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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS (CDPC)

87th Plenary meeting

Strasbourg, 17-19 June 2025

LIST OF DECISIONS

Criminal Law Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by its Chair, Mr Fritz Zeder, at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 17 June 2025.

The opening remarks were delivered by Mr Gianluca Esposito, Director General of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe. He welcomed participants and expressed gratitude to the Chair and Vice-Chair for their leadership during what has been a particularly productive period.

Mr Esposito outlined several key achievements since the last CDPC Plenary meeting, including:

- The adoption of the Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, which will be opened for signature on 3 December 2025 in Strasbourg.
- The adoption of the Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (Valletta Protocol), to be signed in Malta on 19 September 2025.
- The adoption of the Recommendation on the promotion of mental health in prisons and probation.

He also underlined the importance of the forthcoming SPACE statistics and expressed appreciation to the Polish authorities for hosting the upcoming Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services, to take place in Krakow in September. He took the opportunity to commend the valuable work of the PC-CP Secretary, Ms Ilina Taneva, who will retire this summer. In the same context, Mr Esposito informed participants of the administrative transfer of the PC-CP to another department within the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, while confirming that intergovernmental oversight remains with the CDPC.

Looking ahead, he stressed the importance of developing a new Recommendation on deterring and fighting the smuggling of migrants and reaffirmed the need to advance work on AI and criminal liability, despite the complex legal and ethical questions involved. He also referred to the crypto asset area, which is a domain in which additional standards might be needed. He informed the meeting that a report in that respect is expected in the coming months and asked it to follow developments in that respect.

He concluded by inviting delegations to consult the [Council of Europe Secretary General 2025 report, entitled "Towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe"](#), which refers to CDPC-related areas of work and the intention of drafting a new Convention on Disinformation and Foreign Interference - with criminal law aspects. Finally, Mr Esposito reiterated the CDPC's dual role as a standard-setting body and a platform for dialogue and peer exchange.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda and order of business

The CDPC adopted the draft agenda and the order of business of the meeting.

3. Information by the Chair, members of the CDPC Bureau and the Secretariat

The CDPC Chair, Mr Fritz Zeder, informed participants about activities carried out since the last CDPC Plenary, including his participation in the Secretary General's meeting with the Chairs of Intergovernmental Committees. As a result of this meeting, Rule of Law and criminal justice issues will feature more prominently in the future implementation of the New Democratic Pact. Among other updates relevant to the Committee's work, participants were informed of the addition of a new observer body with the CDPC: the International Association of Penal Law / Association Internationale de Droit Pénal.

The Committee was also briefed by the Chair and the Secretariat on the outcomes of the most recent Bureau meeting (28-29 April 2025), the revised Terms of Reference of the CDPC and its main subcommittees (which were set out at section level, where relevant, and agreed by the CDPC), ongoing staff and budgetary constraints, parallel negotiations at the EU level on criminal law-related matters, and the resulting extension of deadlines for certain deliverables specifically those related to Artificial Intelligence and Criminal Law, Smuggling of Migrants, and Restorative Justice. The CDPC members were invited to raise awareness of the CDPC and its subcommittees' work and in general of the CoE Conventions and other standards with global outreach, with the aim to enhance ratification and contribute to their implementation.

Participants were further invited to attend the Conference on Hate Crime, taking place immediately after the CDPC Plenary.

The CDPC was invited to take note of the replacement of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Refugees and Migrants by the creation of a new Division within the Council of Europe tasked with addressing migration-related issues more broadly. The CDPC Secretariat is liaising with this new Division, ensuring coordination between their respective, distinct yet cross-referenced action plans.

All CDPC members were invited to share information on recent criminal law developments in their national systems, propose possible new CDPC initiatives, or raise any issue falling within the Committee's mandate.

Regarding the case at the United Nations Committee against Torture (UN CAT) as reported in the Bureau Meeting by Germany, Germany pointed out that the interim measures had been lifted in accordance with rule 114 (8) of the CAT's rule of procedure after Germany substantiated their point of view on the extradition case. A further final decision has so far not been submitted.

One delegation stressed the need for scheduling CDPC and subcommittee meetings in a way that would enable sufficient time for delegates to prepare.

4. Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP)

The CDPC took note of the summary report of the 37th and the 38th meetings of the PC-CP Working Group, held in February and May 2025 in La Valletta and Madrid, respectively, and engaged in an exchange of views with the Chair, Ms Laura Negredo, and the Secretary of the PC-CP, Ms Ilina Taneva.

a. Mental health

The CDPC noted that following the Rapporteur Group on Legal Cooperation (GR-J) session of 11 February 2025, the Deputies of the Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2025\)2](#), addressed to member States, regarding the promotion of the mental health of prisoners and probationers and the management of their mental disorders, and took note of its Explanatory Report.

