



Strasbourg, 9 April 2025

CDCT-BU(2025)01

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM (CDCT)

BUREAU

Paris, 9 April 2025

LIST OF DECISIONS

The CDCT Bureau, meeting on 9 April 2025, 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, other members of the Bureau and the Secretariat

Take note of the information provided by the Chair, Mr Nicola PIACENTE, on the 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) that took place on 8 April 2025. The presentation was received well by the Committee with positive reactions to the amendment expressed by the Vice-Chair and the delegate assigned to prepare the PACE opinion on the draft Amending Protocol (Rapporteur).

Mr Carlo CHIAROMONTE, on behalf of the Secretariat, shared information on the recent and future meetings with the new Council of Europe Secretary General, Mr Alain Berset and participation of the Secretariat in the UN CTED International Conference on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies, held on 12 – 13 March 2025 in Malta. He also explained the procedural steps that have and will take place regarding the adoption of the draft Amending Protocol to CETS No. 196, namely that since the last Plenary meeting the draft text was sent to the Committee of Ministers which transferred it to the PACE for an opinion. PACE is expected to discuss and adopt its opinion on the draft Amending Protocol during its plenary session in June and pass it on to the Committee of Ministers, who will discuss it on the level of the Rapporteur Group on Legal Cooperation (GR-J) on July 2, and in plenum, on 9 July, when the draft Amending Protocol is expected to be adopted.

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 Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2023 – 2027).

Propose to the Plenary initiation of the following activities of the Strategy, with the tentative deadline of the end of 2026:

- Providing guidance 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);
- Preparation of a draft Recommendation on measures for juveniles* suspected of involvement in terrorist activities (Activity 3.4 of the Strategy).

Propose to the Plenary to:

- Suspend the implementation of Activity 1.7 of the Strategy (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 the analysis of the status and developments regarding foreign terrorist fighters given the emerging developments in Syria.

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on possible additional activities proposed by national experts from different expert working groups on cross-fertilization between violent extremists and terrorism inspired by ISIL(Daesh) and Al Qaeda and difficulties of disengagement from the terrorist and organised crime milieu that could be considered for future work.

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

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning the steps taken towards producing the Analysis, namely the selection of the expert assigned to conduct the analysis and produce the draft report (Prof. Paul GILL, University College London) and his upcoming presentation of the work at the 14th CDCT Plenary meeting.

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 with the Chair of the Working Group, Ms Ileana VIȘOIU and the independent expert, Mr David WELLS, on the progress made regarding the drafting of the said Recommendations and its next steps. Ms Vișoiu informed the Bureau of the conclusions from the second meeting of the working group, the agreement on the change of the wording of the title to avoid misunderstanding on its substance, and the forthcoming activities, notably revision of the language of the draft to align better with the Council of Europe standards in this regard. Mr Wells supplemented by elaborating on issues covered by each substantive area covered by the draft Recommendation. The revised draft Recommendation will be considered by the working group at its next meeting scheduled for June 2025 and 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 revision of the draft Report pursuant to comments presented by Türkiye and provide its comments on the need to ensure harmonisation of language used throughout various texts to be produced by the CDCT. The revised analysis will be presented at the 14th Plenary meeting of the CDCT with a view towards its adoption.

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 CDCT-IHL, Mr Nicola Piacente and Ms Päivi KAIRAMO (Finland) regarding the results of the first meeting of CDCT-IHL. Ms Kairamo, having chaired

the first meeting, informed on the key decisions of the working group, such as focusing on non-international armed conflict only, covering exclusion of humanitarian assistance, promoting the idea of cumulative prosecutions, where applicable, and distributing a questionnaire to CDCT members to gather more data on national practices that would inform the future draft Recommendation. She also expressed sincere appreciation for the interest in this initiative seen from the number of high quality experts nominated to take part in the CDCT-IHL working group.

Clarify certain terminology used in the aforementioned questionnaire distributed to CDCT members.

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

Hold an exchange of views with the independent expert Dr Katherine BROWN on the substantive aspects of the draft Guidelines on disengagement and reintegration programs for women with links to terrorism, to be presented to the CDCT Plenary in May 2025. Dr Brown outlined the main principles governing the draft text, as well as specific themes covered for which guidance was developed, following practices from member States.

The Bureau also provided its comments and input on the draft text, agreeing on inclusion of language that reflects the detention-based disengagement and social reintegration programs. The draft Guidelines are expected to be examined and approved at the 14th Plenary meeting of the CDCT.

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 first draft of the Guidelines on (re)integration programmes for children affected by terrorism, to be presented to the CDCT Plenary in May 2025. Ms Polizzi presented the ideas behind each section of the draft Guidelines, as well as specific measures being proposed.

The Bureau also provided its comments and input on the draft text with a view to its improvement.

11. Network of Contact Points for victims of terrorism

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat about the 7th meeting of the Victim's Network, which took place on 11 February 2025 in Strasbourg, and plans for the subsequent meeting to be held in June 2025, focusing on the preparation of draft of Guidelines on support services and other measures for victims of terrorism. The Bureau 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 12th meeting of the Network, held on 12 December 2024 in the Hague, hosted by Europol, and plans for the next meeting tentatively envisaged for beginning of autumn of 2025. The Bureau agreed with proposals presented by several Network members on focusing discussions on the possible impact of the developments in Syria and immigration flows on the situation with foreign terrorist fighters.

13. Any other business

N/A

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

Agree on the planning regarding the 14th Plenary meeting of the CDCT, including its draft agenda and order of business.

15. Adoption of the List of Decisions

Adopt the List of Decisions.