

Strasbourg, 9 December 2024

CDDEM(2024)24

## **STEERING COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY (CDDEM)**

### **MEETING REPORT**

2nd Plenary meeting  
(29-30 October 2024)

Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe · Room 11  
(and online via KUDO)

Web: [www.coe.int/cddem](http://www.coe.int/cddem)

The Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM) held its 2nd plenary meeting in Strasbourg and online on 29-30 October 2024, with Mr Thomas Zandstra (Netherlands) in the Chair. Vice-Chair Mr Vebjørn Heines (Norway) chaired the afternoon session of the meeting on 30 October. Mr Matjaž Gruden (Director for Democracy) facilitated the meeting with the agreement of the Committee until after the election of Chair and Vice-Chair during the afternoon session on 29 October.

## 1. Opening of the meeting

Mr Matjaž Gruden, Director for Democracy, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants<sup>1</sup>, the list of which appears in [Appendix II](#) below.

## 2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

The CDDEM reviewed the draft agenda and adopted it without changes. The agenda appears in [Appendix I](#) below. Together with the abridged and full meeting reports, the agenda is also available on the [CDDEM's website](#).

The Committee agreed on a provisional arrangement for the Secretariat, represented by Mr Gruden, to facilitate the first session of the meeting pending the election of CDDEM Chair and Vice-Chair during the afternoon session on 29 October (see [section 8](#) below).

## 3. Statement of the Secretariat

The acting Chair updated the CDDEM members on relevant recent developments within the Council of Europe, notably that a new Secretary General, Mr [Alain BERSET](#), assumed position on 18 September 2024. Mr Berset's priorities include supporting and facilitating the recovery of a free, reconstructed Ukraine, the implementation of the commitments made at the Council of Europe's [2023 Summit](#) of Heads of State and Government and of the [Reykjavík Principles](#) for Democracy. A Council of Europe action plan on democracy is to be elaborated to provide a forward-looking outlook for the Organisation, focussing on pressing and emerging challenges and strengthening the Organisation's role in responsible global governance.

The acting Chair further informed the CDDEM about the operation of the [Register of Damage for Ukraine](#) established at the Reykjavík Summit in 2023; the adoption of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law ([CETS No. 225](#)), now open for signature, and about the preparation of the new transversal [Youth Perspective](#) resulting from the Reykjavík Summit, which is to be integrated in the work of the Council of Europe's intergovernmental committees.

## 4. Tour de table

(New) representatives of Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Malta, Poland, San Marino, and Slovakia have joined the CDDEM since its 1st plenary meeting on 13-14 May 2024. After being welcomed to the Committee, the newly joined members outlined their governments' priorities and ongoing activities in the area of democracy. Several of them emphasised the importance of the Reykjavík agenda and the Rs to be articulated and promoted by the Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> At this 2nd plenary meeting of the CDDEM, 45 attending member states were represented by 86 participants, of which 37 women and 46 men (45% and 55% respectively).

## **5. Standard setting: Parameters to facilitate the application and implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy**

The acting Chair provided an update on the work carried out by the CDDEM's Working Group on Parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavík Principles of Democracy (GT-P). The GT-P held its first meeting in September 2024, and a second meeting was in preparation for December this year, where the draft Parameters will be further discussed and revised following comments by the CDDEM as well as other relevant Council of Europe sectors and entities. The acting Chair further informed the CDDEM that the Secretariat would also consult with independent academic experts and practitioners from relevant organisations on ways for the Parameters to achieve optimal practical value for member states and other stakeholders. This process is to ensure the best possible quality of the document. He further alerted the Committee to the importance of consulting with wider civil society on the development and implementation of the text.

### **5.1. Exchange of views with Marin Mrčela, President of GRECO (Group of States against Corruption) (online)**

The CDDEM held an exchange with Mr Marin Mrčela, President of the Group of States against Corruption (**GRECO**), who presented GRECO's history, working methods and ongoing activities. Mr Mrčela stressed that, while GRECO recommendations to member states reflect their particular contexts, the central building blocks in fighting corruption in the public sector are universal. Specifically on the interplay between democracy and the corruption prevention, he highlighted the importance of transparency and political integrity, underlining that non-transparent, illicit influences on democratic processes, including through financing, may put into question the legitimacy of state institutions and can lead to the loss of trust in politics and low voter turnout. Good governance and anti-corruption go hand in hand, thus the overall trend is to perceive corruption not in isolation, but as being a fully transversal issue, to which the response also has to be multi-faceted, lauding the CDDEM's integrative approach in the work on Parameters in this regard.

CDDEM members then exchanged views with Mr Mrčela on the importance of anti-corruption measures for the promotion and protection of democracy throughout Europe, and concretely for the application and implementation of the Reykjavík agenda. Asked about the focus of the parameters dealing with the prevention and fight against corruption, Mr Mrčela pointed to the importance of effectively capturing the triad of transparency, monitoring and sanctions in the text of the Parameters.

### **5.2. Examination of the first draft of the Parameters**

In the introduction, it was briefly restated that the Parameters aim to promote a shared understanding of European democracy, protect it against erosion and provide a solid foundation for policy reforms in member states and (self-)assessment of the state of their democracies. The acting Chair presented some of the conclusions from the 1st meeting of the GT-P in September, such as the requirement that the Parameters be both concrete enough to reflect the European and international democratic standards and principles, and abstract enough to accommodate member states' national contexts and diverse democratic systems. The document should be a practical tool, accessible for use by member states and potential other stakeholders. In this connection, the acting Chair reiterated that a development of further monitoring mechanisms to oversee the application of the Parameters was not envisioned at the level of the Council of Europe.

The CDDEM reviewed the structure, content and language of the draft Parameters. Members stressed the need for clarity on who the document is addressed to and how it should be used. Some suggested that the central role of member states and their governments in this regard should be made more explicit. Several members argued that the Parameters should also be made available for use by other actors, such as the media, researchers and civil society. Furthermore, members put forward several ideas, such as to include a procedural aspect into the document, highlighting the need to establish a support and experience-sharing mechanism, to exploit the Parameters as a benchmarking tool similar to that established for the [European Label of Governance Excellence \(ELOGE\)](#). The question of monitoring the application of the Parameters was raised several times, with some member states arguing that developing further monitoring bodies and/or mechanisms would be unwise, given also the administrative burden on member states, yet others pointing to the intrinsic monitoring function of such a document.