b. Education in prison

The CDPC was also informed that work is progressing well to update and replace CM Recommendation Rec(89)12 on education in prison. A first draft of the text was considered at the PC-CP Plenary meeting in November 2024, and further revised at the 37th and 38th PC-CP WG meetings in 2025. The final draft Recommendation (accompanied by its Explanatory Report) is expected to be approved by the CDPC Plenary in November 2025 before being sent to the Committee of Ministers for adoption. A special focus is placed on the broader definition of education, as well as on digital literacy, on adult education and on persons with learning difficulties.

c. Foreign nationals in prison - updating CM/Rec (2012)12 concerning foreign prisoners and its Explanatory Report

The CDPC noted that the PC-CP WG, in conformity with its mandate has started its work on the revision and updating of Recommendation CM/Rec (2012)12 concerning foreign prisoners and its Explanatory Report. The work is expected to be finished by the end of 2026.

d. 30th Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) “Can we move away from the overuse of Penal Sanctions?” (Krakow, Poland, 24-25 September 2025)

The CDPC was provided with further details about the 30th Council of Europe Annual Conference of Directors of Prisons and Probation Services, which will be held on 24-25 September 2025 in Krakow, Poland. Under the title of the Conference “Can we move away from the overuse of penal sanctions?”, its keynote speech will be dedicated to the problem of the net widening of penal sanctions. Four workshops will consider: the latest SPACE I and SPACE II data, use of data in penal policy and risk assessment; the promotion of positive health of prisoners and probationers and the trauma informed care; children with imprisoned parents; and the strategic approach by prison and probation services to crisis management. The CDPC is encouraged to send a representative to the CDPPS.

The CDPC noted that the 39th PC-CP WG meeting will be held on 23 September in Krakow, as all PC-CP WG members will attend the Conference and the scientific experts will take into account the suggested amendments and additions to the draft Recommendation on education and its Explanatory Memorandum (EM) in prison and to the draft Recommendation on foreign prisoners and its EM and will redraft the texts on 24-25 September in Krakow.

e. Elections

The CDPC noted that the mandates of four/five PC-CP WG members will expire at the end of this year. The PC-CP WG will decide at their 39th meeting who will be the next Chair and Vice-Chair and will inform the CDPC in due course how many vacancies will need to be filled in.

Consequently, elections for new members should take place at the next CDPC Plenary meeting in November 2025. A memorandum outlining the election procedure will be circulated to CDPC delegations in due course.

Delegations are encouraged to submit the names and CVs of prospective candidates well in advance of the Plenary meeting, bearing in mind the need to elect members whose professional expertise and language skills will enable them to contribute actively to the work of the PC-CP. Efforts should be made to ensure a balanced gender and geographical representation as a result of the elections. It should also be noted that no country whose elected member is leaving the PC-CP WG can present a candidate for these elections.

f. Other issues

Finally, the CDPC noted the following developments: the European Probation Rules will be revised with an extended deadline until 2027; the PC-CP has expressed its willingness to contribute to the work on Restorative Justice (with a caution on the use of mediation in domestic violence cases); and the PC-CP has suggested considering a possible update of the [European Rules for Juvenile Offenders subject to Sanctions or Measures](#) in the context of the review of the Guidelines on Child-friendly Justice. The PC-CP will also provide its opinion on a draft template on national procedures concerning the European Convention on the Supervision of Conditionally Sentenced/Released Offenders ([ETS No. 51](#)) elaborated by the PC-OC, following the latter's request.

CDPC delegates emphasised the vital role of the PC-CP as one of the CDPC's standing subcommittees and voiced concerns about the potential impact of the internal administrative restructuring on its standard-setting work. The CDPC Secretariat highlighted the advantages of increased synergies resulting from placing the PC-CP alongside the monitoring committee (Committee for the Prevention of Torture - CPT) and the related cooperation services, enhancing the practical implementation of standards. It also underlined the organisational efforts to ensure a smooth transition - including the participation of representatives from both the Criminal Law Division and the Department of Deprivation of Liberty, Monitoring and Cooperation at the upcoming PC-CP WG in Krakow and reaffirmed the fact that the CDPC remains the oversight committee for the PCCP.

The CDPC expressed its appreciation for the excellent work and commitment over many years in the field of penal policy of Ms Ilina Taneva, Secretary of the PC-CP, on the occasion of her upcoming retirement.

5. Committee of Experts on the operation of European conventions on co-operation in criminal matters (PC-OC)

The CDPC held an exchange of views with the Chair of the PC-OC, Mr Adil Abilov (online), and took note of the list of decisions of the 87th plenary meeting of the PC-OC of 13-15 May 2025.

The CDPC took note of the information regarding progress towards the opening for signature of the [Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters](#) on 19 September 2025 in La Valletta, as well as developments relating to the accession of third States to Council of Europe conventions on international co-operation in criminal matters (ICCM).

