



Strasbourg, 7 March 2024

CDCT-BU(2024)1

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM (CDCT)

BUREAU

12th meeting

Paris, 7 March 2024

List of Decisions

The CDCT Bureau, meeting on 7 March 2024, 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, regarding his recent activities, including his participation in the 2nd Meeting of the Secretary General with the Presidents of Intergovernmental Committees in the Council of Europe. The activities were focused on cooperation between Council of Europe Committees, as well as cooperation with other international institutions and entities. The Chair also participated in a working group on new and digital technologies, where he provided a summary of CDCT activities in this area in the past few years. The meeting also discussed the relationship with European Union bodies and the potential role of civil society organisations.

Take note of the information provided by Mr Carlo CHIAROMONTE, Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, regarding his communication with the newly appointed EU Counter-terrorism Coordinator (EU CTC), Mr Bartjan WEGTER, who took office on 1 March 2024, and potential means of cooperation between the respective institutions. He also informed the Bureau of the Secretariat's participation in an upcoming event on Anti-Government Extremism organised by the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin on 11 March 2024.

Take note of the information provided by Ms Päivi KAIRAMO (Finland), on the outcomes of the recent meeting of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Working Group of the Global Coalition against Da'esh held in The Netherlands on 5 March.

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.

Propose that the CDCT Plenary:

- Approve the initiation of Activity 1.2 to prepare a draft Recommendation on combating the promotion of terrorism and radicalisation on the internet, including through social media, and hold an open call for national experts to be nominated to a Working Group established for this purpose, and to particularly take into account current developments relating to artificial intelligence in this area;

- To approve the initiation of Activity 1.1 on Analysing the factors driving violent extremism leading to terrorism by hiring a suitably qualified consultant to prepare a preliminary study in Autumn 2024 to serve as a basis for a Working Group composed of national experts to begin its work in early 2025;
- Postpone 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, pending the completion of other priority activities under the Strategy;
- Initiate Activities 3.1 on the development of Guidelines on disengagement and reintegration programs for women with links to terrorism and Activity 3.2 on the development of Guidelines on (re)integration programmes for children affected by terrorism;
- Consider inviting the Council of Europe Network of Contact Points for the exchange of information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism to support the implementation of Activity 3.7 on preparing Guidelines on supporting the victims of terrorism.

5. Definition of Terrorism

Discuss the best and most effective way to incorporate the definition into the Convention, particularly with regards to the procedure and nature of the instrument to be used for this purpose. The Bureau considered the advantages and disadvantages of each potential procedure, notably the choice between the use of an amending protocol or to revise the Convention.

Express a preference for an Amending Protocol to adapt and update Convention No. 196, with due consideration given to the potential modalities for the entry into force of such an Amending Protocol, which would be accompanied by an Explanatory Memorandum to provide information on the main considerations taken into account in the negotiation and drafting process, and the potential legal implications of the updated definition.

Invite representatives of the Council of Europe's Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law (DLAPIL) to participate in the upcoming 12th CDCT Plenary meeting to provide legal advice to the Plenary on the potential procedural aspects of how such an Amending Protocol could come into force.

6. Comparative practices on the effective use of information collected in conflict zones as evidence for the purpose of criminal prosecution of terrorist offences (Activity 2.1 of the 2023 – 2027 Strategy)

Take note of information provided by the Chair of the Working Group, Ms Päivi KAIRAMO (Finland), on the progress with this activity and the current draft of the Comparative Practices document in advance of the fifth and final meeting in April 2024, and the pathway towards the finalisation of the document at the next CDCT Plenary in May.

Invite the CDCT-CZ Working Group to reflect on any potentially sensitive aspects of the document which may need to be addressed with a view to ensuring its best possible dissemination to relevant practitioners.

7. Analysis of emerging patterns of misuse of technology by terrorist actors (Activity 1.4 of the 2023 – 2027 Strategy)

Hold an online exchange of views with the consultant for this activity, Mr David WELLS, on the initial outline of the analysis as well as the way forward, and invite the Plenary to consider the outline of the Analysis at its next meeting in May 2024.

8. International conference on prosecuting terrorists for serious crimes committed during armed conflict (Activity 2.3 of the 2023 – 2027 Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the progress with the organisation of this Conference, which is scheduled to take place on 15-16 May, back-to-back with the CDCT Plenary.

9. Guidance on strategies for the prosecution of violent extremism conducive to terrorism (Activity 2.5 of the 2023 – 2027 Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Chair of the CDCT-VE Working Group, Mr Nicola PIACENTE (Italy), and the Secretariat, on the outcomes of the first meeting held on 30-31 January 2024, which discussed and examined the current approaches taken by a number of member States to prosecute violent extremist activities. He also informed the Bureau of the Questionnaire prepared for this purpose, which was distributed to all CDCT delegations with a deadline of 30 April 2024.

Take note that the next meeting of the CDCT-VE is expected to take place in September 2024 to examine the replies to the Questionnaire and the first draft of the Guidance, prepared by the independent expert, Dr Manfred DAUSTER.

10. 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 on the current status of the Network, and the outcomes of the sixth meeting held on 5 March 2024, which also featured thematic discussions on initiatives to memorialise victims of terrorism in several countries.

11. 24/7 Network of Contact Points on Foreign Terrorist Fighters

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the current status of the Network.

12. Any other business

N/A

13. Preparation of the 12th Plenary Meeting of the CDCT

Hold the 12th CDCT Plenary Meeting for two days on 13-14 May 2024 in Strasbourg, starting at 10:00 and continuing until 18:00 each day.

14. Adoption of the List of Decisions

Adopt the List of Decisions.