

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 5 October 2021

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE (CDCT)

BUREAU

7th Meeting

Teleconference, 4 - 5 October 2021

Abridged Report and List of Decisions Taken

Secretariat of the Counter-Terrorism Division

Information Society and Action against Crime Directorate, DG I

www.coe.int/terrorism

The Bureau, meeting on 4-5 October 2021 under the Chairmanship of Ms Ileana VIȘOIU (Romania), decided to:

1. Opening of the meeting

- Take note of the opening remarks provided by Mr Carlo CHIAROMONTE, Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and Secretary to the CDCT regarding the current sanitary requirements in place in the host country and on the Council of Europe premises, noting that while some restrictions will still be in place and that virtual meetings will still be encouraged until the end of 2021, there will be further opportunities for hybrid meetings involving participants both remotely and in-person in the coming period.
- Welcome the information provided by the Secretariat and expressed a clear desire to return to normality in terms of organising in-person meetings as soon as practicable and in compliance with all relevant host country rules.

2. Adoption of the agenda

- Adopt the agenda.

3. Communication by the Chair and by the Secretariat

- Take note of the information provided by the Chair, Ms Ileana VIȘOIU (Romania) regarding her participation remotely in a high-level “Conference of Heads of Prosecutor’s Offices of the European States: Role of Prosecutor’s Office in Protection of Individual Rights and Public Interest in Light of Requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights” on 6 – 9 July in St Petersburg, Russian Federation, with an intervention on combating illegal migration while ensuring the rights of migrants and terrorism threats.
- Take note of the information provided by Mr CHIAROMONTE on the two draft Recommendations completed under the auspices of the CDCT in 2021: the draft Recommendation on measures aimed at protecting children against radicalisation for the purpose of terrorism and the draft Recommendation on the use of information collected in conflict zones as evidence in criminal proceedings related to terrorist offences, together with the dissenting opinion thereto, will also be presented to the GR-J on 12 October and sent to the Committee of Ministers for adoption on 20 October 2021.
- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the forthcoming annual coordination meeting on trafficking in human beings and counter-terrorism to take place on 15 October between the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

4. Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy: Completed, ongoing and future activities of the CDCT

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the current state of implementation of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
- Discuss various approaches to the implementation of the remaining activities foreseen in the Strategy, including the potential scope for a merger of activities or for joint activities with other relevant Council of Europe bodies such as the T-CY and the PC-OC.
- Instruct the Secretariat to prepare a document which presents an overview of potential options for each remaining activity.

- Invite the Plenary to express their interest in launching the remaining activities, while also noting the potential for discontinuation of any items deemed no longer relevant in accordance with the procedure under point (x) of the CDCT Terms of Reference (2020-2021).
- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of the draft CDCT Terms of Reference for 2022-2025, which are expected to be submitted to the upcoming meeting of the GR-J on 12 October where the draft Terms of Reference for the CDCT will be examined before being sent to the Committee of Ministers for final adoption in November

5. Preparing the next Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the potential approach to be taken towards the development of the new Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy for 2023-2027, namely to: keep the current structure and rationale of the Strategy while updating the background in line with the outcome of the Emerging Terrorist Threats report (Activity 3.4 of the Strategy); retain the “Three Ps” of Prevention, Prosecution and Protection while adding a transversal element “Cooperation and Coordination”; and, add potential “focus areas” which would identify which elements and specific objectives of the Strategy are more relevant within a given timeframe.
- Ask the Secretariat to prepare a document for the Plenary providing an outline of the approach to be taken towards the preparation and drafting process, while also setting out the potential modalities to include the views and potential contributions of member states throughout this process, namely the potential for a drafting group composed of members of the Bureau and some other representatives of interested States of the CDCT.
- Instruct the Secretariat to distribute this document to the Bureau prior to the Plenary.

6. Identification of emerging terrorist threats (Activity 3.4 of the Strategy)

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat, notably that the Working Group on emerging terrorist threats held its second meeting on 19 – 20 July 2021 to examine the draft Study on Emerging Terrorist Threats.
- Provide suggested revisions to the ETT Working Group for potential inclusion in the draft study, notably with regards to the political evolution and potential terrorist threat following recent shifts to the political and security situation in Afghanistan, notably the presence of terrorist groups aligned or affiliated with Al-Qaida or ISIL/Daesh operating in Afghanistan and the surrounding region.

