

Strasbourg, 25 October 2024

CDDEM(2024)OJ2 rev.

STEERING COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY (CDDEM)

2nd Plenary meeting
Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe, room 6

29 October 2024, 9.30-13.00 / 14.30-17.30 (CET)
30 October 2024, 9.30-13.00 / 14.30-17.30 (CET)

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Tuesday, 29 October 2024	
9.30 – 11.00	
1. Opening of the meeting	
<i>Opening remarks by Matjaž Gruden, Director for Democracyⁱ, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity of the Council of Europe</i>	
2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business	
Working document: Draft annotated agenda [CDDEM(2024)OJ2 rev.]	
<i>The CDDEM is invited to review and adopt the draft annotated agenda.</i>	
3. Statement of the Secretariat	
Reference documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods- CDDEM Terms of Reference 2024-2027	
<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>	

ⁱ Mr Gruden will facilitate the first part of the CDDEM Plenary meeting until the election of the Steering Committee's Chair.

4. Tour de table

Tour de table: interventions by newly designated members of the CDDEM

Reference document: [Members of the CDDEM](#)

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.

5. Standard setting: Parameters to facilitate the application and implementation of the [Reykjavik Principles for Democracy](#)

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

5.2. Examination of the first draft of the Parameters

Working documents:

- [Draft Parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy \[CDDEM\(2024\)10\]](#)
- [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.

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

- 18.1. Information by **Cesare Colombo**, Co-Secretary of Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

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.

16.15 – 17.30

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

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.

20. Participation in events of relevance to the CDDEM

CDDEM members and participants are invited to report on conferences, meetings and other events they have attended in CDDEM's areas of activity.

21. CDDEM Calendar of Meetings for 2025

The CDDEM is invited to discuss and approve the calendar of its meetings for 2025. [CDDEM(2024)20]

22. Any other business

CDDEM delegations are invited to raise, prior or at the early beginning of the meeting, any other issues and present them.

23. Adoption of the abridged meeting report

CDDEM is invited to adopt the abridged report of its 2nd plenary meeting [CDDEM(2024)24]

GENERAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Terms of reference	<i>CDDEM Terms of Reference 2024-2027</i>
CM/Res(2021)3	<i>Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods</i>