

Paris, 26 September 2025

CDCJ-BU(2025)03

**BUREAU OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON LEGAL CO-OPERATION
(CDCJ-BU)**

123rd meeting
25-26 September 2025

Council of Europe Office in Paris, 55 avenue Kléber
Room 1 and online

MEETING REPORT

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

1. The Bureau of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) held its 123rd meeting on 25-26 September 2025 in Paris (Council of Europe Office), with Mr Eral Knight (United Kingdom) in the Chair.

2. The agenda of the meeting is contained in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.

3. Information by the Chair and Secretariat

3. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the secretariat about recent developments having occurred since the last CDCJ plenary meeting (16-18 June 2025) and any implications they may have on CDCJ activities. The Bureau welcomed the fact that several CDCJ delegations had contributed to the consultation process on the draft revised recommendation on the legal status of civil society organisations organised by the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM); the consolidated comments were transmitted by the secretariat. The secretariat also forwarded the comments received from the Bureau on the draft parameters for the implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for democracy, in the framework of the consultation process also organised by the CDDEM. The secretariat informed the Bureau 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 and soon Arabic).

4. Review of progress

4. The Bureau took note of the update provided by the secretariat on progress achieved since the last plenary meeting of the CDCJ regarding the implementation of the deliverables contained in its terms of reference (document CDCJ(2025)01 rev2). The secretariat reminded the Bureau of the activities remaining to carry out as part of the CDCJ's current terms of reference, namely the revision of Recommendation No. R (86) 12 concerning measures to prevent and reduce the excessive workload in the courts, an implementation report on Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)2 on the legal regulation of the lobbying activities in the context of public decision making, and the review of Recommendation CM/Rec (2009)11 on principles concerning continuing of powers of attorney and advanced directives for incapacity.

5. The Bureau examined possible future activities of the CDCJ as proposed in document CDCJ(2025)14 prov which was prepared on the basis of discussions held at its last plenary meeting. It considered the document a sound basis for further discussions at the forthcoming CDCJ plenary meeting (18-20 November 2025). It decided to add the topic of justice as a catalyser of economic growth.

Justice and the Rule of Law

5. Council of Europe Plan of Action on Strengthening Judicial Independence and Impartiality (Sofia Action Plan) (main deliverable 10)

6. The Bureau took note of the update provided by the secretariat on progress made in preparing the first thematic review of the implementation of the Sofia Action Plan with a focus on the career and training of judges. The adoption of this thematic review by the CDCJ is planned for its 106th plenary meeting (June 2026).

7. The Bureau examined the draft thematic review (document CDCJ(2024)13 prov5) as updated by the secretariat based on the information provided by CDCJ delegations as well as members of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE). It also examined the question of possible follow-up to the thematic review and considered favourably the organisation of a conference around the findings of this thematic review and possible challenges. It considered it important that judges be involved in this conference, including the CCJE.

6. 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)

8. The Bureau took note of the update provided by the secretariat, in particular the fact that the feasibility study would be initiated in 2026.

Public Law

7. National climate litigation (main deliverable 4)

9. The Bureau took note of the update provided by the secretariat and examined the draft study on national climate litigation prepared by the consultants (document CDCJ(2025)15 prov). It provided guidance for the completion of the study whose examination and adoption are planned for the upcoming plenary meeting of the CDCJ.

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

10. The Bureau took note of the update provided by the secretariat on progress made in the work of the CDCJ Limited Working Group on Migration (CDCJ-MIG). It was informed of the changes in its membership, three countries (Armenia, Croatia, France) having changed their representatives.

11. It examined the draft revised recommendation on the nationality of children (document CDCJ-MIG(2025)02 prov3) and the way the comments made by the CDCJ at its last plenary meeting had been accommodated. It also examined the draft compendium of promising practices on access to nationality for stateless children (document CDCJ-MIG(2025)04 prov3). It asked the secretariat to convey its observations to the CDCJ-MIG whose 4th meeting is to be held on 29 September-1 October 2025.

Family law and children's rights

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

12. The Bureau took note of the update provided by the secretariat on progress made in the work of the Committee of Experts on Access to Origins (CJ-OR). The Bureau was informed that a new call for interest would be initiated to fill the seat left vacant by the government expert of Denmark.

