



Strasbourg, 21 May 2025

CDCT(2025)06

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

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

Tuesday 20 May (09:30 a.m.) – Wednesday 21 May (5:30 p.m.)

Strasbourg, Council of Europe

**Agora, Room G03**

---

### **LIST OF DECISIONS**

---

The Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) at its 14<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held on 20 – 21 May 2025, 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 the information provided by the Chair, Mr Nicola PIACENTE, on the activities that took place since the last CDCT Plenary meeting in November 2024, including the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the new [Guidelines on strategies for the prosecution of violent extremism conducive to terrorism](#) in February 2025 and the additional steps taken on some other guidelines and recommendations. Mr Piacente also informed the Plenary of his presentation of the Amending Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196) to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), in view of the preparation and adoption by the PACE of an opinion on the draft Amending Protocol. The presentation was received well by the Committee with positive reactions. Switching to other activities of interest, Mr Piacente mentioned the CDCT's participation in an Expert meeting organised by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) on [the Rule of Law and Human Rights Aspects of Using Artificial intelligence for Counter-Terrorism Purposes](#).

Take note of information provided by Mr Carlo CHIAROMONTE, the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, on the status and next steps regarding the adoption of the draft Amending Protocol to CETS No. 196. Mr Chiaromonte explained that after the last Plenary meeting, the Secretariat transmitted the draft Amending Protocol and the Explanatory Report to the Committee of Ministers for follow-up, which transmitted it to the Parliamentary Assembly for its opinion. The PACE is in the process of preparing that opinion and will adopt it during the week of the 23 June. The Committee of Ministers' Group of Rapporteurs on Legal Cooperation (GR-J) will examine the draft Amending Protocol and the opinion of the PACE on 2 July 2025. The Committee of Ministers will decide on the adoption of the Amending Protocol and, possibly, on the date of opening for signature on 9 July 2025. Furthermore, Mr Chiaromonte informed the Plenary that the communications pertaining to the draft Amending Protocol sent by the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to the PACE and the Committee of Ministers at the end of March 2025 were distributed to all permanent representations together with the CDCT's reply of November 2024. As regards other recent developments of relevance to the work of the CDCT, he reported on the meeting held on 24 April 2025 by the Secretary General with the Chairs of the Council of Europe intergovernmental committees that the Secretariat attended on behalf of the CDCT. The focus of that meeting was on the ways in which the organisation can contribute to reshaping and strengthening democracy in Europe, a flagship initiative of Secretary General Alain Berset. In addition, on 14 May 2025, Mr Chiaromonte participated in the meeting of the Working Group of the Council of the European Union on Terrorism (International Dimension, COTER) on the issue of "Politically and ideologically motivated transnational violent extremism and terrorism". Lastly, the Plenary was informed that the Committee of Ministers' chairmanship was transferred from Luxembourg to Malta.

Take note of the information provided by Türkiye, which summarised the PKK's disarmament and dissolution decision and reminded that all structures of the terrorist organisation, including the YPG/"SDG", must unconditionally abide by this decision. Take further note of the information provided by Türkiye about the new structure of the Global Coalition Against Daesh, that there are now three regional (Iraq and Syria, Afghanistan, and Africa) and three thematic (Terrorist Travel, Finance, and Communications) focus and working groups, highlighting that Türkiye will co-lead the Terrorist Travel Working Group, as well as Daesh-Afghanistan Diplomatic Grouping which is likely to be aligned with the Coalition.

Take note of the information provided by Switzerland regarding the [Guidance Note on "Defining 'Terrorism' in National Criminal Legislation"](#) issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Take note of the information provided by Finland about the school stabbing attack on 20 May 2025 allegedly perpetrated by a 16-year-old boy, who injured three female classmates and appears to have deliberately targeted them, and express their sympathy towards the Finnish people.

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

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the overall progress with regards to ongoing activities under the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2023 – 2027).

Concerning the proposals made by the CDCT Bureau following the meeting of 9 April 2025:

- Approve the initiation of Activity 1.3 aimed at preparing a "draft Recommendation on non-criminal law measures that may be applied against violent extremist groups and networks whose activities are conducive to terrorism" and of Activity 3.4 related to the preparation of a "draft Recommendation on measures for juveniles suspected of involvement in terrorist activities", with a tentative deadline of the end of 2026;
- Suspend the implementation of Activity 1.7 on the "Analysis of good practices for deception and detection strategies in order to prevent an attack or traveling for the purposes of terrorism" under the current Strategy as premature; and
- Postpone Activity 2.7 on the "Analysis of the status and developments regarding foreign terrorist fighters" given the evolving situation in Syria.

#### **5. Analysis of factors driving violent extremism leading to terrorism (Activity 1.1 of the Strategy)**

Take note of the information provided by the independent expert, Professor Paul GILL (University College London), on the work carried out in relation to the said Analysis. Prof. Gill presented the relevant data collected on drivers of violent extremism leading to terrorism while also highlighting terrorism indicators and protective factors. His presentation focused on various factors examined through the study, such as the degree to which teenagers are involved in violent extremism and the impact of mental health and neurodevelopmental disorders on violent extremist attitudes and behaviours. Delegations also had a very fruitful and active exchange of views with Prof. Gill on different aspects of his presentation.

