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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS (CDPC)

89th Plenary meeting

Strasbourg, 9-11 June 2026

LIST OF DECISIONS

Criminal Law Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Mr Lorenzo Salazar, at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 9 June 2026. Mr Salazar paid tribute to his predecessor, Mr Fritz Zeder, for his contribution to the work of the Committee.

The President also welcomed the presence of representatives from Tunisia and Morocco.

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 President, members of the CDPC Bureau and the Secretariat

The Secretary of the CDPC, Ms Eva Pastrana, provided an overview of recent Council of Europe developments relevant to the CDPC's work, including: the session of the Committee of Ministers held in Chişinău in mid-May 2026, at which a political declaration on migration and the European Convention on Human Rights was adopted; the CM's adoption of three legal instruments (the Additional Protocol on asset recovery, the Recommendation on Education in Prison, and the Recommendation on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls); the establishment of two new CDPC subcommittees (on foreign information manipulation and interference - which has completed its work - and on smuggling of migrants); and ongoing efforts to promote Council of Europe Conventions beyond Europe, in line with the Organisation's new External Relations Strategy. Ms Pastrana also drew attention to the need to begin planning the CDPC's programme of work for the biennium 2028-2029, highlighting, as possible areas for consideration, a potential update of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption as well as other emerging issues that may warrant the CDPC's attention.

The delegation of the Netherlands drew the attention of the CDPC to the growing misuse of fireworks and pyrotechnics, noting that this phenomenon poses significant risks to public order, causes damage to property and is increasingly being used as a means of intimidation against, among others, emergency responders, public figures and members of the judiciary, as well as in connection with terrorist activities. The Netherlands delegation invited interested delegations to an informal lunch discussion on this topic and encouraged other delegations to share their national experiences.

Following the informal lunch discussion, the CDPC engaged in an exchange of views on the significance of the issue and the possible ways forward. Several delegations shared national experiences, noting the growing use of fireworks and pyrotechnics by criminal organisations, in the context of public disorder, and as a means of intimidation against, among others, law enforcement. The delegation of North Macedonia drew attention to a tragic incident in a nightclub in March 2025 involving pyrotechnics, which resulted in 63 deaths and 193 injuries. Several delegations, including Austria, Georgia, Norway, the United Kingdom and Bulgaria, expressed support for the preparation of a feasibility study, while stressing that the scope and focus of any such study would need to be carefully defined. The delegation of the United Kingdom noted that its support did not prejudice any particular course of action. France raised the question of the timeframe between a possible update of the EU Directive on pyrotechnics and any CoE action.

The Secretariat noted that, under the current terms of reference, the development of a feasibility study would present procedural challenges, as it would require approval by the Committee of Ministers (CM). It suggested that the issue could remain on the CDPC's agenda as an information point at future Plenary meetings, and that the future Dutch Presidency of

the Council of Europe (CoE) could provide an opportunity - for instance through a high-level conference on transnational organised crime - to build the groundwork for including a concrete deliverable in the CDPC's programme of work for the biennium 2028-2029.

Given the inputs provided by the Delegations, the Netherlands is intending to circulate a paper and invited delegates to share their reflections in the next CDPC Plenary, underscoring the need for ensuring compatibility of both processes at EU and CoE levels.

Additionally, a one-page note prepared by the CoE Sports Division will be circulated among CDPC members, stressing the fact that the use of pyrotechnics at sports events remains a major challenge across Europe and beyond.

The CDPC agreed that the issue would remain on the agenda of its next Plenary meeting in November 2026 and invited the delegation of the Netherlands to develop the paper on the topic taking into account the comments made during the present Plenary, including the relationship with the planned revision of the EU's Pyrotechnics Directive.

4. State of play of the implementation of selected Conventions and/or recommendations falling under the CDPC's responsibility

The CDPC held an exchange of views on the state of play of signatures and ratifications of selected Council of Europe Conventions falling within its remit, with particular focus on the Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (CETS No. 228), the Third Additional Protocol to the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (CETS No. 227), the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure, and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS No. 198), the Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (CETS No. 211, MEDICRIME Convention), the Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (CETS No. 216), and the Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (CETS No. 221).

Delegations reported on the status of relevant procedures at national level and shared information on the factors influencing the pace of signatures and ratifications, including electoral cycles, governmental transitions, and the need to coordinate with the European Commission in respect of instruments with implications for European Union competences. The CDPC took note of the information provided and agreed that this standing agenda item should serve as a platform for substantive exchange rather than a purely procedural reporting exercise.