The CDPC took note of the ongoing work within the PC-OC, including regarding the examination of replies to questionnaires on confidentiality in mutual assistance proceedings and on the transfer of sentenced persons, on the supervision of conditionally sentenced or conditionally released offenders, on the relationship between asylum and extradition proceedings, and on the PC-OC's exchanges with the PC-RAC.

The CDPC noted that, in accordance with the CDPC's instructions, the PC-OC had held a *tour de table* on the hearing of victims by video conferencing which showed that all States Parties, with one exception, were able to hear victims by video conference, as witnesses, including in jurisdictions where there is a distinction between the status of witness and victim. As a result, the PC-OC decided to report to the CDPC that the PC-OC does not consider this issue to be problematic at this stage.

The CDPC also took note that, considering the priorities of the Council of Europe and the suggested changes to the terms of reference of the PC-OC and the CDPC, the PC-OC decided to prioritise its task on the application of the Council of Europe Conventions on ICCM to core international crimes and the interplay between Council of Europe conventions and the Ljubljana-The Hague Convention. It noted that, as a result, the PC-OC's work regarding a possible modernisation of the European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters was postponed to 2026.

The CDPC congratulated the PC-OC for its excellent work.

6. Environment and Criminal Law

The CDPC heard a presentation by its Secretary on the background leading to the elaboration of the [Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law](#), adopted at the Ministerial meeting in Luxembourg on 14 May 2025. The presentation also covered the purpose of the instrument, its alignment with other international instruments in the field of environmental protection, and its scope, structure and contents. Delegates were encouraged to raise awareness about the Convention.

CDPC delegates were invited to consult the Parliamentary Assembly's [opinion](#), noting that the final text of the Convention reflects the consensus reached during negotiations. One contribution from the Assembly was the important inclusion of a provision that the Convention would be applicable in times of peace as well as in occupation and wartime.

The CDPC was invited to consider measures to promote the Convention's signature, by CoE members and the EU, which played a prominent role during negotiations, as well as participating observers, when the Convention is opened for signature on 3 December 2025 in Strasbourg. On the same occasion, the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment will be presented.

7. Smuggling of Migrants

The CDPC noted that, following the CDPC feasibility report and the decisions adopted at its Plenary Meeting in November 2024, the Deputies of the Committee of Ministers endorsed in February 2025 the CDPC's proposal to develop a Recommendation aimed at countering the smuggling of migrants (SOM). This initiative includes the establishment of an expert committee, under the authority of the CDPC, to support the drafting process and contribute to the implementation of the [Council of Europe Action Plan on Fostering International Co-operation and Investigative Strategies in Fighting the Smuggling of Migrants](#). This work directly supports the commitment made by Heads of State and Government at the Reykjavik Summit to prioritise the fight against migrant smuggling.

In line with the decisions adopted by the Committee of Ministers in Luxembourg on 14 May 2025, and more particularly, under item 3. "[Implementation of the Reykjavik Declaration – follow up decisions](#)", the CDPC Secretary, Ms Eva Pastrana, informed participants of the slight adjustments made to the wording of the specific deliverable in the CDPC ToRs - "*Draft Recommendation on deterring and fighting the smuggling of migrants (SoM), through legal*

means and other actions, and on international cooperation, taking into account the CDPC Report on the need for and feasibility of a possible new Council of Europe Instrument on the SoM” – and the corresponding deliverable in the ToR of the PC-TM expert committee, which also includes support for the implementation of the 2020 [Council of Europe Action Plan on SoM](#).

The Recommendation, to be finalised within two years, is intended to complement existing international and regional legal frameworks, particularly the UN Palermo Protocol and relevant EU instruments, by promoting a balanced approach that addresses the criminal aspects of migrant smuggling while upholding human rights. In line with the CDPC's latest List of Decisions, the Recommendation will focus on prosecuting smugglers, especially ringleaders; dismantling their criminal networks and their operations; and protecting the dignity and human rights of migrants, including asylum seekers and potential victims of human rights violations.

Three priority areas have been identified: promoting greater consistency in national criminal legislation, ensuring that humanitarian assistance is not criminalised, and enhancing investigative tools to enable more effective law enforcement action.

The CDPC was also informed about the organisation of a conference on SoM in Strasbourg on 21 October 2025 which would be more technical than the one organised in 2024, and which will also include the annual meeting of the Network of Prosecutors on SoM. Relevant international organisations such as UN (UNODC, UNHCR), EU services (DG JUST, DG HOME) and agencies such as Eurojust and FRA will be invited, alongside representatives from non-CoE MS, particularly from the South Mediterranean region. CDPC delegates were invited to submit updates or missing country profiles on SoM and to mobilise relevant interlocutors in their countries to reinforce the implementation of the Council of Europe Action Plan. To support the drafting of the Recommendation, it was proposed that the CDPC draw on the expertise of the two consultants who prepared the feasibility study, Prof. Andreas Schloenhardt and Prosecutor Gery Ferrara - one of whom is also the key expert working on the updates of the Legislative Guide and Model Law of the UNTOC, as well as on that of the members of the Council of Europe Network of Prosecutors on the SoM, and interested CDPC delegates or designated experts. Starting in 2026, once the newly approved subcommittee is resourced with dedicated staff and funding, subject to the decisions of the Committee of Ministers, its members will lead this work under the authority of the CDPC.

