



Strasbourg, 31 March 2026

CDCT-BU(2026)01

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM (CDCT)

BUREAU

Paris, 26 March 2026

LIST OF DECISIONS

The CDCT Bureau, meeting on 26 March 2026, 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, other members of the Bureau and the Secretariat

Take note of the information provided by Mr Carlo CHIAROMONTE, on behalf of the Secretariat, on the progress with the organisation of the International Conference on “Terrorism and violent extremism: the radicalisation of youth”, scheduled to take place on 26 May 2026, in Strasbourg. He noted that the Conference attracted great attention and is expected to host high-level speakers from member States and relevant partner organisations. Mr Chiaromonte also highlighted that the opening for signature of the Protocol amending the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (“Amending Protocol”) will take place the same day, on the occasion of the Conference, and extended the invitation to delegations present in the room to sign at this time.

Take note of the information provided by Ms Vișoiu about the discussions that took place on Monday 23 March 2026 within EU COPEN regarding the signature of the Amending Protocol by the European Union and the statements made by several members regarding the intentions of their respective States to sign.

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the upcoming United Nations Counter-Terrorism week, to take place in New-York end of June 2026, and possible organisation of a side-event in partnership with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

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

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the steady progress towards completion of the remaining activities under the Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2023 – 2027).

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

5. New Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the possible modalities of starting the work on the new Counter-Terrorism Strategy and related deadlines (approval by the CDCT expected by the end of 2027).

Propose to the CDCT Plenary to establish a single working group, which would produce an update report on emerging terrorist threats and a draft Strategy for CDCT consideration.

Propose to the CDCT to proceed with the same approach to preparing the Strategy as before, namely having the members of the Bureau within the working group that would produce the two drafts, alongside national subject matter experts.

6. 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-President of the Working Group tasked with preparing the draft Recommendation (CDCT-IHL), Mr Nicola PIACENTE (Italy), and the Secretariat about the fourth and last meeting of the Working Group held in Paris on 24-25 March 2026. During this meeting, the Working Group definitively approved the text of the draft 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. The CDCT-IHL also approved the draft Explanatory Report that will accompany the future Recommendation. Mr Piacente emphasised that this instrument focusses on non-international armed conflicts, as the liability of States does not fall within its scope. Additionally, he explained that the discussions concerning the draft Explanatory Report centred on armed conflict-related exclusions and humanitarian exemption clauses.

Instruct the Secretariat to distribute the two draft texts to CDCT delegations no later than 15 April 2026 and to set a deadline for written comments from member States to 6 May 2026 in view of the examination of these texts and any potential comments at the 16th Plenary meeting on 27-28 May 2026.

7. 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 President of the Working Group in charge of preparing the draft Recommendation (CDCT-NCM), Mr Antonios PAPAMATTHAIOU (Greece), regarding the outcomes of the first meeting held in Paris on 10-11 February 2026. Mr Papamatthaiou emphasised the smooth progress of the work, which should enable the draft Recommendation to be finalised before the end of the year. An exchange of views also took place with the independent experts, Dr Hans-Jakob Schindler and Mr Alexander Ritzmann, from Counter-Extremism Project (CEP) Germany, which was engaged as a consultant to assist the Working Group in drafting the Recommendation. The experts explained CEP's approach, based on a report prepared last year that maps existing and possible non-criminal law measures for the purpose of this activity. They also presented a scale 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 violent extremist groups and networks whose activities are conducive to terrorism. The CDCT-NCM will meet again in June 2026.

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

Review and provide input on the draft Report on the status of Foreign Terrorist Fighters produced by the Secretariat. The Bureau commended the Secretariat on the draft and suggested adding the period of time covered by the report and reference to another set of countries in the introductory part of the report. The draft Report will be submitted to the Plenary for adoption.

9. 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 on the next steps with preparing this activity, namely a need to produce a study before proceeding with draft Guidelines due to lack of sufficient data on country practices on generative AI and evidence. An independent expert, Mr David WELLS, hired to support this work, will conduct a review of the existing literature and country practices in order to produce a document outlining the findings and recommendations on how products made with Generative AI are treated as evidence in counter-terrorism investigations. After this step, the CDCT will decide how to proceed regarding the draft Guidelines.

10. 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 by the Secretariat on the selection of experts who would produce the said analysis. It is expected that selected expert/s will produce an outline of the analysis that should be considered by the CDCT at its 16th Plenary meeting in May. The analysis will rely on independent sources, as well as interviews with State experts who wish to do so. The scope of the analysis will be broad, to cover all possible modalities of acquisition and use of weapons and explosives and will produce policy conclusions for CDCT consideration.

11. Network of Contact Points for victims of terrorism

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat about the 9th meeting of the Victims' Network, which took place on 3 March 2026, in Paris. Contact Points emphasised the value of the Network not only in responding to terrorist attacks, as exemplified by the exchange of information to assist the Spanish victim of the February 2025 knife attack in Berlin, but also in other cases of mass-casualty incidents, such as the tragic bar fire in Crans-Montana on New Year's Eve. At the meeting, the Network also discussed ways to enhance the impact and relevance of its activities for victims, and agreed to publish country fact sheets. Additionally, it heard presentations from Romania about the country's legal and institutional framework for victims of terrorism and from representatives of Victim Support Europe about the various aspects of victim support and protection, including long-term support outside and after the trial. In this context, the Network emphasised the importance of co-operation, particularly with victim support associations and other civil society organisations relevant in the field.

12. Any other business

N/A

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

Approve the draft agenda of the 16th Plenary meeting of the CDCT, taking place on 27-28 May 2026, in Strasbourg, starting at 9.30am.

14. Adoption of the List of decisions

Adopt the List of Decisions.