



Strasbourg, 5 June 2026

CDCT(2026)08rev

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM (CDCT)

16th Plenary Meeting

Wednesday, 27 May (9:30 a.m.) – Thursday, 28 May (6:00 p.m.)

Strasbourg, Council of Europe

Agora, Room G03

LIST OF DECISIONS

The Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) at its 16th Plenary meeting held on 27 – 28 May 2026, in Strasbourg, under the Presidency of Ms Ileana VIȘOIU (Romania) decided to:

1. Opening of the meeting

Open the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Adopt the agenda.

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

Take note of the information provided by the President, Ms Ileana Vișoiu, on the activities that took place since the last CDCT Plenary meeting in November 2025, including the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the [Recommendation on countering terrorism, violent extremism and the underlying radicalisation process on the internet](#) and the [Guidelines on support services and other measures for victims of terrorism](#) on 8 April 2026. Ms Vișoiu informed the Plenary of the ongoing and remaining activities under the current Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2023 – 2027) and the need to start preparing the next Strategy that will guide the CDCT's activities until 2032. She also mentioned the opening for signature on 26 May 2026 of the Protocol amending the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 231) and encouraged all member States to sign it. On this date, ten member States and the European Union became signatories of the Amending Protocol. In this context, Ms Vișoiu indicated that the signing of the Amending Protocol is highlighted as a key action of the European Union within the framework of the new EU Agenda to prevent and counter terrorism, adopted in February this year, demonstrating the value of the Council of Europe's work. She also praised the organisation on 26 May 2026, within the framework of the Monaco Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, of the [International Conference on "Terrorism and Violent Extremism: The Radicalisation of Youth"](#), emphasising the CDCT's readiness to address the exponential growth of children involved in terrorism and the emerging trend of youth radicalisation online in light of the recommendations made during this conference.

Take note of the information provided by Finland on the [9th review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy](#) conducted by the United Nations General Assembly. Co-facilitated by Finland and Morocco, this process is ongoing, with two rounds of negotiations already completed and a third scheduled for the beginning of June. Finland encouraged all the delegations to participate actively in the negotiations to secure the successful completion of this review, which marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a crucial framework for international co-operation in the field.

Take note of the information provided by France on the 5th ["No Money For Terror" Ministerial Conference](#) held on 19 May 2026. Organised as part of France's G7 presidency, the conference addressed the risks of financial innovations being misused to finance terrorism, the links between organised crime and the financing of terrorist organisations, and the challenges of stabilising and economically reintegrating regions facing terrorist control.

Take note of the information provided by Hungary on the comprehensive visit by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate of the United Nations (CTED) aimed at assessing Hungary's progress in implementing key counter-terrorism measures in line with UN Security

Council relevant resolutions. The report of this visit will be published on governmental as well as CTED websites. Hungary also hosted a study visit in relation to the Champions League final that will take place in Budapest on 30 May 2026 to share knowledge on the organisation and management of big sporting events.

Take note of the information provided by Spain on two recent events related to counter-terrorism matters. On 18 – 19 February 2026, a [workshop for victims of terrorism was co-organised with Nigeria in Abuja](#), with the collaboration of UNOCT and UNODC. Victims of terrorism from both Spain and Nigeria, as well as experts participated in this event. The objective was to place victims at the centre of counter-terrorism strategies and policies and give voice to the survivors of terrorist violence. Additionally, a Senior Officials Dialogue on International Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism in Africa took place in Madrid on 20 – 21 May 2026. Co-organised by Spain and Nigeria, this event involved more than 30 delegations, most of them coming from those African countries affected by terrorism. It was an occasion to discuss terrorism in Africa and ways of reinforcing international co-operation on issues such as capacity building and technical assistance, the nexus between terrorism and organised crime, intelligence sharing, counter-terrorism financing and violent extremism. The dialogue allowed participants to identify gaps, lessons learned and opportunities for international co-operation in counter-terrorism.

Take note of the information provided by Switzerland on a [side event organised during the UN Human Rights Council 61st Session in Geneva on 10 March 2026](#). This event presented the [findings and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism](#) in his [Position Paper on Protecting Human Rights while Using Artificial Intelligence to Counter Terrorism](#). Moreover, on 12 May 2026 CTED and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) convened an [Expert Group Meeting on addressing technology-facilitated sexual and gender-based violence linked to terrorism](#) in Geneva. The meeting identified several priority areas for future action, including improving victim and survivor support mechanisms and building the capacities of law enforcement and justice actors.