The delegate of the United Kingdom welcomed the initiative and confirmed that tackling the SoM remains a priority for the UK Government. They expressed interest in a Recommendation that would help close existing gaps in international law, including by addressing the facilitation of smuggling-related supply chains. The UK also signalled its interest to participate in the expert group.

Delegations were invited to express their interest and designate prospective members of this expert group during 2025. The work of the expert committee is expected to start early next year.

Regarding the importance of implementing the following line of action from the CoE AP on SoM: “*Consider evaluating and improving MLA mechanisms and other methods in international cooperation*”, the PC-OC members have been asked to share specific information on international cooperation in SoM-related cases.

8. Combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls

The CDPC took note of the report of the third meeting of the Committee of Experts on Combating Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls (GEC/PC-eVIO), a joint subcommittee of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) and the CDPC, held on 3-4 April 2025 in Strasbourg.

The Committee also heard a presentation by the Chair of GEC/PC-eVIO, Ms Venus Mahmood, on the draft Recommendation on accountability for combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (TFVAWG). In particular, the CDPC was informed that the third meeting of the Committee focused on:

- anchoring the Recommendation in relevant human rights standards;
- safeguarding freedom of expression for those at risk of being silenced by such violence;
- recognising and addressing misogynistic narratives;
- and promoting a culture of accountability.

An exchange of views followed between CDPC delegates and the Chair of GEC/PC-eVIO. A recurring comment was the need to review the draft explanatory report to ensure that it does not introduce any requirements beyond those contained in the draft Recommendation and that it is shortened.

The CDPC further noted that the draft Recommendation is scheduled to be finalised at the fourth and final meeting of GEC/PC-eVIO, to be held from 30 September to 2 October 2025. The final text will be submitted to both the GEC and the CDPC for joint approval in November 2025.

9. Artificial Intelligence and criminal law

The CDPC was reminded that, according to its Terms of Reference, its current deliverable in this area is the development of a future legal instrument addressing criminal liability in the context of artificial intelligence. At its last Plenary meeting, the CDPC concluded that it was too early to determine the precise scope and nature of such an instrument, and agreed to reconvene the Working Group on Artificial Intelligence and Criminal Law (CDPC-AICL) to support the CDPC's work in this area.

The CDPC was further reminded that, given the divergent views expressed during the last Plenary, it would be unrealistic to finalise this work by the end of 2025. An extended timeline is therefore required.

At its April 2025 meeting, the CDPC Bureau concluded that a more detailed discussion paper, prepared by the experts, Prof. Sabine Gless and Judge Alfonso Peralta, was necessary to support an informed decision on whether a legal instrument on AI and criminal law is warranted. This paper should include - or be accompanied by - a brief mapping of legal gaps in the domestic frameworks of member States. The mapping exercise will be carried out by the CDPC-AICL Working Group in cooperation with the experts and will take into account related initiatives within the Council of Europe, such as the work of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) on the impact of AI on evidence collection, as well as relevant activities of the CAI.

The Bureau also agreed that the experts and Working Group members should begin without delay the drafting of a questionnaire to be submitted for consideration at the June 2025 Plenary. In view of this, a videoconference was held on 23 May 2025 with the participation of

CDPC-AICL members, experts, and the Secretariat. During the meeting and in the subsequent written procedure, participants exchanged views which were reflected in the draft questionnaire included in the Agenda and that was presented at the CDPC June 2025 Plenary by the experts. The CDPC was invited to discuss, amend, and approve the questionnaire.

During the discussions held at the Plenary meeting, several delegations expressed the view that the questionnaire was not yet ready for approval and requested additional time to submit their comments. The questionnaire was further revised in the course of the Plenary with a provisional agreement on it. It shall be considered approved unless further comments are received before 25 June, in which case they will have to be incorporated into the version which the Secretariat will circulate. The final version of the questionnaire, under the Chair's control, will be circulated at the end of June, with the aim of collecting responses from member States by the end of August 2025.

The CDPC highlighted that any work in this field should consider the principle that criminal law is the last resort.

The CDPC took note of the information provided by T-CY Secretary, Mr Jan Kralik, on current activities and materials in the field of cryptocurrencies and welcomed the offered support and coordination for any further work the CDPC may undertake in this area.

10. Election of one member of the Bureau

The CDPC decided to postpone the election to the next Plenary meeting. Delegations are encouraged to consider applying.