Several members also pointed to the need to further mainstream transversal issues such as gender in the different sections of the draft Parameters. As for aspects to be further articulated in the document, there was mention of the structure and democratic functioning of political parties, ownership of AI and digital platforms, as well as wealth distribution and influence as translating into unequal shares in power distribution. The issues of democratic security, education for democracy, and the fostering of a culture of democracy more generally were also mentioned. The Secretariat further informed the CDDEM about the work currently being done to future-proof the Parameters and provide clarity on the possible uses and users of the document.

## **6. Information from the gender equality rapporteur (GER)**

Mr Edwin Lefebvre (Belgium), CDDEM Gender equality rapporteur ([GER](#)), highlighted the efforts undertaken to mainstream the gender equality perspective in the work on the different deliverables that were prepared or in preparation by the Committee, and in this regard highlighted the need to see the empowerment of women and girls as much broader than protection against violence and harassment. He informed the CDDEM that he would report back from a workshop for GERs organised by the Gender Equality Division secretariat.

The acting Chair recalled that other mainstreamed perspectives championed across the Organisation ought to be given due account in the preparation of the Committee's documents, and some members expressed their views as to the importance of including mention of vulnerable groups in coming reports, or of mainstreaming equality in a broad and inter-sectional sense.

## **7. World Forum for Democracy – synergies and opportunities for introducing its conclusions into the CDDEM work**

The acting Chair informed the Committee about the possible themes for the 2025 edition of the World Forum for Democracy ([WFD](#)), namely (1) "Why do we no longer like democracy?", proposing to look at the roots of the growing phenomenon of dissatisfaction with democracy; (2) "Culture and democracy", proposing to explore the links between culture, freedom of expression and political participation; (3) "Disruptive technologies and democracy", proposing to explore the risks and potentials of technological innovation for the practice of democracy; and (4) "A citizens' democracy?", proposing to explore avenues for strengthening the resilience of civil society and civic culture to the risks posed by emerging challenges.

The acting Chair reiterated that the Council of Europe's intergovernmental committees could develop a meaningful follow-up to the outcomes of the WFD, noting that synergies can be explored at this year's Forum already, as some members would be in attendance. The CDDEM then discussed the possible themes for 2025, noting in particular the topicality of the impact of digital transformation on democratic processes and the importance of strengthening civic space for a functioning democracy.

## 8. Elections of CDDEM members for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the CDDEM Bureau and elections of members of CDDEM working groups

The Committee held elections via the KUDO online platform for the following positions: CDDEM Chair and Vice-Chair; five positions of CDDEM Bureau members and seven positions of elected members in each of the two working groups: on Parameters for the Application and Implementation of the Reykjavík Principles of Democracy (GT-P) and on Civil Society Participation (GT-CS). The candidates for election briefly introduced themselves and highlighted their respective priorities for the different positions.

The CDDEM then elected, for a one-year term of office,

Mr Thomas Zandstra (Netherlands) as Chair of the CDDEM and  
Mr Vebjørn Heines (Norway) as Vice-Chair of the CDDEM.

The CDDEM further elected, as members of the CDDEM Bureau, for a two-year term of office (October 2024–October 2026),

Ms Lilya Afrikyan (Armenia),  
Mr Peter Andre (Austria),  
Ms Katrin Kivi (Estonia), and  
Mr Pavel Mička (Czechia);

and, for a one-year term of office (October 2024–October 2025),

Ms Silvia Negro Alousque (Spain).

For the seven positions in the **GT-P**, for the term corresponding to its mandate (until December 2025), the CDDEM elected

Mr Georgios Chrysafis (Greece),  
Mr Edwin Lefebre (Belgium),  
Ms Hester Mennes (Netherlands),  
Ms Anne-Karin Ødegård (Norway),  
Mr Ignacio Gil Osés (Spain),  
Mr Paulius Skardžius (Lithuania), and  
Ms Doris Wagner (Austria).

For the seven positions in the **GT-CS**, for the term corresponding to its mandate (until December 2025), the CDDEM elected

Mr Peter Andre (Austria),  
Mr Georgios Chrysafis (Greece),  
Ms Anu Juvonen (Finland),  
Mr Edwin Lefebre (Belgium),  
Ms Hester Mennes (Netherlands),  
Ms Tânia Mourato (Portugal), and  
Mr Alfonso Carlos Garcia Romero (Spain).

Members of the GT-CS and GT-P were elected by acclamation, as there were as many candidates as there were positions to be filled.

## 9. Supporting member states to strengthen and maintain good democratic governance at all levels

### 9.1. Exchange of views with Mathieu Mori, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

The Committee held an exchange of views with Mr Mathieu Mori, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, who highlighted some areas of possible co-operation between the CDDEM and the Congress, namely regarding the implementation of the Reykjavík agenda. To this end, Mr Mori called on the CDDEM to develop the Parameters as a practical tool to implement this agenda, that can serve as an early warning system and ultimately secure democracy and good governance at all levels throughout Europe.

Mr Mori presented some of the areas where the Congress is taking action to implement the Reykjavík Principles, notably through the [system of the European Charter of Local Self-Government](#), local-level election [observations](#), the implementation of the system of the European Convention on Human rights at the local level, the European [Code of conduct](#) for all persons involved in local and regional governance, and the [European Charter](#) on the participation of young people in municipal and regional life<sup>2</sup>.

Mr Mori further updated members on the current work of the Centre of Expertise for Multilevel Governance which is implementing a number of large-scale [projects](#) in the framework of the Council of Europe's action plans for specific member states, reform agendas from the European Union, and within the Council of Europe's policy towards neighbouring regions. The project in Armenia triggered the first Rapid Response Service request with the CDDEM, and Mr Mori thanked the members for their quick and useful responses, welcoming further cooperation. Mr Niall Sheerin, Deputy Head of the Centre of Expertise, presented to the CDDEM members the European Label of Governance Excellence ([ELoGE](#)) and its recently established [Accreditation Platform](#).

### 9.2. Appointment of a CDDEM member to the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) Accreditation Platform

The CDDEM was invited to designate a representative to the ELoGE Accreditation Platform, and to this end the Committee appointed:

Mr [Georgios Chrysafis](#) (Greece).

## 10. CDDEM Comments to Recommendation 2281 (2024) – “Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress” adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

The CDDEM finalised its comments to PACE [Rec. 2281 \(2024\)](#) on the basis of draft comments prepared by the Secretariat, and three member states' proposals for amendments (Belgium, Germany and Türkiye). The members concerned introduced the proposed amendments, followed by a discussion and proposals for new wording to accommodate divergent views of some member states. After further revision, the Committee reached an agreement and approved the text.

