



Strasbourg, 18 November 2020

CDCT(2020)08

# **COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM (CDCT)**

## **5<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting**

Videoconference, 17-18 November 2020

Online

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### **Abridged Report and List of Items discussed and Decisions taken**

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Secretariat of the Counter-Terrorism Division  
Information Society and Action against Crime Directorate, DG I

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The Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) meeting on 17 and 18 November 2020 in a videoconference under the Chairmanship of Ms Ileana VIȘOIU (Romania) decided to:

**1. Opening of the meeting**

Express its condolences with the victims of the recent heinous terrorist attacks in Austria and France and its solidarity with the Austrian and French Governments in standing up to the threat of terrorism in Europe.

- Take note of the opening remarks made by Mr Jan KLEIJSSSEN, Director, Information Society and Action against Crime Directorate. Mr Kleijssen expressed his condolences to the member States recently affected by terrorist attacks and touched on the importance of the standard-setting work of the CDCT and the need for the Committee and the Council of Europe to remain ahead of the curve in the fight against terrorism. In this regard Mr Kleijssen commended the CDCT on its past and present work and invited the Committee to consider incorporating some of the topics it is currently addressing or planning to address in a legally-binding instrument, such as a possible second additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196).

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

- Adopt the agenda and the order of business.

**3. Communication by the Chair and by the Secretariat, and by delegations**

- Take note of the information provided by its Chair, Ms Vișoiu, in particular about the outcome of the Bureau meeting on 16 and 17 September 2020. Ms Vișoiu further informed the Committee about her written reply to the Secretary General's questions to the Chairs of Ad Hoc and Steering Committees concerning working methods and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their work.
- Take note of the information provided by the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Mr Carlo CHIAROMONTE, concerning the progress made on the various activities and files pertaining to the CDCT since the 4<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting, notably that despite the limitations on the Committee's work resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, it had been possible to conduct a large number of meetings at working group level online, and that the Secretariat had assured online presence and participation in relevant events organised by other inter-governmental organisations and fora.
- Distribute to the relevant competent national authorities the "Tool for the preliminary evaluation of the risk that a terrorist attack may be carried out by radicalised persons", considered as a very useful and valuable instrument in preventing terrorist attacks.
- Endorse the proposal by the Bureau to postpone the examination of the issue of "definition of terrorism" until the first Plenary Meeting of 2021, in so far as public health conditions allow this, and that the deadline for submitting comments concerning the issue of definition of terrorism will be prolonged until 1 March 2021.
- Hold a first exchange of views on bioterrorism on the basis of the document prepared by the Secretariat (doc. CDCT(2020)05) and instruct the Secretariat to prepare a questionnaire for approval by the Bureau on the possible scope of Council of Europe action on bioterrorism.

- Take note of the analytical report shared with the CDCT by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Anti-Terrorism Center entitled “Specifics of Bio-Terrorism Threat in the Present Context (2020)”.
- Take note of the proposal of the Russian Federation for the CDCT to consider the issue of “false communication of terrorism” as a topic for possible future work of the Committee.
- Take note of the remarks by Austria concerning the recent terrorist attack in Vienna.
- Take note of the information provided by San Marino about recent developments in its legal counter-terrorism framework.

#### **4. Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy - Future work and activities of the CDCT**

- Examine and discuss the state of implementation of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2018 – 2022).

##### ***Activity 1.5 – Financing of terrorism***

- Endorse the decision of the Bureau to postpone this Activity until 2021 and that a letter from the Chair will be sent to the Chair of Moneyval asking their opinion on how to proceed with this Activity.

##### ***Activity 2.4 – Mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, extradition and the use of joint investigative teams in relation to terrorism***

- Postpone the implementation of Activity 2.4 until 2022.

##### ***Activity 3.4 – Identification of emerging terrorist threats***

- Instruct the Secretariat to organise, at the beginning of next year, a meeting of the working group composed of experts nominated by CDCT representatives that will draft a comprehensive study on emerging terrorist threats. The working group will be assisted by an academic expert and is expected to submit the study to the CDCT during the first half of 2021 for further discussions, including in view of the drafting of the next five-year counter-terrorism strategy (2023 – 2027).

##### ***Activity 3.5 – The roles of women and children in terrorism***

- Due to the current public health situation, postpone the International Conference on the Roles of Women and Children originally scheduled to take place on 3 and 4 December 2020 until 2021 (date and place to be confirmed).