Take note of the information provided by Türkiye, which welcomed the decision of the PKK terrorist organisation to dissolve itself as a result of Türkiye's resolute fight against terrorism. Türkiye emphasised that the dissolution and disarmament of all PKK structures is essential and non-negotiable, and that this process is equally important for the security of Türkiye and the wider region. Türkiye expressed hope that peace and stability would extend to neighbouring countries and deliver positive regional effects. At the same time, Türkiye noted ongoing concerns about the YPG or the so-called "Syrian Democratic Forces" (SDF), the PKK's Syrian branch, which continues to put Türkiye's national security, as well as regional and global stability at risk. Türkiye rejected attempts to legitimise this group under the pretext of fighting Daesh and called for international support and solidarity in its fight against the SDF. Türkiye will closely monitor steps taken towards the dissolution of all the PKK branches. Additionally, Türkiye reported that, since the last Plenary in November 2025, it had suffered casualties during counter-terrorism operations. In December each year, Türkiye intensifies operations against terrorist organisations that exploit religion, with a view to preventing attacks during New Year's Eve celebrations. On 29 December 2025, three Turkish police officers were martyred by Daesh members during an operation in Yalova. On 7 April 2026, an attempted attack by terrorists on the inactive Israeli Consulate-General in Istanbul was foiled by Turkish security forces, with no civilian or security casualties reported.

Take note of the information provided by Ukraine on their request for the CDCT's assistance to exchange practices regarding the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2021/784 on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online (TCO) in member states, including its application by law enforcement authorities. While the Council of Europe is a strong supporter of Ukraine in its areas of responsibility, including through co-operation projects, the President pointed to the European Commission's report evaluating the implementation of the TCO Regulation published in 2024 ([COM 2024 \(64\) final](#)) and invited Ukraine to reach out to the Commission, as well as to other member states.

Take note of the information provided by Mr Carlo CHIAROMONTE, the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, about the International Conference on "Terrorism and Violent Extremism: The Radicalisation of Youth" (closing remarks are appended to the List of Decisions). He thanked all the participants and the speakers once again for the successful outcome of this conference and highlighted the timeliness of the topic considering the growing number of children involved in terrorism. The CDCT agreed with his proposal to follow up on the results of the conference and build on the recommendations made by the speakers. Initial discussions on potential initiatives will be held during the next Bureau meeting.

4. Exchange of views with Ms Natalia GHERMAN, Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate of the United Nations (CTED)

Take note of the presentation made by Ms Natalia GHERMAN, Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, on CTED's mandate, the evolution of the global terrorism landscape and the importance of regional and international co-operation. Ms Gherman underlined CTED's distinct role within the United Nations in monitoring the implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, identifying and analysing new and emerging terrorist trends and developments, facilitating the delivery of technical assistance and promoting effective practices, international standards, and policy guidance. Emphasising that the global terrorism landscape continues to evolve in both complexity and consequence, she expressed CTED's readiness to continue working with the CDCT and all partners guided by a shared commitment to international peace and security and a world free from terrorism.

On behalf of the CDCT, Ms Vişoiu thanked Ms Gherman for her remarks and for CTED's contribution to the work of the CDCT, particularly to the development of the draft recommendation by the Working Group on prosecuting terrorist offences and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the context of an armed conflict (CDCT-IHL).

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

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

Concerning the proposal made by the CDCT Bureau following the meeting of 26 March 2026:

- Approve the initiation of Activity 3.8 of the Strategy on the "Preparation of a publication on good practices to review and supervise the implementation of anti-terrorism legislation in accordance with the rule of law".

6. New Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2028 – 2032)

Initiate the preparation of the new Council of Europe Counter Terrorism Strategy (2028 – 2032) by establishing a working group composed of the members of the Bureau and national experts, which would produce in parallel an updated report on emerging terrorist threats and a draft Strategy for the CDCT's consideration.

Mandate the Secretariat to draft and circulate an invitation for expression of interest to participate in this working group with the aim of holding the first meeting in October this year. Spain and Türkiye already expressed interest in participating in the working group.