11. Asset recovery

The CDPC was invited to take note of the List of Decisions of the fifth meeting of the Committee of Experts on Asset Recovery (PC-RAC) of 21-23 May 2025 and heard a presentation by the Chair of the PC-RAC, Mr Cornel-Virgiliu Călinescu. The presentation focused on the drafting process and calendar as well as the main matters still under discussion concerning the draft Additional Protocol supplementing the Council of Europe Convention on laundering, search, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime and on the financing of terrorism:

- Article 5. Non-conviction-based confiscation
- Article 8. Property tracing investigations
- Article 19. Grounds for refusal
- Article 23. Asset recovery offices and access to information
- Article 24. International co-operation between asset recovery offices

The PC-RAC Chair also confirmed the deletion of the initially proposed article on mandatory confiscation.

CDPC delegates engaged into an exchange with him.

The CDPC was invited to note that the completion of the draft Additional Protocol and the draft Explanatory Report to the Additional Protocol was scheduled for the end of September or early October 2025 when PC-RAC plans to have a full week meeting, with a view to submitting final drafts to the CDPC Plenary in November 2025.

The CDPC noted the fact that the PC-RAC had taken into account concerns raised by two PC-OC delegations. As regards the issue of data protection, the CDPC stressed the importance of ensuring consistency between the draft Additional Protocol and the long-standing Council of Europe treaty practice relating to data protection in the context of mutual assistance in criminal matters.

12. Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs

The CDPC was invited to take note of the information provided by Mr Oscar Alarcon the Executive Secretary of the Santiago de Compostela [Convention](#) regarding both the meeting of the Bureau of the Santiago de Compostela Committee, held on 24-25 April 2025, and the request made to state Parties (three-minute-long videos from every Minister stressing the importance of the Convention).

The CDPC was also informed that the Bureau of the Committee has a new Chair, Ms Pavla Buresova (Czechia) and that Chile had joined the Convention. There are fifteen parties to the Convention so far.

CDPC delegations were also invited to note the growing interest from journalists concerning the status of national accession to the Convention, prompted by the emergence of several websites promoting or advertising organ transplantation abroad, including Third countries, raising serious health concerns. In response, an inter-agency task force was established within the Council of Europe which drafted a concise and factual [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) document to be shared with the media and which is already published online. A hearing about this topic was organised at the last meeting of the committee of the Parties and a statement will be drafted by the Committee of the Parties.

Finally, the CDPC members were encouraged to provide the Convention Secretariat the contact details of the person/s responsible for dealing with the topic of the convention and to encourage them to consider joining the Committee of the Parties meetings.

13. Information points

a. Medicrime

The CDPC was invited to take note of the information provided by the Executive Secretary of the [MEDICRIME Convention](#), Mr Oscar Alarcon, concerning the 9th Plenary meeting of the Committee of the Parties which took place on 31 March–1 April 2025 during which, *inter alia*, the [report](#) of the 1st Monitoring round devoted to the protection of public health in times of pandemics was adopted and the work of the MEDICRIME Committee with other bodies and observers, such as the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention, the Pompidou Group and Interpol, was strengthened and further developed.

The CDPC took note that the MEDICRIME Convention was signed by Chile on 27 November 2024 and that Senegal and Cameroon were invited to accede. Further details, including cooperation activities, can be found in the documents appended to the draft agenda.

The CDPC was informed that any financial voluntary contributions are welcome and the delegates were invited to inform their Governments accordingly through their respective foreign cooperation agencies, which occasionally develop projects related to this area.

Finally, the CDPC members were encouraged to provide the Convention Secretariat with the contact details of the person/s responsible for dealing with the topic of the convention (justice

and/or law-enforcement authorities) and to encourage them to consider joining the Committee of the Parties meetings.

b. Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property

The CDPC took note of the information provided by the Secretariat – Mr Oscar Alarcon – on the meeting of the Aragon Group to be organised in Strasbourg on 3 July 2025. The Aragon Group is an Advisory Group tasked with supporting the establishment, operation and development of National Platforms pending the set-up of the Committee of the Parties to the [Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property](#), known as the Nicosia Convention. This Advisory Group is open to any country, irrespective of their accession to the Nicosia Convention. The CDPC also heard the Secretary's report on his participation in a Eurojust-organised seminar for MENA countries, among which Egypt was particularly interested in understanding the rationale of the Nicosia convention. The Secretary provided information on the state of play of the Convention and informed the CDPC that Albania ratified the Convention on 14 February 2025.

Finally, the CDPC Chair encouraged CDPC members to provide the Convention Secretariat with the contact details of the person/s responsible for dealing with the topic of the convention (justice, law-enforcement or cultural authorities) and to encourage them to consider joining the Aragon Group meetings.

c. Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI)

The CDPC heard a presentation by Mr Vadim Pak, Co-Secretary to the CAI and Kristian Bartholin and was informed that the latter is no longer working with the CAI but is now leading the Data Protection Unit, and that he has been replaced by Ms Albina Ovcearenco.

The CDPC was reminded that the [Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence](#) and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 May 2024 and opened for signature in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 5 September 2024.