##### ***Activity 3.6 – Law enforcement and emergency services responses during and in the immediate aftermath of terrorist attacks***

- To hold an exchange of views on how to proceed with the implementation of Activity 3.6 and instruct the Secretariat to prepare a document with concrete proposals for how to implement the activity in 2021 or 2022.

**Activity 3.2 – Risk assessment of individuals indicted and convicted of terrorist offences**

- Endorse the proposal of the Bureau to implement this activity as a matter of urgency and set up a drafting or working group of experts entrusted to prepare a recommendation in 2021 for the approval of the CDCT. The following members of the CDCT expressed their provisional interest in participating in the drafting or working group: Finland, the Russian Federation, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States. Other members of the CDCT are invited to inform the Secretariat no later than 30 November 2020 whether they are interested in participating in this drafting or working group.

**5. Awareness raising on radicalisation and other preventive measures among frontline practitioners, in particular in schools**

- Examine and hold a first exchange of views on the draft preliminary recommendation on “Measures aimed at protecting adolescents against radicalisation for the purpose of terrorism” prepared by interested member States, supported by an independent expert, by a written procedure.
- Provide the independent expert with additional guidance on how to proceed with the further drafting of the recommendation.
- Instruct the Secretariat to submit the draft recommendation, as amended by the CDCT, to other relevant committees of the Council of Europe for their comments and suggestions.
- Prepare the final version of the draft recommendation for the CDCT’s attention and approval as soon as these consultations are concluded.

**6. Terrorism and transnational organised crime (CDCT-TTOC)**

- Approve the Draft Guidelines on the “Links between Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime”, as amended by the CDCT, and instruct the Secretariat to submit it to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.
- Approve the Draft Explanatory Memorandum to the Draft Guidelines on the Links between Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime which will also be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for information.

**7. Working Group on the gathering of evidence from conflict zones for the purpose of criminal prosecution (CDCT-GE)**

- Hold an exchange of views with one of the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the gathering of evidence from conflict zones for the purpose of criminal prosecution (CDCT-GE), Mr Nicola PIACENTE (Italy), concerning the outcome of the deliberations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CDCT-GE that took place on 13-14 October 2020, online.
- Take note of the position of the Russian Federation concerning certain elements of the draft recommendation.
- Take note of the drafting suggestions and comments made by Sweden and instruct the Secretariat to relay that information to the CDCT-GE in time for its next meeting, including that the CDCT commends the work so far done by the working group.

**8. 24/7 Network of Contact Points on Foreign Terrorist Fighters**

- Examine the information document prepared by the Secretariat and take note of the information provided orally.

**9. Network of Contact Points for the exchange of information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism**

- Examine the information document prepared by the Secretariat and take note of the information provided orally by the latter notably on the outcome of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Network and on the preparation of the factsheets for the participating States, which will be distributed for the information of other interested CDCT delegations.
- Call on all member States to join this Network and to promote it in their bi- and multilateral relations.

**10. The Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196) and the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 217)**

- Take note of the updated information provided concerning the number of signatures and ratifications for the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196) and its Additional Protocol (CETS No. 217).
- Take note of the Summary of the Thematic Assessment Report regarding the state of implementation of Article 3 of the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 217), as well as of the information provided orally by the Chair of the Consultation of the Parties, Mr Nicola Piacente (Italy).
- Welcome the information provided by the Netherlands, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland concerning their respective ongoing ratification procedures in relation to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196) and its Additional Protocol (CETS No. 217).
- Call on those member States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the aforesaid Convention and Additional Protocol.

**11. Elections**

- Postpone the election of a new member of the Bureau to replace Mr Derhan DOĞAN (Turkey) until the CDCT can meet again in person.
- Thank Mr Doğan for his work in the Bureau and the Committee.
- Prolong the mandate of its Chair, Ms Ileana VIȘOIU (Romania), and its vice-Chair, Mr Antonios PAPAMATTHAIU (Greece) for one year.

**12. Items for information**

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretary to the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) on the most recent developments in the field of crime prevention and crime control.

**13. Any other business**

- Take note of the information provided by the Russian Federation concerning recent developments in the counter-terrorism cooperation among the BRICS countries, namely the adoption of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
- Take note of the information provided in writing by Switzerland concerning relevant activities of the GCTF.

**14. Date and place of the 6<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting of the CDCT**

- Given the current public health situation in Europe, instruct the Bureau to agree on the date and place of the next meeting of the Committee.

**15. Adoption of the Abridged Report and List of Items discussed and Decisions taken**

- Examine and adopt the Abridged Report and List of Items discussed and Decisions taken.