



Strasbourg, 27 March 2026

CDPC(2026)02

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS (CDPC)

Ad hoc Plenary meeting on FIMI

Paris, 27 March 2026
Council of Europe Office

Opening at 9:30 a.m., Friday
Closing at 12:30 p.m., Friday

LIST OF DECISIONS

Criminal Law Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting started at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 27 March 2026, presided over by Mr Lorenzo Salazar (Italy).

2. Adoption of the draft agenda and order of business

The Council of Europe Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) adopted the draft agenda and the order of business of the meeting devoted to the topic of Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference, including disinformation (FIMI).

3. Opening Remarks

The CDPC delegates took note of the opening remarks by Mr Gianluca Esposito, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, who highlighted the value of the draft Feasibility Study on the possible elaboration of a Council of Europe legal instrument on foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), including disinformation. He emphasised that any criminalisation dimension would be a measure of last resort and remain optional for member States. He indicated that the Secretariat preferred option was a Framework Convention, explained the reasons underlying this preference and provided relevant examples. The flexibility of a Framework Convention allows for establishing a solid basis for effective interstate cooperation and provides ample margin for national decisions on both normative and policy work in full compliance with human rights.

The Director General praised the commitment of the PC-FIMI members, the guidance provided by its President, Heini Huotarinen (Finland) and Vice-President Ms Agnieszka Legucka, the PC-FIMI Secretariat and staff members from across Council of Europe services, as well as representatives from intergovernmental committees, and other participants, all working under challenging timeframes.

4. Presentation by the Secretary to the Committee of Experts on FIMI (PC-FIMI)

The CDPC took note of the information and overview presented by Mr Kristian Bartholin, PC-FIMI Secretary, on the development, process, and key findings within each of the chapters of the draft Feasibility Study. He highlighted the areas of agreement, the divergent view regarding the nature of a potential legal instrument, and the challenges around FIMI, felt not only in Europe but worldwide.

The presentation was followed by an in-depth exchange of views. The Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) provided comments, which will be taken into account in the subsequent stages of the work.

Some delegations took the floor, demonstrating the different approaches towards the issue, several highlighting the timeliness of this analytical report and the need for a more coordinated approach at regional level. Others underlined that the work was done under time pressure and that criminalisation raises important questions that deserve further reflection.

The CDPC noted the expert committee's analysis of legal challenges, gaps, and approaches regarding prevention, awareness-raising and education, governance, detection, accountability,

criminalisation as well as the identified risks in the study relating to electoral interference, media freedom, technological misuse, etc.

5. Adoption of the Feasibility Study and suggested process going forward

The CDPC approved the draft Feasibility Study on FIMI and instructed the Secretariat to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers for consideration at the Ministerial Meeting on 14–15 May 2026 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.

The CDPC acknowledged the diversity of views, recognised the need for additional time for further work on FIMI, and agreed to keep all options on the table as indicated in the Feasibility Study. When considering the options the CDPC noted that, advantages of a Framework Convention included flexibility and openness to non-member states, and the fact that any criminalisation aspect would remain optional or might be omitted. The CDPC noted that the advantages of a Recommendation included, in addition to the reasons indicated in the Feasibility Study, its immediate effect and its flexibility.

6. Adoption of the meeting report

The CDPC adopted the meeting report.