5. Foreign information manipulation and interference, including disinformation (FIMI)

The CDPC heard an intervention by Mr Kristian Bartholin, Secretary of the PC-FIM, and took note of the decision of the Committee of Ministers, taken at its 135th Session held in Chişinău on 14 and 15 May 2026, to instruct the Secretary General to submit proposals for the negotiation of an appropriate legal instrument on FIMI, including a possible framework convention, based on CoE standards and expertise, as well as on the feasibility study prepared by the PC-FIMI and adopted by the CDPC at its extraordinary meeting on 27 March 2026.

Several delegations expressed preliminary views on the preferred form of the future instrument. The delegation of the Republic of Moldova welcomed the CM's decision and expressed support for a framework convention as the most appropriate legal instrument. The delegation of Germany expressed the view that the instrument should take the form of a recommendation, and that the drafting of a framework convention was not justified at this stage; it further stated that any criminalisation of FIMI-related phenomena should in any case

be excluded. The delegation of Austria indicated its support for a binding instrument. The Delegation of France indicated, that if it were to have a criminal component, then a recommendation would be the appropriate instrument.

The CDPC expressed appreciation for the work accomplished by the PC-FIMI and the contribution of the Moldovan Presidency of the CM to the advancement of this work.

6. Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP)

The CDPC took note of the List of Decisions of the 41st PC-CP Working Group meeting, held on 14-16 April 2026 in Paris, and engaged in an exchange of views with the President of the PC-CP, Mr Jorge Monteiro (Portugal), and the Secretary of the PC-CP, Ms Louise Riondel.

The CDPC took note of the priorities currently entrusted to the PC-CP Working Group for the 2026-2027 biennium, namely mental health, education, the management of foreign nationals, and the modernisation of probation services, as well as of the measures introduced to strengthen the efficiency and impact of its work, including the designation of dedicated rapporteurs for each deliverable and the introduction of national focus sessions, the first of which, dedicated to Germany, will be held at the next meeting in September 2026.

The CDPC also took note of the publication of the SPACE I statistics reports on 19 May 2026, which confirm that prison overcrowding remains one of the most pressing challenges facing many member States and highlight significant demographic changes within prison populations, in particular the increasing proportion of women and older persons in detention. The CDPC further took note of the measures being explored by the Secretariat to improve the timeliness of the SPACE data, and of the forthcoming meeting of the national SPACE correspondents, to be held on 14 September 2026 in Strasbourg ahead of the next PC-CP Working Group meeting.

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

The CDPC took note that, at its meeting in Paris in April 2026, the PC-CP Working Group finalised the draft Recommendation and conducted a first reading of the revised Explanatory Memorandum, and that the scope of the revised instrument has been extended beyond foreign prisoners to encompass foreign nationals under probation supervision. The CDPC took note that the finalisation of the Explanatory Memorandum is expected in September 2026, with a view to the submission of both texts for approval later in 2026, and that the rapporteur for this deliverable is Mr Michael Sorger (Austria).

The CDPC took note that delegations are invited to submit any comments on the draft Recommendation to the Secretariat and agreed that a short summary of the Recommendation would be circulated to delegations ahead of its approval, and that the PC-CP could be invited to present the state of play at the Bureau meeting in October 2026. Several delegations, including Finland and Germany, made preliminary observations, in particular regarding the scope of application, the importance of linguistic consistency across the text which would facilitate its translation into national languages, and the need to ensure compatibility of the provisions on the transfer of prisoners' information with applicable data protection legislation. Delegations were invited to submit any possible comments before 7 September 2026.

b. 31st Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) (Valletta, Malta, 3-4 June 2026)

The CDPC took note that the 31st CoE Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) took place on 3-4 June 2026 in Valletta, Malta, under the theme "Persons

with specific needs and vulnerabilities”, bringing together more than 145 senior representatives. The CDPC took note of the new, more interactive and practice-oriented format of the Conference, which was positively received by participants, and that the next Conference will be held in Dublin, Ireland, in the first week of June 2027.

7. Committee of Experts on the operation of European Conventions on cooperation in criminal matters (PC-OC)

The CDPC took note of the List of Decisions of the 89th Plenary meeting of the PC-OC, held on 19-21 May 2026, of the List of Decisions of the 39th meeting of the PC-OC Mod, held on 17-19 March 2026, and held an exchange of views with its President, Mr Christian Sager (Switzerland), and its Secretary, Mr Hasan Bermek.

