed the CDCJ on two meetings held until now (May and October 2025), during which a first draft text of the recommendation was prepared. This draft will be further reviewed in April 2026, then submitted to the CDENF plenary in June 2026, followed by a public consultation, with a view to examination and approval by the CDENF in December 2026.

43. The secretariat of the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and its Committee of Experts on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and Sex Characteristics (ADI-SOGIESC) presented Recommendation CM/Rec(2025)7 on equal rights for intersex persons. The CDCJ was also informed of (i) a Study on preventing and combating intersectional discrimination in law, policy and practice, which will underpin a future Committee of Ministers recommendation; (ii) the preparation of a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation on Equality and Artificial Intelligence, to be adopted in early 2026 and addressing legal frameworks, the role of equality bodies and NHRIs, transparency and accountability, and key sectors.

17. Evaluation of completed activities / Annual exchange of views to evaluate its activities and to advise the Committee of Ministers on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued (*main task xv*)

44. The CDCJ took note of progress made in respect of the activities featuring in the committee's terms of reference and workplan, and assessed their achievement based on the state of implementation of the CDCJ activities and on additional information provided by the secretariat, and was satisfied that its activities remained in accordance with the Programme and Budget for 2024-2027, the 4th Summit of Heads of States and Governments (Reykjavik, 16-17 May 2023) and the New Democratic Pact for Europe.

18. Elections and Appointments

a. Elections (Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau members)

45. Given the number of candidates corresponding exactly to the number of vacant seats, the CDCJ decided to proceed with the elections by acclamation.

46. The CDCJ elected Signe Öhman (Sweden) as Chairperson for a first term of office of one year and Lennart Houmann (Denmark) as Vice-Chairperson for a first term of office of one year; elected Christoph Henrichs (Germany) as a member of the Bureau for a first two-year term of office; and re-elected Alexandra Terés Erich (Andorra), João Arsénio de Oliveira (Portugal) and Matija Vidmar (Slovenia) as members of the Bureau for a second two-year term of office.

As from 1 January 2026, the CDCJ Bureau will be set up as follows:

Chairperson: Signe Öhman (Sweden) – elected for a first term of office of one year, from 1 January to 31 December 2026.

Vice-Chairperson: Lennart Houmann (Denmark) – elected for a first term of office of one year, from 1 January to 31 December 2026.

Bureau members:

Alexandra Terés Erich (Andorra) – re-elected for a second term of office of two years, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.

Christoph Henrichs (Germany) – elected for a first term of office of two years, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.

João Arsénio de Oliveira (Portugal) – re-elected for a second term of office of two years, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.

Matija Vidmar (Slovenia) – re-elected for a second term of office of two years, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.

Guillaume Vieillard (France) – elected in November 2024 for a two-year term of office, under Article 13.d of the Rules of Procedure, from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2026, after the first one-year term of office.

b. Appointments for 2026 (CDCJ Representatives and Rapporteurs, including Rapporteur to follow the implementation reviews of legal instruments)

47. The CDCJ made the necessary appointments of its thematic rapporteurs (gender equality, children's rights, rights of persons with disabilities), representatives and substitutes for 2026, as they appear in Appendix IV.

19. CDCJ Opinions (if any) (main deliverable 13)

48. The secretariat confirmed to the CDCJ that it had not received any request from the Committee of Ministers for possible comments on texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly or by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities at their last sessions.

20. Any other business

Working methods – possible review

49. The CDCJ held an exchange of views on a possible revision of the CDCJ's working methods with a view to improving the efficiency of its work, based on proposals prepared by the secretariat following discussions of the Bureau at its 123rd meeting in September 2025

50. The Secretariat presented proposals to revise CDCJ working methods, with a view to strengthening member engagement by encouraging more active exchanges of views and ideas and thus improving the

quality of debate. The CDCJ considered that tours de table for experience-sharing were resource-intensive, both in terms of meeting time and national preparation, and might not always generate added value, as not all delegations would have information to share. Instead, the committee supported targeted exchanges with invited guests whose contributions were clearly linked to the agenda and help to raise the CDCJ's profile. It also underlined the usefulness of small group discussions, which foster interactive debate and allow for differing viewpoints to be explored in depth. The CDCJ further agreed on the benefits of events parallel or back-to-back to its meetings to enhance the visibility of its work and achievements. One delegation suggested holding short online Teams meetings between the secretariat and CDCJ members ahead of plenary sessions, to review the agenda and guide preparations. The committee favoured a phased approach, testing one or more selected proposals first and adjusting them in light of experience, rather than implementing all of them simultaneously.

51. The CDCJ agreed to discuss the proposals further at its next plenary meeting based on possible amendments to its working methods prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau, taking into account the committee's first discussions and guidance, with a view to their consideration and possible adoption at the next CDCJ Plenary in June 2026.

21. Dates and place of the next meetings

52. The CDCJ took note of the updated calendar of its meetings and events for 2025-2026, including the dates of its next two plenary meetings on which it agreed:

- 106th meeting: Strasbourg, 2-4 June 2026,
- 107th meeting: Strasbourg, 17-19 November 2026.

