



Strasbourg, 14 November 2024

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM (CDCT)

13th Plenary Meeting

Wednesday 13 November (09.30 a.m.) – Thursday 14 November (5.30 p.m.)

Strasbourg, Council of Europe

Palais de l'Europe, Room 10

LIST OF DECISIONS

DGI-CDCT@coe.int / www.coe.int/terrorism

The Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) at its 13th Plenary meeting held on 13 - 14 November 2024, in Strasbourg, under the Chairmanship of Mr Nicola PIACENTE (Italy) decided to:

1. Opening of the meeting

Open the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Adopt the agenda.

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

Take note of information provided by its Chair, Mr Nicola PIACENTE, on the activities that took place since the last CDCT Plenary in May 2024, namely the preparation of the Explanatory Report of the Amending Protocol, finalisation of the Analysis of emerging patterns of misuse of technology by terrorist actors and the draft Guidelines on strategies for the prosecution of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and the initial steps taken for preparation of the draft Guidelines on disengagement and reintegration programs for women with links to terrorism and the draft Guidelines on (re)integration programmes for children affected by terrorism. Mr Piacente also underscored several important points on the agenda of the 13th CDCT Plenary meeting.

Take note of information provided by Mr Carlo CHIAROMONTE, the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, regarding the new Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Alain BERSET (Switzerland), the transfer of chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers from Lithuania to Luxembourg, the new Chair of GR-J and the Focal point of the Committee of Ministers on the fight against terrorism, Ambassador Gabriel REVEL from Monaco, appointment of the new Director General of DGI Human Rights and Rule of Law, Mr Gianluca ESPOSITO, and the new staff member of the Counter-Terrorism Division, Ms Ioana CONSTANTIN.

Take note of the information provided by Switzerland regarding the activities of the United Nations General Assembly to revitalise the project of a comprehensive convention enclosing a definition of terrorism, the presentation by the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism of his [report](#) on counter-terrorism measures implemented by regional organisations, the end of the Swiss presidency of the United Nations Security Council, and the virtual launch event of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for its latest publication, "[CTED Trends Tracker | Evolving Trends in the Financing of Foreign Terrorist Fighters' Activity: 2014 – 2024](#)".

Take note of the information provided by the Kingdom of Spain on the co-organisation with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) of the [United Nations International Conference on Victims of Terrorism](#) on 8 and 9 October 2024 in Vitoria-Gasteiz. The next conference will be organised by Iraq and is expected to take place in Baghdad in 2027.

Take note of the information provided by Türkiye on the terrorist attack, claimed by the PKK, on the headquarters of Turkish Aerospace Industries on 23 October 2024, which resulted in a number of casualties and involved the use of new technologies.

Take note of the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the country's strategy and action plan for preventing and combatting terrorism and an incident under investigation as an act of terrorism involving a 13-year old child, which left one police officer dead and another injured.

Express condolences and solidarity to both countries and to their peoples in relation to these recent attacks on their soil and underscore the increasing trend of juveniles' participation in terrorist offences.

4. Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2023 – 2027)

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the current state of implementation of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2023 – 2027) whereby, with activities concluded during the 13th Plenary meeting, nearly 30% of the Strategy had been completed in the first two years of its implementation.

Concerning the proposals made by the CDCT Bureau following the meeting of 18 October 2024:

- approve the initiation of Activity 2.4 “draft Recommendation on prosecuting terrorist offences and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the context of an armed conflict” in 2025;
- postpone Activity 1.8 “Revise or supplement terrorist offences under the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196) and its Additional Protocol (CETS No. 217) to cover the changed terrorist modus operandi”, in light of the expected forthcoming adoption of the Amending Protocol and its opening for signatures, as well as the earlier conclusion of the Bureau to that effect.

5. Definition of Terrorism

Take note of the historical overview of the process that led to the approval of the new definition of terrorism and the draft Amending Protocol provided by the Chair and Mr Chiaromonte.

Take note of the comments to the draft Explanatory Report received from Switzerland and Türkiye.

Examine in detail and approve the revised draft Explanatory Report to the Amending Protocol, reflecting the agreement reached in connection to a number of submitted comments.

Instruct the Secretariat to send the draft Amending Protocol, approved in May 2024, and the draft Explanatory Report, to the Committee of Ministers for adoption and information, respectively.

Take note of the position expressed by Switzerland on the Explanatory Report, as approved, and the declaration annexed to the present List of decisions.

Take note of the statement of the Office of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the CDCT work on the new definition of terrorism.

Consider the communication from the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and examine and approve the draft response to the communication prepared by the Bureau. The CDCT also instructed the Secretariat to send the response to the UN Special Rapporteur.

6. Roundtable on the implementation of Comparative practices on the effective use of information collected in conflict zones as evidence for the purpose of criminal prosecution of terrorist offences (Activity 2.2 of the Strategy)

Take note of information provided by Ms Sarah ZINK (Germany) and Ms Jennifer MITCHELL (USA) on the forthcoming Launching event and Roundtable on the Comparative practices on the effective use of information collected in conflict zones as evidence for the purpose of criminal prosecution of terrorist offences, scheduled to take place on 4 - 5 February 2025, in Berlin, Germany.