13. It also took note of the draft recommendation on the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins (document CJ-OR(2025)10 prov). Whilst aware that this draft had not been examined by the CJ-OR yet, the Bureau decided to provide preliminary comments for consideration by the CJ-OR at its forthcoming meeting (28-30 October 2025). Considering the complexity of the legal issues raised and the diversity of situations across Europe, the Bureau noted the tight timeline to complete this work.

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

14. The Bureau took note of the update provided by the secretariat on the developments since the last plenary meeting in June 2025.

15. It held an exchange of views with the Bureau of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) on progress made on the draft thematic review of the guidelines on child-friendly justice.

11. 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)

16. The Bureau took note of the updated information provided by the secretariat on the promotion of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer (document CDCJ(2025)03 prov3). It considered favourably the organisation of an event involving national bar associations.

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

17. The Bureau took note of the information provided by member states on developments in their legislation in the area of public law (document CDCJ(2025)17).

13. Preparation of the next plenary meeting

18. The Bureau agreed on the draft agenda of the 105th plenary meeting of the CDCJ (18-20 November 2025) (document CDCJ(2025)OJ2 prov).

19. It discussed with the Bureau of the CDENF the draft programme of the joint CDCJ-CDENF event to be held on 19 November 2025 to launch [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 their implementation tools. Both Bureaux welcomed the draft programme and entrusted their respective secretariats to finalise it in close co-operation.

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

20. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat that the CDCJ 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.

15. Any other business

21. The Bureau discussed its working methods and explored ways to stimulate more discussions within the CDCJ, such as continuing to have side events during the meetings, having more exchanges of views with guest speakers from organisations with similar remits, holding tours de table on certain items, and organising break-out groups to discuss certain topics.

16. Dates and place of next meetings

22. The Bureau took note of the provisional dates proposed for the plenary meetings of the CDCJ in 2026 (2-4 June and 17-19 November 2026). It also provisionally set dates for its meetings in 2026 (12-13 March and 1-2 October 2026).

17. Adoption of the meeting report

23. The Bureau adopted the report of its meeting.

Appendix I

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business
3. Information by the Chair and Secretariat
4. Review of progress

Justice and the Rule of Law

5. Council of Europe Plan of Action on Strengthening Judicial Independence and Impartiality (Sofia Action Plan) (*main deliverable 10*)
6. 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

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

Family law and children's rights

9. Rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins (*main deliverable 8*)
10. Thematic review of the guidelines on child-friendly justice (focus: civil and administrative proceedings) (*main deliverable 9*)
11. 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*)
12. Developments in member states in the area of public law
13. Preparation of the next plenary meeting
14. CDCJ Opinions (if any) (*main deliverable 13*)
15. Any other business
16. Dates and place of next meetings
17. Adoption of the meeting report

Appendix II

Participants**MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU / MEMBRES DU BUREAU**

ANDORRA / ANDORRE	Alexandra TERES ERICH Judge Seu de la Justícia
DENMARK / DANEMARK	Lennart HOUMANN Head of Department of Civil Law Ministry of Justice
FRANCE	Guillaume VIEILLARD Magistrat Chef du bureau des questions institutionnelles et diplomatiques Délégation aux affaires européennes et internationales (DAEI) Ministère de la Justice
PORTUGAL	João ARSÉNIO DE OLIVEIRA Head of International Affairs Department Directorate General for Justice Policy Ministry of Justice
SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE	Matija VIDMAR Secretary Office for International Cooperation and Mutual Legal Assistance Ministry of Justice
SWEDEN / SUÈDE	Signe ÖHMAN Vice-Chair / Vice-président Director Division for EU Affairs Ministry of Justice
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI	Eral KNIGHT Chair / Président Head of Private International Law Negotiations and International Relations International Justice Policy Division Ministry of Justice

SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT

**HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND LEGAL CO-OPERATION STANDARD SETTING
ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT / SERVICE DES ACTIVITÉS NORMATIVES EN MATIÈRE DE
DROITS HUMAINS, JUSTICE ET COOPÉRATION JURIDIQUE**

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