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<sup>2</sup> Which is currently being updated.

## 11. Civil society: Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs)

The Committee welcomed the presentation of Council of Europe's recent Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2024\)2](#) on countering the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) provided by Ms Giulia Lucchese, Secretary to the Committee of Experts on the Impacts of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Freedom of Expression (MSI-AI) of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI), [Freedom of Expression and CDMSI](#) Division. Ms Lucchese presented the effects of SLAPPs – manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings – on freedom of expression and other rights of journalists and media workers, but also civil society organisations and individuals who critically address the matters of public interest. The 2024 Recommendation is characterised by a broad scope, which can usefully complement the implementation of the [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1069](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings (“Strategic lawsuits against public participation”) and the accompanying [Commission Recommendation \(EU\) 2022/758](#).

Members then discussed good practices to be shared regarding anti-SLAPP strategies and efforts as well as examples of national coordination. Ms Lucchese mentioned in particular the potential of the [Platform on the safety of journalists](#), arguing that best possible use should be made of already available mechanisms.

## 12. Guidance Note on civil society participation in the intergovernmental work of the Council of Europe

The CDDEM reviewed the draft Guidance note on civil society participation in the intergovernmental work of the Council of Europe elaborated by the GT-CS on the basis of a draft proposed by the Secretariat. The text was amended on the basis of member states' comments, as well as those provided by the secretariats of other steering committees. The Committee's comments to the final draft text were discussed one by one, resulting in minor wording amendments to accommodate different positions of certain delegations on a few individual guidelines.

The CDDEM agreed to include a provision on the possibility for civil society to participate in the work of intergovernmental committees and subsidiary bodies as part of member states' delegations, where such arrangements are deemed appropriate by an individual state. Regarding the possibility that the participation of individual civil society organisations might pose a risk to legitimate interests of member states, text was added to clarify that the rules for granting participatory status with the Council of Europe and observer status with intergovernmental committees are in place to ensure engagement in intergovernmental work only with civil society actors and organisations that respect and defend Council of Europe's core values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Following the review and revision of the text, the Committee reached an agreement and adopted the Guidance note.

## 13. Update of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2007\)14](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe

The Committee discussed the draft Feasibility study on updating Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2007\)14](#) on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe prepared by Mr Jeremy McBride, President of the [Expert Council on NGO Law](#) of the Council of Europe's Conference of INGOs (CINGO), in his capacity as expert consultant to the GT-CS. Overall, the CDDEM members expressed support for the study; one member commented on the need to ensure that the update of [CM/Rec\(2007\)14](#) takes into account the possible risks associated with its implementation, in particular with regard to its unintended effects, and another member argued that specific examples of threats to civil society should be added to strengthen the evidence base for the study's conclusions. During the discussion, Mr McBride pointed to several issues that needed clarifying in the new text, such as the difference between “lobbying” and “advocacy” in the context of civil society activities, and he reiterated that the new recommendation should not weaken the requirements and achievements of the current recommendation.

Upon proposal by the Chair, it was agreed that further comments could be made in writing during the three weeks following the meeting. Any further comments would be considered, and if no further comments were received, the study would be considered approved. The Secretariat would then begin to prepare a new draft recommendation on the basis of the proposals in the Feasibility study. A first reading of the draft text would take place in the GT-CS in early 2025.

#### **14. CDDEM contribution to the Steering Committee for Human Rights' (CDDH) Implementation Review Report on Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)11 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the need to strengthen the protection and promotion of civil society space in Europe**

The CDDEM reviewed and approved the contribution to the Steering Committee for Human Rights' (CDDH) implementation review of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2018\)11](#) on the need to strengthen the protection and promotion of civil society space in Europe. The CDDEM's contribution consists of a Compilation of member states' replies to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Recommendation, the Summary overview of the opinions of CINGO's Expert Council on NGO Law for the period 2019-2024, and the Summary of current work on strengthening civil society engagement in the Council of Europe.

Members heard from Mr Daniel Pap, Secretary of the drafting group of the Steering Committee for Human Rights on human rights and artificial intelligence ([CDDH-IA](#)), who provided information on the draft implementation review report on the 2018 Recommendation being prepared by the CDDH, and in particular on how the CDDEM contribution to the report would be used. The CDDH invited the CDDEM to be represented at the CDDH plenary meeting on 25-29 November 2024, and it was decided that the Secretariat would take on this role.

#### **15. Application for observer status**

The CDDEM examined four applications for observer status and heard the presentation of the respective representatives of these organisations, namely (1) the [Culture and Democracy Foundation](#), (2) the [European Center for Human Rights](#), (3) the [European Council of Spatial Planners](#), and (4) the [CURE – Campaign to Uphold Rights in Europe](#).

Upon deliberation, the CDDEM approved the application of the Culture and Democracy Foundation for observer status. As the representative of Türkiye indicated that the other applications had not been received in time for consideration, the CDDEM decided to initiate a three-week tacit procedure, whereby observer status would be deemed granted to the organisations concerned if no objections were raised by 20 November 2024.

#### **16. Exchange of views with Michael O' Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe**

The CDDEM held an exchange of views with Mr Michael O'Flaherty, [Commissioner for Human Rights](#) of the Council of Europe, who presented his mandate and work, underlined the interrelationship between human rights and democracy, and stressed the indivisibility of human rights. He noted the particular importance of social rights as a roadmap to achieving social justice and thereby supporting trust in democratic governance. The Commissioner referred to the important human rights work of civil society organisations and local authorities, emphasising the need to involve the rightsholders at all levels.



The Commissioner further noted four issues of concern, relating to the cross-over between democracy and human rights: (1) gaining control over processes involving artificial intelligence; (2) the growing pressure on civil society in Europe, including through the criminalisation of their work and activities; (3) the erosion of the rule of law at the European borders, and (4) the disappearance of education about human rights and democracy from many curriculums over the past years.

In response to a question on how to engage with actors who undermine democracy and the rule of law, Mr O'Flaherty responded that it was important to stress the principles behind human rights rather than referring to them merely as imposed obligations. The ensuing discussion covered other topics, including the need for genuine youth participation, priority areas to address, definitions of civil society, and ways of operationalising the Reykjavik Declaration. In conclusion, the Commissioner offered the Committee the full cooperation of his Office.