7. Recommendation on prosecuting terrorist offences, serious violations of international humanitarian law and other core international crimes committed in the context of a non-international armed conflict (Activity 2.4 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the co-Presidents of the CDCT-IHL Working Group, Mr Nicola PIACENTE (Italy) and Ms Päivi KAIRAMO (Finland), regarding the outcomes of the last meeting of this Working Group.

Examine and approve the text of the draft Recommendation on prosecuting terrorist offences, serious violations of international humanitarian law and other core international crimes in the context of a non-international armed conflict and the draft Explanatory Report accompanying it, with some amendments from members.

Instruct the Secretariat to submit the draft Recommendation for adoption and the Explanatory Report to the Committee of Ministers in order to be taken note of.

Take note of the declaration made by Türkiye on the draft Recommendation and append it to the List of Decisions.

8. Recommendation on non-criminal law measures that may be applied against violent extremist groups and networks whose activities are conducive to terrorism (Activity 1.3 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the results of the first meeting of the Working Group on non-criminal law measures (CDCT-NCM) and hold an exchange of views with the independent experts, Dr Hans-Jakob Schindler and Mr Alexander Ritzmann, from Counter-Extremism Project (CEP) Germany, which was engaged to assist the Working Group in drafting the Recommendation. Dr Hans-Jakob Schindler introduced the work of CEP on preventing and combatting violent extremism conducive to terrorism, notably through a financial disruption strategy. Mr Alexander Ritzmann presented an outline of the strategic approach adopted with respect to the draft Recommendation, explaining the existing and possible non-criminal law measures that may be applied to terrorist and violent extremist groups and networks whose activities are conducive to terrorism. The expert focused on a set of measures escalating in severity, including widely applied regulatory measures that are not specific to counter-terrorism or counter-extremism but the end result of which would be the disruption of the operations of such groups and networks, while respecting non-discrimination principles and human rights. The CDCT-NCM will meet again in June 2026.

9. Analysis of the status and developments regarding foreign terrorist fighters (Activity 2.7 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat about the draft report that it had prepared based on open-source information regarding the situation of foreign terrorist fighters up until the end of 2025.

Postpone the examination of the draft report to the next Plenary meeting in November 2026 to allow delegations to provide any comments that they may have by 1 July 2026 and instruct the Secretariat to update the draft report in order to reflect the most recent evolutions impacting the analysis and in the light of the comments received.

10. Guidance on the use of e-evidence and open-source information in criminal proceedings for terrorist offences (Activity 2.6 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the scope of this activity, which will focus on the use of AI-generated material for the purposes of criminal prosecutions for terrorist offences, and the need to produce a study before proceeding with draft Guidelines due to lack of sufficient data on country practices on generative AI and evidence.

Hold an exchange of views with Mr David Wells on the substantive aspects of this initial survey of country experiences with generative AI material being treated as evidence in counter-terrorism investigations and on the proposed questionnaire to collect relevant practices. Mr Wells highlighted the recency of the cases referencing the use of generative AI by terrorist suspects, none of which had reached the courts, and the difficulties in proving the authenticity of evidence in the context of such cases. The study will also explore if there are any differences between countries that are also EU member States and apply the TCO Regulation and countries that do not have such provisions.

Agree on the questionnaire and instruct the Secretariat to distribute it as soon as possible to allow delegations to respond by the beginning of September.

11. Analysis of trafficking of and illicitly acquiring firearms, including small arms, and explosives by terrorist and violent extremist groups (Activity 1.6 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided Mr Nils Duquet, expert serving on this initiative on behalf of the Flemish Institute for Peace, who presented the methodology for the production of the analysis of trafficking of and illicitly acquiring firearms, including small arms, and explosives by terrorist and violent extremist groups and the outline of this analysis. He highlighted the growing availability of firearms in a rapidly evolving terrorist landscape and the increasing use of 3D printing for creating weapons by such groups. The online dimension also plays a very important role in this field. The study will look into both the illicit and licit acquisition of firearms. To validate data and prepare the study, the expert plans to have at least ten structured interviews with national competent authorities. Netherlands made a set of proposals regarding the observed patterns, emerging practices and trends and to what extent these differ between terrorist and extremist groups and organised crime; whether there are differences between far-right extremist groups, terrorist networks and lone actors; and how the study will relate to the Firearms Directive of the European Union.