22. Adoption of the meeting report

53. The CDCJ adopted the abridged report of its 105th plenary meeting as it appears in document CDCJ(2025)22.

Appendix I

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business
3. Tour de table: interventions by newly designated members of the CDCJ
4. Information by the Chair and Secretariat
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. Promote and facilitate the functioning, implementation and where necessary the ratification of Council of Europe conventions, agreements and protocols within its area of competence (*main task iv*)
13. 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*)

13.1 Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer Treaty Office (CETS No. 226) – follow-up

- a. Tour de table on signatures and ratifications of the Luxembourg Convention
- b. Exchange of views with two judges of the European Court of Human Rights
- c. Promotion of the Luxembourg Convention

13.2 European Convention on Information on Foreign Law (ETS No. 62) and its Additional Protocol (ETS No. 97) (main deliverable 5)

14. Transversal issues:
 - a. Mainstreaming gender, youth, children's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and Roma and Traveller issues (*main task xvi*)
 - b. Contribution to the UNSDGs - Goal 5: Gender equality, Goal 10; Reduce inequality within and among countries, Goal 13: Climate Change and Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions (*main task xix*)

15. Developments in member states in the area of public law
16. Co-operation with other relevant Council of Europe bodies and committees, other international organisations and civil society in the area of public law
17. Evaluation of completed activities / Annual exchange of views to evaluate its activities and to advise the Committee of Ministers on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued (*main task xv*)
18. Elections and Appointments
 - a. Elections (Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau members)
 - b. Appointments for 2026 (CDCJ Representatives and Rapporteurs, including Rapporteur to follow the implementation reviews of legal instruments)
19. CDCJ Opinions (if any) (*main deliverable 13*)
20. Any other business
 - Working methods – possible review
21. Dates and place of next meetings
22. Adoption of the meeting report

Appendix II

Participants

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

ALBANIA / ALBANIE	Ms Monika MEÇA Head of the legal unit for the coordination of priority initiatives and acquis legislation Department of Priority Legal Acts of Council of Ministers Council of Ministers Office	Apologised / Excusée
ANDORRA / ANDORRE	Mme Alexandra TERÉS ERICH Juge Seu de la Justicia	
ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE	Ms Rubina MKHITARYAN Head of the Department of International Legal Cooperation Ministry of Justice	
AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE	Ms Verena CAP Head of Department for International Private and Procedural Law Directorate General for Civil Law Federal Ministry of Justice	
AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN	Ms Nargiz PASHAYEVA Lead consultant Administrative and Military Normative Acts Unit General Department of the Legislation Ministry of Justice Mr Said MIRZAYEV Main International Cooperation Department Ministry of Justice	Apologised / Excusée
BELGIUM / BELGIQUE	M. Jean-Christophe BOULET Conseiller Expert SPF Justice Direction générale Législation, Libertés et Droits fondamentaux Service du droit civil patrimonial et de la procédure civile	
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE	Ms Đanela ZEĆO Legal Advisor Office of the Chairman Council of Ministers	Apologised / Excusée
BULGARIA / BULGARIE	Ms Mitka ZAHARLIEVA Director International Legal Cooperation EU Affairs Directorate Ministry of Justice	Apologised / Excusée
CROATIA / CROATIE	Mr. Igor JUKIĆ Head of Department for Multilateral Cooperation Sector for European Affairs and International Cooperation Directorate for European Affairs, International and Judicial Cooperation and Prevention of Corruption Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation	

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Appendix III

Programme of the launch event of Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings (CM/Rec(2025)4) and in care proceedings (CM/Rec(2025)5)

jointly organised by the CDCJ and the CDENF
Strasbourg, 19 November 2025

“Hear our Voice:

upholding the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation and care proceedings”

2.00 **Welcome words**

Hallvard Gorseth, Director, Directorate of Equal Rights and Dignity, Council of Europe

2.15 **Keynote addresses**

- *Ambassador Daniela Cujbă*, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova, Chair of the Ministers’ Deputies of the Council of Europe
- *Bjørn Berge*, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- *Anne Louise Bormann*, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights

2.45 **Presentation of the Recommendations**

- *Seamus S. Carroll*, First Chairperson of the Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)
- *Thomas Knoll-Biermann*, Second Chairperson of the CJ/ENF-ISE (online)

3.15 **First panel: Challenges faced by children in parental separation and care proceedings**

Moderated by *Eral Knight*, Chair of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)

- *Anna Glatz*, Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation (Hungary) facilitating child consultations during the drafting process of the Recommendations (online)
- *Stéphanie Hébrard*, Vice-Chair of the CJ/ENF-ISE
- *Benoit Van Keirsbilck*, Director of Defence Children International Belgium, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Questions and answers

4.00 **Refreshment break with pastries- Family photo**

4.30 **Second panel: Promising practices among CoE member States**

Moderated by *Ružica Boškić*, Chair of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

- *Daja Wenke*, Consultant of the CJ/ENF-ISE
- *Andrej Del Fabro*, Head of Child-Friendly Criminal Justice Department, Ministry of Justice, Slovenia
- *Bente Therese Bekkhus*, Acting Director, Department of International Law, Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs and Member of the CJ/ENF-ISE

Questions and Answers

5.00 **Concluding Remarks**

Ambassador Dastid Koreshi, Permanent Representative of Albania and Chair of the Committee of Ministers’ Rapporteur Group on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC)

Appendix IV**Appointments by the CDCJ for 2026****CDCJ Thematic Rapporteurs**

Rapporteur on Gender Equality (GER)	Alexandra Terés Erich (Andorra)
Rapporteur on Children's Rights	Verena Cap (Austria)
Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	To be determined

CDCJ representatives/substitutes in other Council of Europe bodies

European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)	Representative: João Arsénio de Oliveira (Portugal) Substitute: Rodrigo Rodriguez (Switzerland)
Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)	Representative: Rodrigo Rodriguez (Switzerland)
Steering Committee for New and Emerging Digital Technologies (CDNET) (<i>replacing the Committee on Artificial Intelligence - CAI</i>)	Representative: Rubina Mkhitaryan (Armenia)
Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) / Consultation Group on Children of Ukraine (CGU) / Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency services (ENF-JUS)	Representative: Verena Cap (Austria)
Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM)	Representative: James D'Agostino (Malta)
Steering Committee on the Environment (CDENV)	Representative: Jean-Christophe Boulet (Belgium)