

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 4 June 2026

CDCJ(2026)15

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

106th plenary meeting

2-4 June 2026

Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe, Room 10 and online

ABRIDGED MEETING REPORT

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

The European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) held its 106th plenary meeting in Strasbourg and online on 2-4 June 2026 with Signe Öhman (Sweden) in the Chair.

The Chair welcomed the new members from Italy and Republic of Moldova who joined the committee since the last plenary meeting (18-20 November 2025) as well as participants¹ who attended the meeting for the first time. The CDCJ paid special tribute to Francesco Crisafulli, former member for Italy, and expressed its gratitude for his invaluable expertise and collaboration over his many years of membership. The committee also thanked Julie Devys, whose secondment to the CDCJ secretariat was coming to an end, for her excellent contribution to its work.

The agenda of the meeting appears in the appendix.

The CDCJ:

- took note of the information provided by the Chair and the secretariat on developments that have occurred since the 105th plenary meeting (18-20 November 2025) and by the CDCJ representatives to the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) and the Steering Committee on the Environment (CDENV) on their ongoing work of interest to the CDCJ;
- took note of progress made in achieving the deliverables contained in the current terms of reference (document CDCJ (2026)01 rev);
- examined possible new themes (document CDCJ(2025)14 prov4) and existing instruments for revision or promotion (document CDCJ(2026)05 prov2) as part of the reflection process on its next terms of reference. The following topics were examined and given the following descending order of priority: safeguarding democratic institutions and civil service; justice as driver of economic growth; the human rights dimension of private debt recovery and enforcement proceedings; the profession of notary and the rule of law; and medical liability. Based on these discussions, the secretariat will prepare a consolidated document for the committee's next terms of reference to be examined and adopted at its next plenary meeting;
- decided to give already priority to the first topic in having a feasibility study on the resilience of civil service in connection with the New Democratic Pact for Europe included in its terms of reference for 2027;
- decided that the update of Recommendation No. R (86) 12 concerning measures to prevent and to reduce the excessive workload in the courts, agreed previously, could also be added to its terms of reference for 2027;
- examined and adopted the draft report on the CDCJ's first thematic review, 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); agreed to the publication of the said report on the CDCJ website after a final editorial review; agreed to hold a conference, back-to-back with the 107th plenary meeting in November, to launch the report, and instructed the secretariat to organise the event using an interactive, participatory format; held an exchange of views with Judge Wiggo Storhaug Larssen, Vice-President of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE), whose input contributed to the report, on challenges facing the judiciary, including issues related to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the misuse of disciplinary measures affecting judicial independence;
- took note of the update provided by the Vice-chair of the CDCJ Limited Working Group on Migration (CDCJ-MIG), Kateřina Radová (Czechia) and the secretariat; examined, in the light of the comments received, the draft revised Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)13 on the nationality of children and its explanatory memorandum, and provided the necessary guidance to the CDCJ-MIG to finalise the preparatory work with a view to approving and/or adopting these instruments at the CDCJ Plenary in November; took note of the list of decisions of the 5th meeting of the CDCJ-MIG (23-24 February 2026);
- took note of the information provided by the Chair of the Committee of Experts on Access to Origins (CJ-OR), Thomas Knoll-Biermann (Germany), its consultant, Laurence Brunet, and the secretariat on the progress of work; examined, in the light of the comments received, the draft recommendation on the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins and provided further guidance to CJ-OR on advancing the draft recommendation and its explanatory memorandum, ahead of a forthcoming stakeholder consultation; given the complexity of the issues at stake and diversity of legal frameworks in Europe, decided that CJ-OR's terms of reference should be extended by one year to enable the completion of the ongoing work and consultation by the end of 2027; took note of the report of the 3rd meeting of the CJ-OR (24-26 March 2026);

¹ At this plenary meeting of CDCJ, 38 member states were represented by 44 participants: 27 women and 17 men, 61% and 39% respectively.