#### **17. Update on the European Union developments and initiatives related to safeguarding democracy**

The CDDEM took note of the update on the EU initiatives related to safeguarding democracy provided by Ms Marie-Hélène Boulanger, Deputy Director and Head of Unit in charge of Democracy, Citizenship and Free Movement at the European Commission (DG JUST). Ms Boulanger informed the Committee about the implementation of the Defence of Democracy Package and the planned “European Democracy Shield” that is to strengthen the EU’s capacities for countering disinformation and building resilience against information manipulation. The new Commission will have as one of its priorities to provide a “new push for democracy” by focussing on the protection of election integrity; increasing transparency, including transparency and accountability of interest representation activities; the engagement of citizens and civil society, and implementing the Directive on SLAPPs. Reflecting on the future of the Commission’s democracy-agenda, Ms Boulanger highlighted the importance of effectively countering disinformation and foreign interference, and of building societal resilience alongside resilience of democratic institutions and processes, for which participatory democracy is key.

#### **18. Update on the work of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

The Committee took note of the information provided by Mr Cesare Colombo, Co-Secretary of the Parliamentary Assembly’s [Committee](#) on Political Affairs and Democracy (AS/Pol), on the current work and initiatives of the PACE committee. Mr Colombo briefly presented some of the reports currently [under preparation](#), namely on “Foreign interference: a threat to democratic security in Europe”; “Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy”; “Elections in times of crisis”; “Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence”; and “Political parties and democracy”. Mr Colombo also briefly provided information on the PACE’s [monitoring committee](#) and mechanism, and highlighted that the potential value of the Parameters that are being developed by the CDDEM to that mechanism. Finally, Mr Colombo expressed the PACE committee’s readiness to continuously and actively contribute to the CDDEM’s work and co-operate on the deliverables under preparation, as appropriate.

#### **19. Recent developments in the areas of activity of the CDDEM**

Committee members and participants presented ongoing and upcoming developments and initiatives in member states and/or organisations in the areas of democracy, good democratic governance, elections, safe and enabling civic space and other areas of activity of the CDDEM.

Mr Pavel Mička (Czechia) informed the CDDEM about a consortium of six countries, including Czechia, that have prepared a Technical Support Instrument (TSI) project focussing on participatory and deliberative democracy with the support of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), expressing the hope that the Council of Europe would contribute to the project. He also mentioned his participation in a training on citizens assemblies organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Bertelsmann Stiftung.

Mr Niklas Wilhelmsson (Finland) informed the Committee that Finland is preparing a democracy policy programme, with a government resolution expected to be published in January 2025, also based on Council of Europe documents. The resolution is to focus on securing elections and electoral participation, enhancing civic and human rights education, and new forms of political participation. A government resolution on the development of civic space had also been prepared (CSO strategy), and Mr Wilhelmsson was going to circulate among the members. Furthermore, Finland was one of four countries participating in International IDEA's pilot project on the protection of elections; the end report for which is expected to be released in spring 2025.

Ms Silvia Negro Alousque (Spain) informed the other members of the development of a three-year action plan for democracy for ensuring truthful information and confidence in democracy. Areas of focus are the quality of governance, media plurality, and transparency in the electoral and legislative systems.

Mr Grégory Sterck (Belgium) informed members about the recent elections in the Brussels capital region, which were the first Belgian elections that took place in an entirely electronic format. Mr Sterck further informed the Committee that following a recently adopted amendment in the Region, simultaneous holding of a legislative and a local executive mandate would no longer be possible, although the implementation of this amendment is still under development and negotiation.

Ms Lilya Afrikyan (Armenia) informed members about recent regulations for improving public monitoring and observation of public procurement, including post-procurement processes, directed towards CSOs, with the aim of raising the transparency and integrity of public officials. She also provided information on a campaign organised by local CSOs civic to collect citizens' signatures on bringing Armenia closer in line with the European agenda.

Ms Oksana Pavliuk (Ukraine) informed the Committee about a range of recent developments in Ukraine's continuing de-centralisation efforts, including the adoption of a new law on public consultation, a comprehensive regulation to balance public and private interests; a law aimed at creating conditions for civil participation in public life on local level, and the development of a new action plan implementing a national strategy for developing civil society participation until 2026.

Mr Christian Aldenhoff (Germany) informed the Committee that the Federal government had adopted a strategy to promote a strong and pluralist society employing a holistic approach, with the aim of countering extremism.

Ms Hanneke Palm (Netherlands) informed the members that Dutch law on Strengthening participation at decentralized level had recently entered into force which is to promote citizen participation in policy- and decision-making. This law aims to strengthen the involvement of citizens in policy implementation and evaluation in municipalities and provinces.

Mr Ahmet Evren Bal (Türkiye) asked for members to share programmes, strategies, and developments in writing, and for the Secretariat to circulate them within the Committee.

Finally, Mr Roberto Lattanzi (Italy) informed the CDDEM that an open government plan is being implemented, which aims to increase civic participation, promote inclusion and access to documents. This is an ongoing activity, in line with European Commission recommendations, and currently in its 6<sup>th</sup> year of operation.

## 20. Participation in events of relevance to the CDDEM

Mr Paulius Skardžius (Lithuania) informed members about the key findings of the conference on “Multilevel Governance for Ensuring Democracy and Strengthening Resilience at all Levels of Governance”, which took place on 25 September in Vilnius. The conference was organised by the Lithuanian Ministry of Interior with the support of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in the framework of the Lithuanian [presidency](#) of the Committee of Ministers.

Ms Katrin Kivi (Estonia) informed members about an online event organised by International IDEA, the (OECD) and other organisations on the future of the Summit for Democracy, and proposed that the Council of Europe strengthens the synergies with these organisations and other relevant forums dealing with democracy challenges. In this connection, the members mentioned also the OECD’s [Reinforcing Democracy Initiative](#) and the EU’s existing [action plans](#) on democracy.

Ms Lilya Afrikyan (Armenia) highlighted the open government initiatives and informed members that a summit would be held in 2025, in which the Committee could be involved. The Vice-Chair suggested that the Bureau look into the possibilities, including to potentially invite some of the key players to the CDDEM.

The Secretariat informed the CDDEM members on existing and ongoing Council of Europe participatory and deliberative democracy [initiatives](#), and invited them to consider hosting events on the topics concerned in their countries.

Mr Robert Tabone (Malta) informed the members that, in the framework of its upcoming Committee of Ministers presidency, Malta would host a conference on multi-level governance in 2025, on which more information would be shared soon.

## 21. CDDEM Calendar of Meetings for 2025

The Committee approved the proposed calendar of meetings for 2025 and agreed to hold its 3rd and 4th plenary meetings in a hybrid format, in Strasbourg and online, on 12-13 June and 27-28 November 2025 respectively.

