

Terms of reference of the

Council of Europe Committee on Counter-terrorism (CDCT)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Category: Steering committee
Duration: 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2027
Programme: Upholding safety, security and integrity of society and persons
Sub-programme: Criminal law - Terrorism

Main tasks

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, and bearing in mind the Council of Europe legal standards, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the findings and recommendations of the relevant monitoring mechanisms, the CDCT identifies priority issues for intergovernmental legal co-operation and proposes to the Committee of Ministers areas for action in the field of counter-terrorism, by developing standard setting instruments, providing technical and analytical advice, collecting information, conducting activities in this area and advising the Committee of Ministers on all questions within its area of competence.

In particular, the CDCT is instructed to:

- i. take due account of the Reykjavik Declaration¹ in conducting its activities and submit proposals for its implementation as appropriate;
- ii. take account of the relevant key findings and challenges set out in the Secretary General's annual reports on the state of democracy, human rights and rule of law² and contribute, where relevant, to the process towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe;
- iii. follow the implementation of the binding and non-binding Council of Europe instruments applicable to the fight against terrorism and report back to the Committee of Ministers, as appropriate;
- iv. co-ordinate the Council of Europe counter-terrorism activities;
- v. oversee the implementation of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2023-2027;
- vi. identify potential shortcomings in international law in the field of counter-terrorism and address them in the most appropriate form, including through binding or non-binding instruments;
- vii. elaborate new tools aimed at preventing terrorist propaganda, radicalisation leading to terrorism and public provocation to commit a terrorist offence as well as tools aimed at protecting and/or supporting victims of terrorism;
- viii. develop new binding or non-binding instruments aimed at increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the reactions of relevant authorities to terrorist attacks;
- ix. strengthen the work of the 24/7 Network on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and the Network for the exchange of information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism;
- x. contribute to exchange of good practices among countries and national initiatives in the sector, promote internationally Council of Europe standards applicable to counter-terrorism through participation in the international counter-terrorism effort;
- xi. provide periodic input to the work of other international and regional counter-terrorism bodies, such as the United Nations and the OSCE;
- xii. take full account of the activities of other international and regional counter-terrorism bodies and relevant Council of Europe monitoring or convention mechanisms;
- xiii. raise-awareness about Council of Europe standards and tools in its field of competence in the member States and beyond, through the neighbourhood policy and in other international and global fora where relevant;
- xiv. hold an exchange of views annually in order to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued;
- xv. take due account of the following mainstreamed perspectives in the performance of its tasks: gender, youth, children's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and Roma and Traveller³ issues;
- xvi. where relevant, contribute to strengthening meaningful engagement with civil society organisations and national human rights institutions in its work;
- xvii. in accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which it has been given responsibility,⁴ in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers;
- xviii. contribute to the achievement of, and review progress towards, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regards to Goal 5: Gender Equality and Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong institutions.

¹ Reykjavik Declaration - United around our values.

² Cf. Secretary General's report 2025 "Towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe".

³ The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "*Gens du voyage*", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

⁴ Cf. relevant decisions of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2) and list of Conventions in document CM(2025)132.

Main deliverables

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CDCT is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1. Practical guidance on the effective use of information collected in conflict zones as evidence for the purpose of criminal prosecution of terrorist offences	1	30/06/2024
2. Report on the status and developments regarding foreign terrorist fighters	2	31/07/2026
3. Guidelines on strategies to prosecute violent extremism conducive to terrorism	1	31/12/2024
4. Report of emerging patterns of misuse of technology by terrorist actors	1	31/12/2024
5. Draft Recommendation on prosecuting terrorist offences and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the context of an armed conflict	1	31/07/2025
6. Draft legal instrument (amending protocol or updated convention) updating the Council of Europe counter-terrorism conventions (inclusive of the new definition of terrorism)	1	31/12/2025
7. Draft Recommendation concerning combating promotion of terrorism and radicalisation on the internet and social media	1	31/12/2025
8. Report on the implementation of Art. 5 of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism	1	31/12/2025
9. Report of factors driving violent extremism leading to terrorism	1	31/12/2025
10. Guidelines on disengagement and reintegration programmes for women with links to terrorism	1	31/12/2025
11. Guidelines on (re)integration programs for children affected by terrorism	1	31/12/2025
12. Guidelines on support services and other measures for victims of terrorism	1	31/12/2025
13. Draft Recommendation on non-criminal law measures that may be applied against violent extremist groups whose activities are conducive to terrorism	1	31/12/2026
14. Model Strategy on the whole-of-society approach to disengagement and social reintegration	2	31/12/2026
15. Guidelines on the use of e-evidence and open-source information in criminal proceedings for terrorist offences	2	31/12/2026
16. Draft Recommendation on measures for juveniles suspected of involvement in terrorist activities	1	31/12/2026
17. Publication on good practices to review and supervise the implementation of anti-terrorism legislation in accordance with the rule of law	2	31/12/2027
18. After examination of the existing legal and regulatory framework, draft legal instrument (recommendation or guidelines) on measures to enhance the prevention of trafficking of and illicitly acquiring firearms, including small arms, and explosives by terrorist and violent extremist groups	2	31/12/2027
19. Strengthened 24/7 Network of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Network for the exchange of information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism, notably by increasing the number of members	2	31/12/2027
20. Updated country profiles regarding counter-terrorism measures	3	31/12/2027
21. Updated database on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights relevant to the fight against terrorism	3	31/12/2027

Composition

• Members

Governments of member States are invited to designate one or more representatives of the highest possible rank with responsibility at the national level for the planning and/or development and/or implementation of policies relevant to the work of the Committee and with extensive knowledge of legal or financial questions concerning terrorism.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each member State (two in the case of the State whose representative has been elected Chair).

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

In accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, in cases where there is no convention-based body including all the Parties, non-member States are invited to take part, with a right to vote, in the committee meetings pertaining to the conventions to which they are Parties.

• Participants

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;
- European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ);
- European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC);
- Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH);
- Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI);
- Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL);
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union (one or more representatives, including, as appropriate Europol and Eurojust);
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- United Nations;
- International Criminal Police Organisation-Interpol (ICPO-Interpol);
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE);
- Organization of American States (OAS);
- Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM);
- Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS);
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- The Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF).

• **Observers**

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- States having been invited by decision of the Committee of Ministers to participate in the negotiations;
- interested organisations from Civil Society: the Council of Europe welcomes and promotes the widest participation of civil society, in line with the Guidance note on Civil Society Participation in the Intergovernmental Work of the Council of Europe CDDEM(2024)14, as Observers Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Working methods

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. Online participation in meetings will be available.

	Plenary meetings ▼			Bureau meetings ▼		
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2024	47	2	3	7	2	2
2025	47	2	3	7	2	2
2026	47	2	3	7	2	2
2027	47	2	3	7	2	2

The CDCT will appoint from amongst its members up to 5 Rapporteurs on mainstreamed perspectives, including a Gender Equality Rapporteur.

Budgetary information*

	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members reimbursed	Plenary in €K	Bureau in €K	Working groups in €K	Secretariat (A, B)
2024	2	3	47	96.6	11.4	80.4	1 A; 1 B
2025	2	3	47	96.6	11.4	80.4	1 A; 1 B
2026	2	3	47	108.8	6.4	119.5	2 A; 1 B
2027	2	3	47	108.8	6.4	119.5	2 A; 1 B

*The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of standard costs.