7. Risk assessment of individuals indicted and convicted for terrorist offences (Activity 3.2 of the Strategy)

- Take note of the information provided by the Chair of the CDCT-RA Working Group, Mr Thomas GREGOIRE, on the proceedings of the CDCT-RA, notably the outcome of the 2nd and 3rd meetings of the CDCT-RA, held on 9-10 June and 22-23 September respectively, and the finalisation of the draft Recommendation which, together with the draft Explanatory Memorandum, will be sent to the CDCT Plenary for approval in November.
- Propose the inclusion of a reference to the Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)6 on Terrorists Acting Alone in the Preamble of the draft Recommendation, as well as an addition to the draft Explanatory Memorandum which provides a description or examples of the potential types of judicial decisions covered by Part VI of the draft Recommendation.

- Thank Mr GREGOIRE for his chairmanship of the Working Group and for the successful drafting and finalisation of the Recommendation.

8. Compilation of Best Practices with regards to Deradicalisation, Disengagement and Social Reintegration (Activity 3.1 of the Strategy)

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the upcoming first meeting of the Working Group tasked with preparing a Compilation of Best Practices with regard to Deradicalisation, Disengagement and Social Reintegration (CDCT-DDR) scheduled to take place on 21-22 October 2021.
- Thank the Secretariat for the information and express its hope for a successful Working Group.

9. International Conference on the roles of women and children in terrorism (Activity 3.5 of the Strategy)

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the International Conference on the Roles of Women and Children in Terrorism scheduled to take place in Strasbourg on 15-16 December 2021.
- Discuss the potential difficulties posed by the hybrid format of the International Conference, noting the potential restrictions that may limit participation from certain member states, and instruct the Secretariat to continue the Conference preparations with these concerns in mind.

10. Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Responses during and in the Immediate Aftermath of Terrorist Attacks (Activity 3.6 of the Strategy)

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the event on Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Responses during and in the Immediate Aftermath of Terrorist Attacks (CDCT-EES), namely that the first event is tentatively scheduled for 20 January 2022 and may be followed up by additional events throughout the year.

11. Financing of Terrorism

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat and the CDCT member in the Joint Expert Group, Mr Ruslan KANTUR, on the first meeting of the group, with representatives of MONEYVAL, COP 198 and the CDCT, and note that the group intends for the draft report on the financing of terrorism to be prepared and completed in January 2022.

12. Bioterrorism

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning the status of information received pursuant to the Bioterrorism questionnaire distributed on 26 May 2021, namely that three (3) responses have been received and that more are expected before the deadline on 22 October 2021, and note the information provided by Bureau members regarding official replies to the questionnaire from their respective delegations.

13. Network of Contact Points for the exchange of information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism (Activity 3.3 of the Strategy)

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning the limited engagement on this item due to the restrictions on in-person meetings, and note that the next meeting of the contact points will tentatively be held on 3 February 2022 and that the invitation will be sent to all CDCT members.
- Welcome the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the receipt of eighteen (18) factsheets from member states with practical and procedural information regarding foreign nationals who are victims of terrorism.

14. 24/7 Network of Contact Points on Foreign Terrorist Fighters

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the continued postponement of activities in this area due to the restrictions on in-person meetings.

15. Definition of Terrorism

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the potential to restart work on this item following the safe resumption of in-person meetings, and confirm the previous decisions taken by the CDCT Plenary in this regard.
- Instruct the Secretariat to prepare a document outlining the “state of play” on this item since the cessation of Working Group meetings in 2019 to be presented at the next Plenary.

16. Elections

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the current situation regarding elections to the CDCT, namely that the previously postponed elections can now be conducted through the capacity of the videoconferencing platform KUDO to enable voting by secret ballot.
- Discuss the current situation regarding elections, namely that the mandates of the Chair and Vice-Chair will expire in December 2021 and there remains an unfilled position in the Bureau.
- Ask the Secretariat to consult with the Council of Europe’s Department of Legal Affairs and Public International Law (DLAPIL) on the question of whether there are possibilities to extend the mandates of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the CDCT for one additional year due to the fact that this presidency was exceptionally affected by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and that some activities, including one plenary meeting of the CDCT, had to be cancelled while others were organised in a virtual manner.
- In the absence of a positive response, instruct the Secretariat to distribute a communication calling for potential candidacies or nominations for the available positions in advance of the Plenary in November.

17. Any other business

- N/A

18. Preparation of the 7th Plenary Meeting of the CDCT

- Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning the organisation of the 7th CDCT Plenary.
- Hold the Plenary meeting in a hybrid format for two and a half days between 22 - 24 November 2021.

19. Adoption of the Abridged Report and List of Decisions

- Adopt the Abridged Report and List of Decisions taken.