

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 13 October 2020

CDCJ&CDENF/Bu(2020)PV1

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

**BUREAU OF THE
STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
(CDENF-BU)**

First joint meeting
(videoconference)
7 October 2020

MEETING REPORT

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting was opened by the Chair of the CDCJ, Mr João Arsénio de Oliveira (Portugal) and the Chair of the CDENF, Ms Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou (Greece) who welcomed the participants.
2. Ms Hanne Juncher, Head of the Justice and Legal Co-operation Department, and Ms Regína Jensdóttir, Children's Rights Coordinator of the Council of Europe and Head of the Children's Rights Division, recalled the innovative status and work of the CJ/ENF-ISE which combine the expertise of CDCJ and CDENF and underlined the need for close cooperation of both Steering Committees to achieve the work of CJ/ENF-ISE.
3. The agenda was adopted as set out in **Appendix I**.

II. TOUR DE TABLE OF CDCJ AND CDENF BUREAU MEMBERS

4. CDCJ and CDENF Bureau members present at the meeting introduced themselves.
5. The list of participants appears in **Appendix II**.

III. UPDATE BY THE CJ/ENF-ISE CHAIR ON THE OUTCOME OF THE FIRST MEETING

6. Mr Seamus Carroll, Chair of the CJ/ENF-ISE, informed the Bureaux on the outcome of the 1st meeting of the CJ/ENF-ISE (24-25 September 2020) and highlighted the broad range of professional backgrounds represented.
7. He pointed out the rich discussion held during the meeting and in particular on the possible type of legal instruments and tools to be developed by the CJ/ENF-ISE.
8. The Bureaux took note of the draft report of the 1st meeting of the CJ/ENF-ISE (document CJ/ENF-ISE(2020)PV1prov) and welcomed the progress made.

IV. WORKING METHODS OF THE CJ/ENF-ISE

i. Calendar and timelines

9. The Bureaux took note of the oral information provided by the Secretariat on the proposed timelines of the working programme of CJ/ENF-ISE (document CJ/ENF-ISE(2020)04REV1) and was informed that the workplan would be updated regularly.
10. Bureaux members welcomed the workplan and noted the very tight schedule considering the needed time to elaborate draft legal instruments/tools by CJ/ENF-ISE and to ensure a wide consultation of stakeholders, including children, on the latter's as well as time needed for both Steering Committees to adopt the draft texts.
11. The Bureaux requested to be kept regularly informed on the state of progress of the work of the CJ/ENF-ISE and any other issues. Should the CJ/ENF-ISE need more time, the CDENF and the CDCJ would consider in due course whether an extension of the

terms of reference of the CJ/ENF-ISE would be required beyond 2021 when discussing the priority areas for the next biennium.

ii. Update on the tenders

12. The Bureaux took note of the status of the tendering processes for the consultancy services to support the work of the CJ/ENF-ISE and invited the Secretariat to finalise the processes.

V. EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRES PREPARED BY THE CJ/ENF-ISE

13. The Bureaux had an in-depth review of the proposed draft questionnaires and approved them.
14. The Bureaux entrusted the Secretariat to disseminate the draft questionnaires at its earliest convenience and underlined the importance of qualitative contributions by member states to enable the CJ/ENF-ISE to develop the reviews of law, policy and practice on parental separation and childcare proceedings.
15. The Bureaux agreed also that the CJ/ENF-ISE could address the respondents, as and when necessary, requests for specific clarifications (e.g. on specific topics in light of their response to the questionnaires or on identified good practices that are worth exploring, etc.).

VI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16. The Bureaux examined the letter received on 6 October 2020 from Missing Children Europe requesting observer status to the CJ/ENF-ISE and agreed that the Chairs of CDENF, CDCJ and CJ/ENF-ISE should hold a hearing with the organisation to give them the opportunity to substantiate further their application.
17. The Bureaux took note of the criteria developed by the CDENF Bureau for applicants for observer status¹ and agreed to discuss this matter at their next meeting.

VII. APPROVAL OF THE JOINT MEETING REPORT

18. The Bureaux agreed that the approval of the report of the meeting would be undertaken through a written procedure after the meeting.