Regarding the state of play, the CDPC was invited to take note that Canada, Japan, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland have signed the Convention, and that Ukraine is expected to do so shortly. In addition, Cameroon has joined the CAI as observer, and Ghana is in the process of joining.

Finally, the CDPC heard an update on the ongoing work within the CAI concerning the risk and impact assessment framework (HUDERIA).

The CDPC took note that the Consultative Committee of the [Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data](#) (T-PD) has initiated work on data protection in the context of Large Language Models (AI), and in the context of neurosciences. The T-PD intends to develop guidelines on these topics.

d. Combatting organised crime relating to drug trafficking (Pompidou Group)

The CDPC heard an intervention and held an exchange of views with the Pompidou Group's representative, Ms Samantha Cloitre-Orenstein.

The CDPC was invited to note that the Joint Expert Group tasked with developing policy guidelines on combating organised crime relating to drug trafficking based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (OC-DT) held its third meeting in Paris on 28–29 April 2025. The focus of the meeting was the review of the draft Background Study for Policy Guidelines on combating organised crime relating to drug trafficking, based on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) prepared by two independent experts, which will serve as the foundation for future policy guidelines addressing drug trafficking as one of the forms of organised crime. The CDPC Vice-Chair, Mr Lorenzo Salazar, represents the CDPC and is closely following developments concerning OC-DT.

Pompidou Group hopes to present the draft Policy Guidelines for adoption to the Permanent Correspondents at their 97th Meeting of the Permanent Correspondents on 27 November 2025, and to be presented at the 19th Ministerial Conference on 28 November 2025.

e. Terrorism

The CDPC was invited to take note of the *List of Decisions* of the 14th Plenary Meeting of the Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT), held on 20–21 May 2025, and engaged in an exchange of views with Ms Jelena Jolić, Co-Secretary of the CDCT.

The CDPC was further informed that the Committee of Ministers is expected to adopt, on 9 July 2025, the *Protocol amending the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism* ([CETS No. 196](#)), along with its draft Explanatory Report. The Protocol is anticipated to be opened for signature by the end of the year.

The CDPC also took note of the following finalised and ongoing projects of the CDCT:

- Analysis of factors driving violent extremism leading to terrorism;
- Analysis of emerging patterns of misuse of technology by terrorist actors;
- Draft Recommendation on prosecuting terrorist offences and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the context of an armed conflict;
- Guidelines on disengagement and reintegration programmes for women with links to terrorism;
- Guidelines on (re)integration programmes for children affected by terrorism;
- Draft Guidelines on support services and other measures for victims of terrorism;
- Draft Recommendation on measures for juveniles suspected of involvement in terrorist activities;
- Draft Recommendation on non-criminal law measures to be applied against violent extremist groups and networks whose activities are conducive to terrorism.

f. Hate Crime

The CDPC heard a presentation by the Secretary of CDADI, Mr Wolfram Bechtel, on the status of the [CM/Recommendation \(2024\)4 on combating hate crime](#), developed by a Committee of Experts subordinated to the CDPC and the Steering Committee for Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI). The CDPC members were invited to raise awareness of this new standard in their countries and to contribute to its implementation.

The CDPC was also invited to take note of the ongoing efforts of the CDADI working group on combating hate speech and hate crime (GT-ADI-HS/HC) in mapping existing resources that support national authorities, law enforcement, the judiciary, National Human Rights Institutions, and CSOs in addressing hate crime in line with the Recommendation. To date, approximately 180 good national practices have been identified through a survey sent to CDPC and CDADI members, participants, and observers. Based on the mapping and survey

results, the working group will determine which implementation tools and initiatives to prioritise in support of the implementation of the Recommendation.

Furthermore, the CDPC members were encouraged to participate, either in person or online, in the Conference on the Recommendation on combating hate crime (19-20 June), following the CDPC Plenary. The Conference was organised by the CDADI Secretariat in collaboration with the CDPC Secretariat. Its objective was to promote the newly adopted definition of hate crime. Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring the participation of representatives from prosecution services and law enforcement, and on the promotion of the effective use of the Recommendation at national level.

Finally, the CDPC was also encouraged to participate in activities marking the International Day for Countering Hate Speech (18 June) and the No Hate Speech Week (from 18 to 20 June 2025), which invites CSOs from all member States.

g. Child-Friendly Justice

The CDPC held a joint presentation session with the Children's Rights Division and the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ), which provided an opportunity for the respective national delegates to meet, followed by a short Q&A session.

During the session, the CDPC was informed of the ongoing process concerning a possible update of the [Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers on Child-Friendly Justice](#) (expected by the end of 2027). In particular, the CDPC was informed that a report of approximately 120 pages assessing the need to update the Guidelines had been prepared and circulated to member States for comments. The initial deadline has been extended until 11 August 2025.