12. Model Strategy on the whole-of-society approach to disengagement and social reintegration (Activity 3.3 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the independent expert, Prof. Ioan Durnescu, on a draft outline of the Model Strategy. Professor Durnescu provided an overview of the proposed approach and methodology and highlighted the essential points. The goal of this activity is to provide a set of practical guidelines for CDCT member states on operationalising a whole-of-society approach to the three classical stages of prevention: primary, secondary and tertiary. These guidelines will draw upon systematically gathered evidence from all member states, supplemented by in-depth interviews with countries that have acquired relevant experience and finalised through a focused consultative process. The first phase will consist of a structured questionnaire sent to all CDCT member states to capture the current landscape of stakeholder engagement as experienced by practitioners.

13. 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 about the outcomes of the 10th meeting of the Victim's Network, which took place on 3 March 2026 in the Council of Europe Office in Paris.

14. Country profiles

Examine, adopt and instruct the Secretariat to publish the country profile for Czechia.

15. Any other business

N/A.

16. Preparation of the 17th Plenary Meeting of the CDCT

Hold its 17th Plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 19 – 20 November 2026 back-to-back with the meeting of the Consultation of Parties on 18 November 2026.

17. Adoption of the List of Decisions

Adopt the List of Decisions.

APPENDIX I**International Conference
“Terrorism and violent extremism: the radicalisation of youth”****26 May 2026, Strasbourg
Room 1, Palais****Closing remarks: Responses to youth radicalisation**

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

As this Conference comes to an end, it is time to draw some lessons from the insightful presentations delivered by our speakers throughout the day.

Before doing so, please allow me to express my warm gratitude to Monaco, in particular to Minister Vuelta Simon and his team, especially Ms Cassandra Winkel, for their generous support, and to Ambassador Gabriel Revel and his team for their collaboration on this important event organised in the framework of the Monaco Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to Germany, particularly to the Federal Foreign Office and Ms Gabriele Scheel, for their trust and unwavering support.

Ms Natalia Gherman, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and Director of CTED, honoured us with her participation in this Conference and for this we are extremely grateful.

I also wish to thank all the speakers for sharing their experiences, and the participants, including members of the CDCT, representatives of our member states and partner organisations, and members of the diplomatic corps, for attending the Conference.

Your contributions will inspire the future work of the CDCT as they highlight possible ways to guide children and young people away from radicalisation and violent extremism and terrorism, which is a threat to democratic security and social cohesion in Europe. This is neither a distant nor an abstract threat.

Reflecting on the main takeaways of the Conference, it is obvious that steps are already being taken to address youth radicalisation and are producing encouraging results. However, it is also clear that significant efforts are still needed if we hope to reverse the worrying trend.

1. Prevention and early intervention

- Youth radicalisation should primarily be addressed through early intervention before it takes root. The Conference has demonstrated that **radicalisation pathways are complex and evolving**. We need to understand these pathways. We need to **map them out** and identify specific risks and protective factors for different age groups in order to help our member states structure early interventions effectively and better inform their application.
- Terrorists use **sophisticated tactics to target youth online, similar to methods used for child sexual exploitation and human trafficking**. The **cross-pollination** of approaches and experiences from these other domains should be considered to reinforce the existing mechanisms against terrorist exploitation of young people. Using methods that have produced positive results, such as criminalising grooming, should be contemplated to combat terrorist recruitment.
- Children and young people spend significant time online, where **intense exposure to harmful material amplified by algorithms accelerates radicalisation pathways**. Some recommendations were made for what platforms could be doing better, including stronger safety interventions, better detection of escalation pathways, safer-by-design algorithms for minors and improved accountability. The **creation of frameworks** to develop age-appropriate digital content and tools should also support ongoing efforts with the private sector to limit children's access to extremist and violent stimulus.
- Discussions have focused on existing multi-stakeholder initiatives to prevent vulnerable youth from being drawn into violent extremism and terrorism, but such measures, including **educational interventions**, are not systematically implemented. Yet, education is essential to free those young people from the grip of online predators. Introducing structured critical thinking and digital literacy programmes is necessary to enhance youth resilience to harmful narratives. Where associated to prevention efforts, families and educators should receive support and guidance.