## 22. Any other business

The CDDEM discussed the importance of engaging with the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) that is developing operational tools for the implementation of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law ([CETS No. 225](#)), which includes a provision on the impact of AI on democracy. Mr Roberto Lattanzi (Italy), who is also a member of the CAI, offered to inform the CDDEM about the CAI’s legally non-binding methodology for the Risk and Impact Assessment of AI Systems from the point of view of Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law ([HUDERIA](#)) that would be finalised by the end of the year and is to support the implementation of the Framework Convention.

## 23. Adoption of the abridged meeting report

The CDDEM adopted the [abridged report](#) of its 2nd plenary meeting as it appears in document CDDEM(2024)24.

## APPENDIX I

## Agenda

<b>Tuesday, 29 October 2024</b>
<b>9.30 – 11.00</b>
<p><b>1. Opening of the meeting</b></p> <p><i>Opening remarks by <b>Matjaž Gruden</b>, Director for Democracy<sup>3</sup>, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity of the Council of Europe</i></p>
<p><b>2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business</b></p> <p>Working document: Draft annotated agenda [CDDEM(2024)OJ2 rev.]</p> <p><i>The CDDEM is invited to review and adopt the draft annotated agenda.</i></p>
<p><b>3. Statement of the Secretariat</b></p> <p>Reference documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods</li> <li>- <a href="#">CDDEM Terms of Reference 2024-2027</a></li> </ul> <p><i>The CDDEM is invited to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the election rules and procedure and the developments that have occurred since the 1st plenary meeting (13-14 May 2024) and their possible implications for the committee's activities.</i></p>
<p><b>4. Tour de table</b></p> <p>Tour de table: interventions by newly designated members of the CDDEM</p> <p>Reference document: <a href="#">Members of the CDDEM</a></p> <p><i>Since the 1st plenary meeting (13-14 May 2024), new members joined the Committee (Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Malta, Poland, San Marino, Slovakia). After welcoming them, the acting Chair will invite newly designated members to introduce themselves.</i></p>
<p><b>5. Standard setting: Parameters to facilitate the application and implementation of the <a href="#">Reykjavik Principles for Democracy</a></b></p> <p>5.1. Exchange of views with <b>Marin Mrčela</b>, President of GRECO (Group of States against Corruption) (online)</p> <p>5.2. Examination of the first draft of the Parameters</p> <p>Working documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy [CDDEM(2024)10]</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Mr Gruden facilitated the first part of the CDDEM Plenary meeting until the election of the Steering Committee's Chair.

- Report of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on the parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy [GT-P(2024)2]

*The CDDEM is invited to:*

- hold an exchange of views with Marin Mrčela on the work of GRECO and the importance of the fight against corruption as a cornerstone of the rule of law and a key component of democracy;
- take note of the update provided by the Secretariat on the discussion at the 1st meeting of the GT-P and the state of play of the Draft Parameters;
- carry out an examination on the text of the Draft Parameters as revised following the comments made by members at the 1st meeting of the GT-P on 23 September and to provide guidance for the further development of the text.

**11.30 – 13.00**

**Continuation of item 5**

## **6. Information from the gender equality rapporteur (GER)**

Working document: Information from the gender equality rapporteur (GER) Edwin Lefebre [CDDEM(2024)11]

*The CDDEM is invited to take note of the report prepared by the Gender Equality Rapporteur Edwin Lefebre and discuss possible ways of integrating mainstreamed perspectives (gender equality, youth, the rights of the child, rights of persons with disabilities, Roma and Travellers issues) into the work of the committee.*

## **7. World Forum for Democracy – synergies and opportunities for introducing its conclusions into the CDDEM work**

Reference document: World Forum for Democracy 2025 – Proposed themes

*The CDDEM is invited to discuss the potential themes for the next edition of the World Forum for Democracy and provide input on which theme might be appropriate for the Forum.*

**14.30 – 16.15**

## **8. Elections of CDDEM members for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the CDDEM Bureau and elections of members of CDDEM working groups**

Information document: Information note "Election of members of the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM) for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, member of the Bureau of the CDDEM and election of members of CDDEM working groups" [CDDEM(2024)12] + [CDDEM(2024)12 Addendum]

*The CDDEM is invited to:*

- elect, from among its members, the Chair, Vice-Chair and five members of the Bureau. CDDEM members who wish to submit candidatures for these positions are invited to inform the Secretariat by 23 October 2024.
- elect seven experts for the Working Group on Parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavik Principles of Democracy (GT-P) and seven experts for the Working Group on civil society participation (GT-CS). CDDEM members who wish to submit

*candidatures (their own or other experts) for members of the working groups are invited to inform the Secretariat by 23 October 2024.*

## **9. Supporting member states to strengthen and maintain good democratic governance at all levels**

- 9.1. Exchange of views with **Mathieu Mori**, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- 9.2. Appointment of a CDDEM member to the **European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE)** Accreditation Platform

Reference documents:

- **European Label of Governance Excellence Benchmarking – Good Governance Benchmark**

*The CDDEM is invited to:*

- *hold an exchange of views with Mathieu Mori on the work of the Congress related to democracy and governance and especially the current activities and initiatives of the Centre of expertise for multilevel governance;*
- *take note of the information on the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) that is awarded to municipalities which have achieved a high level of good governance measured against a Council of Europe benchmark and appoint a CDDEM member to the Accreditation Platform of ELoGE. CDDEM members who wish to express their interest for this position are kindly asked to inform the Secretariat by 28 October 2024.*

**16.30 – 17.30**

## **10. CDDEM Comments to PACE Recommendation 2281 (2024) – “Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress”**

Reference and working documents:

- **PACE Recommendation 2281 (2024) – “Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress”**
- **CDDEM Draft comments to Recommendation 2281 (2024) [CDDEM(2024)13]**

*The CDDEM is invited to examine the draft comments and amendments proposed by CDDEM members, to finalise the text and to approve the comments to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers.*

## **11. Civil society: Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs)**

- 11.1. Exchange of views with **Giulia Lucchese**, Secretary to MSI-AI, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI

Reference documents:

- **Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)2** of the Committee of Ministers to member States on countering the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs)
- **EU: Directive (EU) 2024/1069** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings (‘Strategic lawsuits against public participation’)
- **EU: Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/758** of 27 April 2022 on protecting journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings

The CDDEM is invited to take note of the information on the adoption of Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)2 and its applicability to civil society and to exchange views with Giulia Lucchese on the focuses of the recommendation and the steps foreseen for its implementation.