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

Hold an exchange of views with the Chair of the Working Group in charge of producing the draft Recommendation (CDCT-RAD), Ms Ileana VIȘOIU (Romania), and the independent expert, Mr David WELLS. Mr Wells elaborated on the issues included in each substantive area covered by the draft Recommendation, highlighting the changes made in response to comments from members of the Working Group on a previous text. Ms Vișoiu updated the Plenary on the progress made during the two meetings of the CDCT-RAD organised on 4 – 5 December 2024, in Strasbourg, and on 17 – 18 March 2025, in Paris, such as the agreement reached on conducting consultations with several multistakeholder forums, including the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT), Tech against terrorism, the Global Network Initiative, the Christchurch Call, and others. She also provided information on the forthcoming activities, notably the revision of the language of the draft to align it better with the Council of Europe standards in this regard. In terms of future steps, the revised text will be considered by the CDCT-RAD at its next meeting, to be held in Paris on 23 June 2025, and the finalised draft Recommendation is expected to be presented to the CDCT at its autumn Plenary.

## **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, and the Secretariat on the revision of the draft Report pursuant to comments presented by the delegation of Türkiye.

Examine and approve the “*Analysis of emerging patterns of misuse of technology by terrorist actors*” document and instruct the Secretariat to submit it to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for their consideration.

## **8. Recommendation on prosecuting terrorist offences and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the context of an armed conflict (Activity 2.4 of the Strategy)**

Take note of the information provided by the co-Chairs of the Working Group in charge of preparing the draft text of the Recommendation on prosecuting terrorist offences and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the context of an armed conflict (CDCT-IHL), Mr Nicola Piacente and Ms Päivi KAIRAMO (Finland), regarding the results of the first meeting of the CDCT-IHL, which took place in Paris on 13-14 March 2025. Ms Kairamo, having chaired the first meeting, provided information on the key decisions of the CDCT-IHL, such as focusing on non-international armed conflicts only, promoting the idea of cumulative prosecutions, where applicable, and distributing a questionnaire to all CDCT members to gather more data on national practices that would inform the future draft Recommendation. She also expressed her sincere appreciation for the interest in this initiative seen from the number of high quality experts nominated to take part in the Working Group, whose next meeting will be held in Paris on 23 and 24 September 2025.

## **9. Guidelines on disengagement and reintegration programmes for women with links to terrorism (Activity 3.1 of the Strategy)**

Hold an exchange of views with the independent expert, Dr Katherine BROWN (University of Birmingham), on the substantive aspects of the draft Guidelines on disengagement and reintegration programmes for women with links to terrorism, as revised following discussions with the Bureau. Dr Brown outlined the main principles underpinning the draft text, which includes also elements of information obtained during interviews with experts from member

States who expressed interest in further informing the drafting process. She also underscored that the purpose of these guidelines is to support the wellbeing of women with links to terrorism in order to reduce recidivism and thereby strengthen the security of member States.

Examine and approve the text of the draft Guidelines, as amended based on the comments received from delegations, and instruct the Secretariat to submit it to the Committee of Ministers for their consideration.

#### **10. Guidelines on (re)integration programmes for children affected by terrorism (Activity 3.2 of the Strategy)**

Hold an exchange of views with the independent expert, Ms Cecilia POLIZZI, on the draft of the Guidelines on (re)integration programmes for children affected by terrorism, as revised based on input from the Bureau. The discussion focused on issues related to terminology and the scope of the draft Guidelines, as well as on certain applicable principles and specific measures being proposed.

Examine and discuss the draft text of the Guidelines. Approve it with some amendments proposed by delegations, and instruct the Secretariat to submit it to the Committee of Ministers for their consideration.

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

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat about the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network, which took place on 11 February 2025, in Strasbourg, and plans for the subsequent meeting to be held on 17 – 18 June 2025, focusing on the preparation of the draft Guidelines on support services and other measures for victims of terrorism (Activity 3.7 of the Strategy). A first draft has already been prepared with assistance from some members of the Network and distributed for comments in advance of the next meeting. The Plenary was also informed of the topics expected to be covered by the draft Guidelines, as currently planned.

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

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network, held on 12 December 2024 in the Hague, hosted by Europol, and plans for the next meeting scheduled for September 2025.

#### **13. Any other business**

Take note of the information that 32 of the 49 existing country profiles are over five years old, with some dating back as far as 2005, while the profiles of three members are missing completely. The delegations were invited to have a look at their respective [profiles on the CDCT website](#) and proceed with preparing or updating them, with the Secretariat's help, if needed.

#### **14. Preparation of the 15<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the CDCT**

Hold its 15<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 19 – 21 November 2025 back-to-back with the meeting of the Consultation of Parties on 18 November 2025.

#### **15. Adoption of the List of Decisions**

Adopt the List of Decisions.