2. Prosecution and rehabilitation

- **The number of children involved in terrorism-related cases has rapidly and exponentially grown**. While there is no single profile of children drawn into terrorism, participants have underlined their increasingly young age and existing vulnerabilities. These children are, first and foremost, victims, whose protection requires **systematic inclusion in disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes**, in addition to prosecution where appropriate. Mapping out what each programme stage should entail and how it should be implemented could lead to defining common juvenile justice approaches centred on safeguarding the rights of the child.

- Presentations have highlighted a shift towards child-friendly justice in counter-terrorism cases involving minors but also **missed opportunities of early intervention** for victims of online terrorist grooming. **Introducing systemic diversion measures in criminal justice systems** could support the social reintegration of children at risk. Where possible, diverting youth earlier in investigations and prosecutions to programmes that provide community services and using community-based alternatives to detention could prevent further radicalisation.

3. Disengagement and reintegration

- The conference has emphasised **the vital role that community and civil society play in disengagement and reintegration processes** by providing education, a non-institutional perspective on specific issues, opportunities for positive engagement and social support to those affected. **Increasing community and civil society involvement in those processes** could allow a wider audience to be reached by fostering trust and make youth resilience to re-radicalisation more likely.
- The dedicated session also underscored the efforts made to date to assist children and young people leave the radicalisation path. A key lesson is that **affected youth are more likely to listen to their peers**. Good practices could be shared in view of **identifying modalities of youth participation and engagement in countering violent extremism and terrorism**, particularly in producing counter-narratives appealing to younger generations and fostering democratic digital participation.

4. Next steps

An important recommendation has been that the Council of Europe is the right platform to align standards across member States. Going forward, the CDCT will reflect on the conclusions of the Conference and the best ways of addressing the challenges highlighted by our speakers, while protecting human rights, democratic values and the rule of law. The CDCT will ensure that all future initiatives are co-ordinated with other Council of Europe bodies, especially under the next Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and will submit concrete proposals to the Committee of Ministers for practical implementation.

APPENDIX II

Statement of the Republic of Türkiye on the List of Decisions of the 16th Plenary of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Committee

The Delegation of the Republic of Türkiye expresses its gratitude for the work of the presidency, bureau, members, and the secretariat of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Committee. The Delegation has seen the need to annex this statement to the list of decisions regarding item 7, recommendation on prosecuting terrorist offences, serious violations of international humanitarian law and other core international crimes committed in the context of a non-international armed conflict.

Firstly, the wording of the document which seems to accept terrorist organisations as actors within the meaning of international humanitarian law carries the potential to bestow a degree of legitimacy to them. The point of recognising non-state actors within non-international armed conflict is to protect legitimate political entities with *jus in bello*. The interpretation of non-state actors within the meaning of international humanitarian law therefore needs to be narrow, for terrorist organisations are not part of this consideration.

Secondly, the document constantly refers to core international crimes. While technically, such can be considered as violations of international humanitarian law, this focus is beyond the mandate of CDCT-IHL.

Thirdly, while the document claims to ensure the prosecution of terrorists, some recommendations, if applied, carry the risk of doing otherwise. We have already witnessed such a case in Europe, where an individual could not be tried under counter-terrorism laws because the person in question was a member of a party to the armed conflict, even though that party was already prescribed as a terrorist organisation. Supposedly, their membership to and subsequent attacks to so-called legitimate targets of a terrorist organisation barred their prosecution due to international humanitarian law. While the country this case happened in has changed its counter-terrorism law exception clause since then, there is a possibility that some recommendations will be interpreted as condoning this practice, recommending countries not to prosecute when the individual terrorist was a member of a terrorist organisation and attacked a so-called legitimate target within the meaning of international humanitarian law.

Fourth, some recommendations within the document could be interpreted as recommending countries to interpret “armed forces” within the meaning of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS 196) to include terrorist organisations within conflict zones.

In an environment where terrorist organisations possess control of territories and exploit resources, this may lead to non-applicability of the CETS 196.

Fifth, some recommendations rely mostly on so-called universal jurisdiction, a concept which is still heavily debated within the Sixth Committee of the UN.

In conclusion, Türkiye is in no position to accept this document.