



Strasbourg, 27 May 2020

CDPC-BU(2020)2

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS (CDPC)

LIST OF DECISIONS

Bureau Meeting

Teleconference, 20 May 2020

The Bureau, meeting remotely via videoconference, on 20 May 2020, under the Chairmanship of Mr Jesper Hjortenbergt (Denmark), took the following decisions:

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the draft agenda

- to open the meeting.
- to welcome the organisation of its first ever virtual meeting, amid the exceptional situation imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions.
- to adopt the draft agenda of the meeting.

2. Information by the Secretariat and the Chair and exchange of views with the Bureau members

The Bureau discussed the current unprecedented situation resulting from the pandemic, and in particular the possible effects of the travel restrictions on its current and future work. Each member gave an overview of the state-of-play in their country, with most working remotely from home since mid-March.

Mr Gianluca Esposito, Head of the Action against Crime Department, provided information on the situation at the Council of Europe and measures taken to allow for the continuity of activities, notably development and use of IT tools for teleworking and remote conferences.

- to agree that working methods have to be adjusted to the current circumstances, taking into account that travel restrictions may still last at least until this autumn and perhaps until the end of the year and international cooperation must continue to be effective and efficient regardless.

3. Smuggling of migrants

- to take note of and discuss the comments received on the Draft Council of Europe Action Plan on fostering international co-operation and investigative strategies in fighting the smuggling of migrants.
- to invite the Secretariat to slightly further amend the text by incorporating the points discussed during the meeting.
- to review the amended text before formally formulating an agreement.
- to present the version agreed upon to the CDPC Plenary via a written procedure, for its final approval.

4. Planning of future work of the CDPC

- to take note of the information provided by Mr Gianluca Esposito and Mr Carlo Chiaromonte on ongoing and advanced priority topics, notably regarding artificial intelligence (the feasibility study will be presented to the Working Group for its approval at a remote meeting scheduled for the end of June), environmental crimes, smuggling of migrants, and mutual legal assistance.
- to have an exchange of views with members of the Secretariat on the most recent developments in the work of the PC-OC and PC-CP.
- to note that, given the postponement of the May plenary meeting, the PC-OC is consulted by written procedure on the various proposals made by the PC-OC Mod at its meeting in January 2020 including in relation to possible adaptations of the instruments of the Council of Europe in the area of mutual legal assistance (especially de 1959 convention).
- to take note of the ongoing work of the PC-CP, including the postponement of the 25th CoE Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) to 9-10 November 2020.
- to invite both committees to continue their work and the Secretariat to regularly update the Bureau and the CDPC in order to discuss the results achieved on important issues and work undertaken.
- to invite the Secretariat to draft a discussion paper exploring possible options for action in the field of environment and criminal law, as agreed during the last plenary meeting.

5. Any other business

- to agree on the principle that, pending further guidance from the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General, given the current circumstances and uncertainty regarding the possibility to resume physical meetings in the foreseeable future, for the sake of continuity of operation, and considering that this first virtual meeting was successful in terms of bringing together all Bureau members and achieve considerable work on priority topics, such meetings are efficient and should be convened on a regular basis to discuss and advance on specific topics until the organisation of regular physical meetings can be resumed.
- to meet again in this format during the last week of June in order to discuss the topic of environmental crime on the basis of the draft discussion paper to be circulated by the Secretariat.