The author of the report, Ms Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, gave a brief presentation outlining its main findings. During the ensuing discussion, one delegation expressed concern about the length of the document. It was therefore agreed that, to facilitate the consultation process, the report should be divided into two parts, one part containing the guidelines with the proposals for change and another part containing the explanatory memorandum with the proposals for change – keeping the reasoning for these proposals for change in the main report.

In view of the fact that the CDPC members will also be invited to submit comments, the CDPC Chair noted that the Committee had not yet had the opportunity to review the report and emphasised the need for additional time to allow the CDPC to provide comments. In response, the representative of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) clarified that this was only the first step in a broader consultation process and that further steps and deadlines would follow.

It was also agreed that member States would receive targeted questions addressing specific aspects of the report. Delegates from the CDPC and the CDCJ at national level may agree to submit joint or separate comments throughout the process.

h. Update on restorative justice

The CDPC was invited to take note of the postponement of the deadline for the preparation of the CDPC deliverable “develop draft guidelines for implementing Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2018\)8](#) on restorative justice in criminal matters”, to allow sufficient time and resources to properly work on this issue.

In line with previous CDPC decisions, the attainment of this deliverable was being closely coordinated with the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ). Contributions from the PC-CP and its partners (Europris and the European Confederation on Probation) are also expected.

The CDPC heard a presentation by two experts, Prof. Frieder Dunkel and Dr Andrea Parosanu, who prepared the summary of the 2,000-page *Encyclopaedia on Restorative Justice in Europe*.

Finally, the CDPC took note of the initial exchanges regarding the possibility of organising an event in Strasbourg in collaboration with the EFRJ, though most likely under the next biennium 2026-2027. Further awareness and capacity-building on the topic of Restorative Justice and its benefits is necessary across Europe.

The CDPC Chair and EFRJ representative, Laura Hein, also engaged in PC-CP work, stressed the interconnection of the planned deliverable on restorative justice with areas such as child-friendly justice, penological work, counterterrorism and gender-based violence.

14. Any other business

The CDPC members were invited to inform the Secretariat of any issues they may wish to raise under this agenda item.

The CDPC took note of the information provided by Constanze Schimmel-Khalfallah, Legal Adviser at the Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law (DLAPIL) of the Council of Europe, on the updates regarding a Special Tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine, including the legal setup envisaged, with a focus on aspects relating to legal co-operation. The CDPC welcomed this information and expressed its interest in being kept informed of further developments in this respect.

The CDPC was informed that comments on the template Cooperation Agreement can be sent to the DLAPIL Secretariat until the end of June 2025.

15. Dates of the next meetings

The CDPC confirmed that the next Plenary meeting will be held from 25 to 27 November 2025 (Strasbourg).

Appendix I – List of participants

MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ÉTATS MEMBRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

ANDORRA / ANDORRE

M. Ivan ALIS SALGUERO

Procureur Adjoint

ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE

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Head of International Co-operation
Department
Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ms Kristine GABUZYAN (online)

Deputy Head
Department of International-Legal Cooperation
Prosecutor General's Office

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Hon.-Prof. Dr. Fritz ZEDER

Chair of the CDPC / Président du CDPC
Director General for Criminal Law
Federal Ministry of Justice

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Mr Steven LIMBOURG

Adviseur-generaal
Ministère de la justice

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

Mr Nenad EŠPEK

Department for the fight against organized
crime and corruption

Sector for the fight against terrorism,
organized crime, corruption, war crimes and
drug abuse

Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr Edin JAHİĆ

Apologised / Excusé

Chief of the Section for Combating Organised
Crime and Corruption
Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Mr Petar RASHKOV

Member of the CDPC Bureau / membre du
Bureau du CDPC

Head of Justice Unit

Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the
EU

CROATIA / CROATIE

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

CZECHIA / TCHÉQUIE

Ms Helena KLIMA LIŠUCHOVÁ

Head of International Cooperation and EU
Department
Ministry of Justice

DENMARK / DANEMARK**Ms Maja Borch HANSEN**

Senior consultant for Education of Inmates
Directorate of the Danish Prison and Probation
Service

Ms Maria BISGAARD

Special prosecutor
Attorney General's Office

ESTONIA / ESTONIE**Ms Laidi SURVA**

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Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs

FINLAND / FINLANDE**Ms Paulina TALLROTH (online)**

Government Counsellor
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Ms Elina SOININEN

Legal advisor
Permanent Representation of Finland to the
Council of Europe

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Cheffe du bureau de la négociation pénale
européenne et internationale
Direction des affaires criminelles et des grâces
Ministère de la Justice

Mme Marie-Charlotte AUBRY

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Sous-direction de la négociation et de la
législation pénales
Direction des affaires criminelles et des grâces
Ministère de la Justice

GEORGIA / GÉORGIE**Mr Nikoloz CHINKORASHVILI**

Deputy Head
International Relations and Legal Department
Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE**Ms Dr Garonne BEZJAK**

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Head of Division
European Public Prosecutor's Office;
European criminal justice policy
Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer
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Deputy Public Prosecutor
Court of Appeal of Athens
Hellenic Ministry of Justice