¹ Applicants must demonstrate: a broad experience in the working areas of the CJ/ENF-ISE; the ability to make an effective and high-quality contribution to the work of the CJ/ENF-ISE (based on its capacity and related human and material resources); and an adequate representation at a Europe-wide, and where relevant, a broader level.

APPENDIX I

AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. *Tour de table* of CDCJ and CDENF Bureau members**
- 3. Update by the CJ/ENF-ISE Chair on the outcome of the first meeting**
- 4. Working methods**
 - 4.1 Calendar and timelines*
 - 4.2 Update on the tenders*
- 5. Examination of the draft questionnaires prepared by the CJ/ENF-ISE**
- 6. Any other business**
- 7. Approval of the joint meeting report**

APPENDIX II

PARTICIPANTS LIST

**MEMBERS OF THE CDCJ BUREAU /
MEMBRES DU BUREAU DU CDCJ****ESTONIA / ESTONIE****Kai HÄRMAND**

Deputy secretary general
Ministry of justice

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE**Christoph HENRICH**

(Vice-Chair / Vice-président)

Head of Section International Law
Law of International Organisations
Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer

ITALY / ITALIE**Francesco CRISAFULLI**

(Apologised / Excusé)

Magistrat
Tribunal de Rome

PORTUGAL**João Arsénio de OLIVEIRA**

(Chair / Président)

Head of Department, Deputy Director
Directorate General for Justice Policy
Ministry of Justice

SWEDEN / SUEDE**Signe ÖHMAN**

Director
Division for EU Affairs
Ministry of Justice

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS /
AUTRES PARTICIPANTS****IRELAND / IRLANDE****Seamus CARROLL**

(Chair of the CJ/ENF-ISE / Président du CJ/ENF-ISE)

CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE**Zuzana FISEROVA**

(Gender Equality Rapporteur to CDCJ)

Director
International Department for Civil Matters
Ministry of Justice

**MEMBERS OF THE CDENF BUREAU/
MEMBRES DU BUREAU DU CDENF****ESTONIA / ESTONIE****Hanna VSEVIOV**

Head of Department
Children and Families Department
Ministry of Social Affairs

GREECE / GRÈCE**Maria-Andriani KOSTOPOULOU**

(Chair / Président)

Attorney at Law
Supreme Court of Greece

MALTA / MALTE**Matthew VELLA**

(Apologised / Excusé)

Chief Executive Officer
Social Care Standards Authority

SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE**Ružica BOŠKIĆ**

Secretary
Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal
Opportunities

SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT

DGI - HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW /
DGI – DROITS DE L'HOMME ET ETAT DE DROIT

DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS /
DIRECTION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

JUSTICE AND LEGAL CO-OPERATION
DEPARTMENT /
SERVICE DE LA COOPERATION JUDICIAIRE ET
JURIDIQUE

Hanne JUNCHER
Head of the Department / *Chef du Service*

Division for Legal Co-operation /
Division de la coopération juridique

Sophio GELASHVILI
Head of Legal Cooperation Unit, Co-Secretary to
the European Committee on Legal Co-operation
Secretariat (CDCJ) / *Cheffe de l'unité de la*
coopération juridique, Co-Secrétaire du Comité
européen de coopération juridique (CDCJ)

Philippe KRANTZ
Legal Officer / *Juriste*

DGII - DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF
DEMOCRACY / DGII – DIRECTION GENERALE DE
LA DEMOCRATIE

DIRECTORATE OF ANTI-DISCRIMINATION /
DIRECTION DE L'ANTIDISCRIMINATION

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND SPORT VALUES
DEPARTMENT /
SERVICE DES DROITS DES ENFANTS ET DES
VALEURS DU SPORT

Children's Rights Division /
Division des droits des enfants

Regina JENSDOTTIR
Council of Europe Children's Rights Co-ordinator,
Head of the Children's Rights Division /
Coordinatrice des droits des enfants du Conseil de
l'Europe, Cheffe de la Division des droits des
enfants

Livia STOICA-BECHT
Secretary to the Steering Committee for the Rights of
the Child (CDENF) / *Secrétaire du Comité Directeur*
pour les droits de l'enfant (CDENF)

María ASENSIO VELASCO
Policy Officer / *Chargée de mission*