- held a joint online session with the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) and the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) on the thematic review of the Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice; took note of the draft gap analysis report (document CDENF(2026)06) presented by one of the consultants; noted that a written consultation on this gap analysis report would run until 7 September 2026; CDCJ delegations were therefore invited to provide comments on it, including its conclusions as to the need to revise the Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice, with a view to adopting it at a joint session of the three committees next November;
- welcomed the signature by Albania of the European Agreement on the Abolition of Visas for Refugees (ETS No. 031) and the signature/ratification by Fiji of Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (ETS No. 127);
- welcomed the recent eight signatures of the Luxembourg Convention that occurred since the last Plenary, bringing the number of signatures to 31;
- held a tour de table on progress made in member states on signature/ratification processes regarding the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer (CETS No. 226);
- took note of the information provided by the representative of the European Union (EU) Delegation at the Council of Europe concerning the state of play of the EU process relating to the signature and ratification of the Luxembourg Convention. The representative indicated that complex issues had arisen and that the matter remained a priority. Several delegations expressed serious concerns over the predictability of the advancement of the EU signature and ratification process (clear timeline and information) which they considered could delay ratification by their country and the convention's entry into force;
- welcomed the activities organised to raise awareness, drive advocacy and encourage signature and ratification of the Luxembourg Convention; delegations were invited to provide the secretariat with any translations of the convention produced by their authorities in their national languages, which could be made available on the Treaty Office's website;
- provided the necessary guidance to the secretariat to update the document it prepared in respect of the CDCJ's input to the implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy and to the New Democratic Pact for Europe, which underlines the relevance of its activities to these two strategic documents, in view of its adoption by the committee at its next plenary meeting in November;
- granted the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) with observer status, pursuant to Resolution CM/Res(2021)3-consolidated on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, and following the assessment of the CNUE's request and information provided by the President and Secretary General of the CNUE in the light of the criteria set by the CDCJ;
- took note of the information provided by several member states on developments in their legislation in the area of private law; agreed to add a rubric in the calls for information asking delegations to indicate whether any developments would prove relevant to future work of the committee;
- took note of the information provided by the secretariats of the CDENF and the Gender Equality Division on their work in the area of private law of interest to the CDCJ; invited the secretariat to stay in touch with them concerning their respective activities;
- adopted its revised working methods with the aim of making its work more efficient, flexible and interactive (document CDCJ(2026)02 final);
- took note of the updated calendar of its meetings, consultations and events for 2026-2027 and confirmed the dates of its 107th plenary meeting to take place on 17-19 November 2026 in person in Strasbourg and online (hybrid format);
- adopted this abridged report of its 106th plenary meeting and noted that a draft long report would be shared shortly for adoption in writing.

Appendix

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
 - a. Stocktaking: implementation of CDCJ activities for 2026-2027
 - b. Future CDCJ activities
 - c. Terms of reference for 2027

Justice and the Rule of Law

6. Council of Europe Plan of Action on Strengthening Judicial Independence and Impartiality (Sofia Action Plan) – Focused thematic review of the implementation of selected aspects of the Sofia Action Plan (*main deliverable 10*)
7. The use of artificial intelligence for policing, the administration of justice and borders/migration – Feasibility study (*main deliverable 11*)

Public Law

8. Statelessness and access to nationality (*main deliverables 7 and main task xi*)

Family law and children's rights

9. Rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins (*main deliverable 8 and main task xi*)
10. Thematic review of the guidelines on child-friendly justice (focus: civil and administrative proceedings) (*main deliverable 9*)
11. State of play of the implementation of selected conventions and/or recommendations falling under the CDCJ's responsibility, including proposals for follow-up deliverables, and awareness-raising activities in other international and global fora where relevant (*main deliverable 12 and main tasks v, xiv and xviii*)
Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer Treaty Office (CETS No. 226) – follow-up
12. 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 (*main task xiii*) and contribute, where relevant, to the process towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe (*main task ii*)
13. Observer status with the CDCJ and its subordinate bodies
14. Developments in member states in the area of private law
15. Co-operation with other relevant Council of Europe bodies and committees, other international organisations and civil society in the area of private law
16. Review of the CDCJ working methods
17. CDCJ Opinions (if any) (*main deliverable 13*)
18. Any other business
19. Dates and place of next meetings
20. Adoption of the meeting report