HUNGARY / HONGRIE**Ms Dr Tünde FORMAN**

Head of Department
Department of International Criminal Law
Ministry of Justice

ICELAND / ISLANDE

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

IRELAND / IRLANDE**Ms Rebecca CLARKE**

Justice Attaché
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of Ireland to the
Council of Europe

ITALY / ITALIE**Mr Lorenzo SALAZAR**

Vice-Chair of the CDPC / Vice-Président du
CDPC

Former Deputy Attorney General at the Attorney
General's Office to the Naples Court of Appeal
Contact Point for the European Judicial Network
and National Correspondent for Eurojust

LATVIA / LETTONIE**Ms Indra AIZUPE-DZINTARE**

Director
Department of Criminal Justice
Ministry of Justice

LIECHTENSTEIN

Mr Dr. h.c. Carlo RANZONI
Public Prosecutor
Public Prosecutor's Office

LITHUANIA / LITUANIE

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

LUXEMBOURG

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

MALTA / MALTE

Dr. Stefano FILLETTI
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MONACO

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

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ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

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Chef du Domaine de direction Droit pénal

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SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

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 Unité Droit pénal international

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General Secretary of Penitentiary Institutions
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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE OPERATION OF EUROPEAN CONVENTIONS ON CO-OPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS / COMITE D'EXPERTS SUR LE FONCTIONNEMENT DES CONVENTIONS EUROPEENNES DANS LE DOMAINE PENAL (PC-OC)

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RAC

STATES HAVING OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ETATS AYANT LE STATUT D'OBSERVATEURS AUPRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIÈGE

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Consul

Consulate General of Japan in Strasbourg

Ms Elea ROGER

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Consulate General of Japan in Strasbourg

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / ETAS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

*** no nomination / pas de nomination ***

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**No nomination / Pas de nomination

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND
CRIME / OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
CONTRE LA DROGUE ET LE CRIME
(UNODC)**

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

* * * * *

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE BODIES AND INSTITUTIONS /
ORGANES ET INSTITUTIONS DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

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Registry of the Court

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR
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**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY
GENERAL ON MIGRATION AND
REFUGEES / BUREAU DU REPRESENTANT
SPECIALE DE LA SECRETAIRE
GENERALE SUR LES MIGRATIONS ET LES
REFUGIES**

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**STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BERN
CONVENTION / COMITÉ PERMANENT DE
LA CONVENTION DE BERNE**

**COMMITTEE ON ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE / COMITE SUR
L'INTELLIGENCE ARTIFICIELLE (CAI)**

Mr Vadim PAK
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Mr Kristian BARTHOLIN
Former Secretary to the CAI / *Ancien Secrétaire
du CAI*

**STEERING COMMITTEE ON ANTI-
DISCRIMINATION, DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSION / COMITE DIRECTEUR SUR
L'ANTI-DISCRIMINATION, LA DIVERSITE
ET L'INCLUSION (CDADI)**

Mr Wolfram BAECHEL
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Ms Jelena JOLIĆ

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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS / COMITE DIRECTEUR POUR LES DROITS HUMAINS (CDDH)

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION / COMMISSION POUR L'EGALITE DE GENRE

**No nomination / Pas de nomination

AD HOC MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUP ON THE ENVIRONMENT / GROUPE MULTIDISCIPLINAIRE AD HOC SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT (GME)

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MONEYVAL AND CRIMINAL ASSET RECOVERY DIVISION / MONEYVAL ET LA DIVISION DE RECOUVREMENT DES AVOIRS CRIMINELS

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Mr Calogero FERRARA

Apologised / Excusé

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SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE /
SECRETARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law
Direction du conseil juridique et du droit international public

Ms Constanze SCHIMMEL-KHALFALLAH Legal Adviser / Conseillère juridique

Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law /
Direction Générale des droits humains et Etat de Droit (DGI)

Mr Gianluca ESPOSITO Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law / Directeur
Général des droits humains et Etat de Droit (DGI)

Medicrime and trafficking in human organs / Médicrime et trafic d'organes humains

Mr Oscar ALARCON JIMENEZ	Executive Secretary of the Committee of the Parties to the MEDICRIME Convention / Secrétaire Exécutive du Comité des Parties de la convention MEDICRIME
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Criminal Law Division / Division du droit pénal

Ms Eva PASTRANA Head of the Criminal Law Division, **Secretary to the CDPC** /
Cheffe de la Division du droit pénal / **Secrétaire du CDPC**

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Mr Hasan BERMEK Secretary to the PC-OC / Secrétaire du PC-OC

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Ms Sophie McCARRON Trainee / Stagiaire

M. Romain MEYNIEUX Study visitor / Visiteur d'étude

Mme Ophélie MINET Study visitor / Visiteuse d'étude

Interpreters / Interprètes

Mme Elisabetta BASSU
M. Nicolas GUITTONNEAU
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