**Wednesday, 30 October 2024**

**9.30 – 11.00**

**Standard setting on civil society and citizen participation**

**12. Guidance Note on civil society participation in the intergovernmental work of the Council of Europe**

Working documents:

- Revised Draft Guidance Note on civil society participation in the intergovernmental work of the Council of Europe [CDDEM(2024)14]
- Reports of the 1st and 2nd meeting of the Working Group on civil society participation (GT-CS) [GT-CS(2024)5 + GT-CS(2024)8]

The CDDEM is invited to:

- take note of the update provided by the Secretariat on the discussion at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the GT-CS and the state of play of the Draft Guidance Note;
- carry out an in-depth examination of the draft Guidelines as revised on the basis of the comments made by the members of the GT-CS, the CDDEM, the Conference of INGOs and the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the Council of Europe, to finalise the text and to adopt the document.

**11.30 – 13.00**

**13. Update of Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe**

Reference and working documents:

- Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe
- Draft Feasibility Study on updating Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 [CDDEM(2024)15]
- Reports of the 1st and 2nd meeting of the Working Group on civil society participation (GT-CS) [GT-CS(2024)5 + GT-CS(2024)8]

The CDDEM is invited to:

- take note of the update provided by the Secretariat on the discussion at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the GT-CS and the key points and findings of the draft Feasibility Study;
- carry out an examination of the draft Feasibility Study on updating Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 as revised following the comments made by members at the 2nd meeting of the GT-CS on 2 October 2024 and to provide guidance for the elaboration of the draft text of updated recommendation on the legal status of NGOs/CSOs in Europe.
- The CDDEM will benefit from the expertise of Mr Jeremy McBride, the GT-CS consultant, who will be present for the discussion on this agenda item.

**14. CDDEM contribution to the Steering Committee for Human Rights' (CDDH) Implementation Review Report on Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)11 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the need to strengthen the protection and promotion of civil society space in Europe**

Reference and working documents:

- Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)11 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the need to strengthen the protection and promotion of civil society space in Europe
- Compilation of member states' replies to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)11 [CDDEM(2024)16]
- Summary Overview of the Opinions of the NGO Law Expert Council of the Council of Europe for the period 2019-2024 [CDDEM(2024)17]
- Secretariat Summary of current work on strengthening civil society engagement in the Council of Europe [CDDEM(2024)18]

*The CDDEM is invited to approve the contribution made to the CDDH report on the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)11 and appoint a member to represent the committee at the CDDH plenary meeting on 26-29 November 2024.*

**15. Application for observer status**

Working documents:

- Application for observer status and presentation of the Democracy and Culture Foundation [CDDEM(2024)19]
- Application for observer status of the European Center for Human Rights [CDDEM(2024)21]
- Application for observer status of the European Council of Spatial Planners [CDDEM(2024)22]
- Application for observer status of CURE [CDDEM(2024)23]

*The CDDEM is invited to examine the application for observer status and decide on granting the status on the basis of a unanimous decision. In accordance with Article 8a of Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, in the event that unanimity is not reached, the matter may be referred to the Committee of Ministers at the request of two-thirds of the members of the committee concerned.*

**14.30 – 16.00**

**16. Exchange of views with Michael O' Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe**

*The CDDEM is invited to hold an exchange of views with Michael O' Flaherty on the work of the Commissioner related to the fields of activity of the CDDEM and in particular on "soft mechanisms" in international law and their contribution to the development of human rights and democracy principles, as well as on the strategies that can help reverse the trend of the shrinking civic space.*

**17. Update on the European Union developments and initiatives related to safeguarding democracy**

- 17.1. Information by **Marie-Hélène Boulanger**, Deputy Director and Head of Unit in charge of Democracy, Citizenship and Free Movement, DG JUST, European Commissions

*The CDDEM is invited to take note of the information on the European Union developments and initiatives related to safeguarding democracy and especially on the implementation of the Defence of Democracy Package and the new initiative proposed by the European Commission, the "European Democracy Shield" that is to strengthen the EU's capacities for countering disinformation and building resilience against information manipulation.*



<p><b>18. Update on the work of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</b></p> <p>18.1. Information by <b>Cesare Colombo</b>, Co-Secretary of Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy</p> <p><i>The CDDEM is invited to take note of the information on the current work and initiatives of the PACE Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy.</i></p>
<b>16.15 – 17.30</b>
<p><b>19. Recent developments in the areas of activity of the CDDEM</b></p> <p><i>CDDEM members and participants are invited to present relevant developments and initiatives in member states and/or organisations in the areas of democracy, good democratic governance, elections, safe and enabling civic space and other areas of activity of the CDDEM.</i></p>
<p><b>20. Participation in events of relevance to the CDDEM</b></p> <p><i>CDDEM members and participants are invited to report on conferences, meetings and other events they have attended in CDDEM's areas of activity.</i></p>
<p><b>21. CDDEM Calendar of Meetings for 2025</b></p> <p><i>The CDDEM is invited to discuss and approve the calendar of its meetings for 2025. [CDDEM(2024)20]</i></p>
<p><b>22. Any other business</b></p> <p><i>CDDEM delegations are invited to raise, prior or at the early beginning of the meeting, any other issues and present them.</i></p>
<p><b>23. Adoption of the abridged meeting report</b></p> <p><i>CDDEM is invited to adopt the abridged report of its 2nd plenary meeting [CDDEM(2024)24]</i></p>

## APPENDIX II

### List of Participants<sup>1</sup>

#### MEMBERS / MEMBRES

##### ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms Ardiana HOBDAI, Director, Department for International Organizations, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

##### ARMENIA / ARMENIE

Ms Lilya AFRIKYAN, Coordinator of the “Open government partnership” Initiative, the Prime Minister’s Office

##### AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Mr Peter ANDRE, Ministry of Interior, Senior Expert for Legal Affairs

Ms Alberina MULAJ, Legal Expert, Office of the Provincial Government, Department for European Affairs

##### AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAIDJAN

Mr Ziya FATALIYEV, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe

##### BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Mr Grégory STERCK, Attaché, Région de Bruxelles-Capitale, Service public régional de Bruxelles, Bruxelles Pouvoirs Locaux

Mr Edwin LEFEBRE, Deputy Director, Ministry of the Flemish Community, Agency for Home Affairs

Mr François TRICARICO, Directeur de la Direction des Relations Internationales, Service Général du Pilotage et de la Coordination des Politiques Transversales, Ministère de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles

Ms Anne Laure HOGGE, Attachée, Région wallonne, Service public de Wallonie, SPW Intérieur et Action sociale

M Xavier KALBUSCH, Communauté germanophone, Délégué de la Communauté germanophone auprès de l’Union européenne

##### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

Ms Nejra HIROŠ, Counsellor

##### BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Ms Genka GEORGIEVA, Ambassador, Director General for Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria

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<sup>1</sup> Participants listed *in italics* attended the meeting remotely.