7. Analysis of emerging patterns of misuse of technology by terrorist actors (Activity 1.4 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the independent expert, Mr. David WELLS, on the findings and recommendations of the draft Analysis of emerging patterns of misuse of technology by terrorist actors.

Invite comments on the text of the draft Analysis by 10 January 2025 and instruct the Secretariat to submit a revised draft for consideration at the next meeting.

8. Recommendation on combating the promotion of terrorism and radicalisation on the internet, including through social media (Activity 1.2 of Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the next steps regarding the implementation of this activity, namely the first meeting of CDCT-RAD Working Group, scheduled to take place on 4 – 5 December 2024, in Strasbourg.

9. Guidance on strategies for the prosecution of violent extremism conducive to terrorism (Activity 2.5 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Chair of the CDCT-VE Working Group, Mr Nicola Piacente, on the outcomes of the second and final meeting of the Working Group held in Strasbourg on 24 – 25 September 2024.

Examine and approve the revised text of the draft Guidelines, incorporating input received from Germany, and instruct the Secretariat to submit it to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.

10. Guidelines on disengagement and reintegration programs for women with links to terrorism (Activity 3.1 of the Strategy)

Exchange views with Dr Katherine BROWN, independent expert, on the proposed outline of the draft Guidelines and approve the development of the draft Guidelines based on the proposed outline.

11. Network of Single Contact Points for the exchange of procedural information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of the Network and the forthcoming meeting that will take place beginning of 2025.

12. 24/7 Network of Contact Points on Foreign Terrorist Fighters

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of the Network and its upcoming meeting that will take place in Europol premises on 12 December 2024.

13. Any other business

Take note of the information provided by the Chair of the Consultation of the Parties (CoP) to CETS Nos. 196 and 217, Ms Ileana VIȘOIU about the outcomes of the 9th meeting of the CoP, which took place on the 12 November 2024, namely the adoption of the questionnaire for the assessment of Article 5 of CETS No. 196, launching the next phase of assessments starting in 2025, and election of Ms Tuuli LEPP (Estonia) as the Vice-Chair of the CoP.

Confirm the prolongation of the mandate of the Chair, Mr. Nicola Piacente, and the Vice-Chair, Ms Päivi KAIRAMO, of the CDCT until the end of 2025.

14. Preparation of the 14th Plenary Meeting of the CDCT

Hold its 14th Plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 20 and 21 May 2025.

15. Adoption of the List of decisions

Adopt the List of decisions.

APPENDIX I

Declaration by Switzerland

Switzerland expresses the following points concerning the item "Definition of Terrorism" (item 5. of the agenda) of the Plenary Meeting of the CDCT on 13-14 November 2024 in Strasbourg:

- **Explanatory Report on the Definition of Terrorism:** contrary to what had been agreed in Helsinki in December 2023 when the definition of terrorism was adopted, Switzerland was not given the opportunity to integrate its elements into the draft Explanatory Report, in particular :
 - the points taken up by the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Mr. Ben Saul, in his Communication to the Council of Europe [OL OTH 133/2024] of October 4, 2024, notably concerning the principle of legal certainty and humanitarian exemption;
 - the request for a clearer presentation of the definition negotiation process, in particular concerning the negotiating mandate received by the European Commission (COM) at the end of the work, on behalf of the EU and its member States.Switzerland also regrets that it was not given the opportunity to include its position and clarifications as footnotes to the Final Report.
- **Involvement of the EU/COM in the work of the CDCT:** Switzerland wishes to express its concern about the impact on the CDCT's working method caused by the involvement of the EU, represented by COM, in its work. In particular, Switzerland was surprised that COM's negotiating mandate for the text of the definition, on behalf of the EU and its member States, also extended to the drafting of the CDCT's Explanatory Report. In particular, Switzerland finds it problematic that the COM was consulted on the Explanatory Report, and that the COM in a way pre-validated it, even before it was sent to the members of the CDCT for consultation.
- **Communication from the UN Special Procedures of 4 October 2024 to the Council of Europe - UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Mr. Ben Saul [OL OTH 133/2024]:** Switzerland observes that it was not possible at this meeting of the CDCT to obtain an assessment of the political and legal consequences for the Council of Europe of adopting a definition which is not considered to be fully in line with the principles of the rule of law and international law, in particular international human rights law, by, among others, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (cf. his Communication to the Council of Europe [OL OTH 133/2024] of October 4, 2024), but also, for example, ODIHR OSCE [cf. letter TERR-All/479/2023 of September 28, 2023].
- **Next steps:** in conclusion and in this context, Switzerland reserves the right to reiterate its position and questions in the process of adopting the definition of terrorism (GR-J and Committee of Ministers).