**CROATIA / CROATIE**

Mr Dino ZORIĆ, Head of Service for political and election system at Department for political system and public administration, Directorate for political system and public administration of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation of the Republic of Croatia

Mr Robert MIŠIĆ, Senior adviser-specialist (Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation)

**CYPRUS / CHYPRE**

*Ms Elena KAREKLA, Commissioner for Administration Officer, Ministry of Interior*

*Ms Menelaos VASSILIOU, Officer A, Ministry of Interior*

**CZECHIA / TCHEQUIE**

Mr Pavel MIČKA, Head of the unit of the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

**DENMARK / DANEMARK**

*Ms Natasha VOSS PLUM, Senior Consultant in the Ministry of Interior and Health*

Mr Søren STAUNING, Special Advisor, Governance and International Affairs with regard to Issues of Local Democracy, Ministry of the Interior and Health

**ESTONIA / ESTONIE**

Ms Katrin KIVI, Director of Division for Human Rights, Department for International Organisations and Human Rights, Ambassador at large for Human Rights and Migration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*Ms Maarja KASK, Desk officer, rédactrice*

Ms Kirsti ANIPAI-TÕNISTE, Déléguée Permanente Adjointe / Deputy Permanent Representative

**FINLAND / FINLANDE**

Mr Niklas WILHELMSSON, Head of Unit, Ministry of Justice

Ms Anu JUVONEN, Advisory Board on Civil Society Policy (KANE)

**FRANCE**

M. Léonard WENNER, chargé de mission juridique, Ministère du partenariat avec les territoires et de la décentralisation, Direction générale des collectivités locales, Sous-direction des compétences et des institutions locales, Bureau des structures territoriales

Mme Margot LEGRAND, Attachée, Représentation Permanente de la France auprès du Conseil de l'Europe.

**GEORGIA / GEORGIE**

*Mr Giorgi DIDIDZE, Head of Department of Regional and Mountainous Areas Development, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia*

**GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE**

Mr Christian ALDENHOFF, Policy Officer, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, Division H III 1 “Resilient Democracy and Prevention of Extremism”

Ms Constanze LERNHART, Ministry of Regional Identity, Local Government, Building and Digitalization of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Head of Unit 302 “Local Government Tasks, Territorial Structure and Interests in Legislation and Administrative Implementation“

**GREECE / GRECE**

Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS, expert within the Directorate of Organisation and Functioning of Local Government

*Mr Ioannis MATHIOUDAKIS, Head of the Coordination Service*

*Mr Nikolaos DIKAROS, Head of the Department of Planning and Development of Information System of the Directorate of Digital Governance*

*Mr Antonios KARVOUNIS, Head of the Independent Department of International and European Relations*

*Mr Dimitrios PONTIKAKIS, expert within the Directorate of Organisation and Functioning of Local Government*

*Ms Eleftheria BAFALOUKA, expert within the Directorate of Digital Governance*

**HUNGARY / HONGRIE**

Dr. Barnabás SALLAI, Senior Government Adviser, Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development, Department for Legal and International Affairs of Government Offices

**ICELAND / ISLANDE**

Apologized for absence / Excusé

**IRELAND / IRLANDE**

Mr Paris BEAUSANG, Assistant Principal Officer, Franchise Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

**ITALY / ITALIE**

Mr Pierluigi TROMBETTA, Diplomatic advisor, Minister for Regional Affairs and Autonomies

Mr Roberto LATTANZI, Head of the Artificial Intelligence Department, Italian Data Protection Authority

**LATVIA / LETTONIE**

Ms Katrina KAKTINA, Director, International Organisations and Human Rights Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

Ms Katrin WOLF, Permanent Representation of Liechtenstein to the Council of Europe

**LITHUANIA / LITUANIE**

Mr Paulius SKARDŽIUS, Senior Adviser, Public Administration and Local Government Policy Group, Ministry of the Interior

**LUXEMBOURG**

Ms Mariza Isabel GUERREIRO VICTORIA, Conseillère juridique, élections, relations internationales, Ministère des Affaires intérieures

**MALTA / MALTE**

Mr Robert TABONE, Head EU & Internation Affairs, Office of the Director General, Local Government Division

**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA**

Mr Andrei STRAH, Deputy Secretary General of the Government, State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova

**MONACO**

Mme Lorena BARRERA SANTANA, Stagiaire

**MONTENEGRO**

Ms Bosiljka VUKOVIC-SIMONOVIC, Head of Division for the Council of Europe Department for the OSCE and CoE/DG for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS**

Mr Thomas ZANDSTRA, Deputy Director Democracy and Governance, Democracy and Governance Division, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

Ms Hanneke PALM, Policy Advisor Democracy and Governance, Directorate Democracy and Governance, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

**NORTH MACEDONIA / MACEDOINE DU NORD**

Mr Igor DJUNDEV, Ambassador at Large, Special Adviser

**NORWAY / NORVEGE**

Mr Vebjørn HEINES, Policy Director for Democracy and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Anne-Karin ØDEGÅRD, Head of Analysis and Evaluation, Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Department of Local Government

Ms Nina Britt BERGE, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Department of Local Government

**POLAND / POLOGNE**

Mr Paweł SWIANIEWICZ, Director, National Institute for Local Self-Government

**PORTUGAL**

Ms Tânia MOURATO, Head of Department for Cooperation and Financial Affairs of the General Directorate of Local Authorities

**ROMANIA / ROUMANIE**

Mr Mihai Adrian GROSAN, Head of Department, Ministry of Public Labor, Development and Administration

**SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN**

Apologised for absence / Excusé

**SERBIA / SERBIE**

Mr Đorđe CICOVIĆ, Deputy to the Permanent Representative

Ms Anja KRUŠKA ŠARAC, Deputy to the Permanent Representative

**SLOVAK REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE**

Ms Zuzana VIZVÁRYOVÁ, General State Advisor, Self- government Unit, Department of the Modernization and Coordination, Public Administration section, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

**SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE**

Mr Jurij MEZEK, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Public Administration, Directorate for local self-government, non-governmental organizations and political system

**SPAIN / ESPAGNE**

Ms Silvia NEGRO ALOUSQUE, Sous-directrice des Relations Européennes et Internationales du Ministère de la Politique Territoriale et de la Mémoire Démocratique

**SWEDEN / SUEDE**

Ms Eva HOLMSTRÖM, Deputy Head of Division, Ministry of Culture, Division for Media and Democracy

**SWITZERLAND / SUISSE**

Mr Michel BESSON, Département fédéral de justice et police, Office fédéral de la justice, Chef de l'Unité projets législatifs II

Mr Beat KUONI, Conseiller juridique, Chancellerie fédérale, juriste au sein de la Section des droits politiques

**TÜRKIYE**

Mr Mustafa ÇİFTÇİLER, Head of Department, Directorate General of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior

Mr Ahmet Evren BAL, Deputy to the Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of Türkiye to the Council of Europe

**UKRAINE**

Ms Oksana PAVLIUK, Head of the Division for local self-government development and cooperation with Council of Europe institutions of the Department for local self-government development, territorial organisation of power and administrative-territorial structure Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine

**UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI**

Ms Evi BELL, Deputy Director, Governance Reform and Democracy Unit, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Local Government & Communities Directorate, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

*Ms Coralie BLATCHFORD-NAEVE*

*Ms Kirsty BROWN*

**PARTICIPANTS / PARTICIPANTS****PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

*Mr George PAPANDREOU, General Rapporteur on Democracy*

Ms Sylvie AFFHOLDER, Head of Elections Division

Mr Cesare COLOMBO, Co-Secretary of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

*Ms Sonia SIRTORI, Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly, Directorate I - Democracy & Rule of Law*

**CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONGRES DES POUVOIRS LOCAUX ET REGIONAUX DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

*Ms Marite MORAS, Centre of Expertise for Good Governance, Head of Unit*

Mr Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress

Mr Daniel POPESCU, Head of the Department Promoting Local Democracy, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions

Mr Niall SHEERIN, Deputy Head of the Centre of Expertise for Multilevel Governance

**CONFERENCE OF INGOS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONFERENCE DES OING DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

Mr Gerhard ERMISCHER, Chair of the INGOs Conference

Mr Roy VIRAH-SAWMY, Policy coordinator, European Platform for Democracy

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW (VENICE COMMISSION) / COMMISSION EUROPEENNE POUR LA DEMOCRATIE PAR LE DROIT (COMMISSION DE VENISE)**

Ms Delphine FREYMANN, Deputy Secretary of the Commission

Mr Mamuka LONGURASHVILI, Division III: Constitutional Justice and Cooperation

Mr Adrià RODRÍGUEZ-PÉREZ, Legal Adviser

**COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / COMMISSAIRE AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

Mr Michael O'FLAHERTY, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe

Ms Charlotte ALTENHÖNER-DION, Adviser to the Commissioner

## **SECRETARIAT GENERAL/ SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

*Mr Tobia FIORILLI, Secretariat General, Directorate of Programme and Budget*

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS**

### **EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPEENNE**

*Ms Marie-Hélène BOULANGER, Directrice adjointe et Cheffe d'Unité chargée de la démocratie, de la citoyenneté de l'Union et libre circulation, DG JUST, Commission européenne*

*Ms Janne DEWAELE*

*Mr Daniel FLEISCHER-AMBRUS*

*Ms Ana-Maria NEGRILA, Legal Trainee*

*Ms Deborah RICCETTI, DG JUST, Commission européenne*

### **CONSULTANT EXPERT / EXPERT CONSULTANT**

*Mr Jeremy MCBRIDE, President of the CINGO Expert Council on NGO Law*

## **GUEST SPEAKERS / INTERVENANTS**

### ***European Center for Human Rights***

*Ms Ermirra PRRONI, President*

*Mr Isuf HALIMI, Director*

### ***European Council of Spatial Planners***

*Mr Kent G. DAGSLAND HÅKULL*

### ***Campaign to Uphold Rights in Europe (CURE)***

*Mr Konstantin BARANOV, Team member/expert*

### ***Democracy and Culture Foundation***

*Ms Elina MAKRI, General Manager*

## **SECRETARIAT**

### **SECRETARIAT DU CDDEM / SECRETARIAT DU CDDEM**

*Ms Urška UMEK, Secretary of the CDDEM / Secrétaire du CDDEM*

*Ms Cornelia PERLE, Senior Programme Advisor*

*Mr Alexander VOGT*

*Ms Isabelle ETTER, Assistant / Assistante*

*Mr Guillaume GROS, Trainee / Stagiaire*



**OTHER SECRETARIAT /AUTRE SecrÉTARIAT**

Mr Matjaž GRUDEN, Director for Democracy / Directeur de la démocratie

Ms Irena GUIDIKOVA, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department / Cheffe du Service des institutions démocratiques et des libertés

Mr Christophe SPECKBACHER, Head of the Civil Society Unit / Chef de l'Unité de la société civile

**OTHER COUNCIL OF EUROPE PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE****STEERING COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION / COMITE DIRECTEUR SUR L'ANTI-DISCRIMINATION, LA DIVERSITE ET L'INCLUSION (CDADI)**

Ms Cristina MILAGRE, Policy Adviser to CDADI

Ms Maike ELSASSER, Trainee to CDADI

**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON LEGAL CO-OPERATION / COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE COOPERATION JURIDIQUE (CDCJ)**

*Mr James D'AGOSTINO, Senior Lawyer, Office of the State Advocate, Malta*

*Ms Sophio GELASHVILI, Head of Unit*

**STEERING COMMITTEE ON MEDIA AND INFORMATION SOCIETY (CDMSI)**

Ms Giulia LUCCHESI, Secretary of the MSI-AI

**GROUP OF STATES AGAINST CORRUPTION (GRECO)**

*Mr Marin MRĆELA, Chair of the GRECO*

*Ms Giulia GIARDINO, GRECO Secretariat*

*MS Laura SANZ-LEVIA, GRECO Secretariat,*

**YOUTH DEPARTMENT / SERVICE DE LA JEUNESSE**

Ms Anna KNOBBOUT, Bureau Member of the Advisory Council on Youth

Mr Marius SCHLAGETER, Policy Advisor

Ms Anna Sophia DIEDRICH, trainee

**INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES**

Ms Amanda LARIVIERE

Ms Clarissa WORSDALE