The CDPC examined and approved the paper on the role of Council of Europe conventions in the context of international cooperation relating to core international crimes and the articulation between these Conventions and the Ljubljana-The Hague Convention, adopted by the PC-OC. As this paper is one of the deliverables identified in the PC-OC’s terms of reference, the CDPC decided to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers, inviting it to take note of it.

The CDPC also took note of the progress made by the PC-OC on tools and practical guidance being developed in several areas, including on the relationship between asylum and extradition procedures, time limits for surrender, confidentiality in MLA proceedings, and the follow-up to a questionnaire on the application of the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. It also took note of exchanges held by practitioners on experiences relating to international cooperation in criminal matters, including with non-member States, as well as a panel debate the PC-OC held on digital assets and e-evidence.

As regards the Council of Europe’s ongoing work on the smuggling of migrants (SoM), the CDPC took note that the PC-OC considered that the current legal framework for international cooperation in criminal matters -designed to address all forms of crime- is also fit for dealing with cases involving the SoM. The PC-OC will however continue to explore practical ways to increase efficiency and, where appropriate, prioritise the handling of such cases by practitioners. The PC-OC appointed its Vice-President, Ms Stéphanie Dijan, as rapporteur on this issue, to represent the Committee in the PC-TM and advise on possible future steps.

The CDPC took note of the state of play regarding several non-member States that are at different stages of the accession process to CoE Conventions on judicial cooperation in criminal matters, including the recent invitation from the Committee of Ministers to Kyrgyzstan to accede to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (ETS No. 30), as well as the decision taken by the PC-OC at the request of Kazakhstan to set in motion the procedure set out in its policy paper in order to deliver an opinion on Kazakhstan’s accession to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. The CDPC agreed on the importance of giving visibility to third-country accessions among key stakeholders, including the European Union, Eurojust and the European Judicial Network.

Finally, the CDPC took note of the fact that, during the PC-OC Plenary meeting, the Secretariat raised the issue of legislative changes in Israel aimed at extending the use of capital punishment, marking the first regression concerning the death penalty by a State Party to Council of Europe criminal law Conventions since 1997. As a non-political expert body, the PC-OC acknowledged the potential impact on judicial cooperation, noting that while members are experienced in managing cooperation with states applying the death penalty through robust human rights frameworks and diplomatic assurances, the Council of Europe Conventions on extradition (Article 11) and mutual assistance (Article 2) provide the necessary legal basis to refuse requests when no other option exists. Consequently, the Committee concluded that States Parties have been made aware of the situation and will continue to

uphold Council of Europe standards and human rights obligations in their future cooperation with Israel.

The CDPC also took note that the PC-OC would continue discussing in its upcoming meetings any outstanding challenges its members face in the handling of cases potentially involving the death penalty, as well as other issues such as risk of torture or other forms of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, procedural standards or independence of the prosecution.

The Secretariat informed the CDPC that the Secretary General had reported to the Committee of Ministers about the outcome of these discussions in the PC-OC, while emphasising the Council of Europe's principled opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances, and raising concerns about the full respect of international law and human rights within the broader context in the Middle East.

8. Smuggling of Migrants (SoM)

The CDPC took note of the information provided by the Secretariat (framing the work on SoM in the broader work of the Council of Europe) and by the two independent experts, Professor Andreas Schloenhardt and Mr Calogero Ferrara, on the work of the Committee of Experts on combating the SoM (PC-TM), tasked with drafting a Recommendation on deterring and fighting the smuggling of migrants through legal means and other actions, and on international cooperation, in full respect of human rights.

The CDPC took note that the PC-TM held its 1st meeting at the end of April 2026, which was devoted to an initial exchange of views based on a discussion paper prepared by the experts, and that elected Mr Klemen Princes (Slovenia) as President and Mr Temur Tsindeliani (Georgia) as Vice-President. A call for a gender equality rapporteur was launched. The experts presented the methodological approach envisaged for the drafting of the Recommendation, which will build upon the existing international framework, in particular the United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants ("Palermo Protocol") and work of the UNODC Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants, while also taking into account developments at EU level, notably the revision of the Facilitation Directive.

The CDPC took note that the Recommendation will address the criminalisation of the smuggling of migrants, the protection and assistance for smuggled migrants, prevention, and international cooperation, and that it will include two additional sections on the financial dimension (a "follow-the-money" approach) and the digital dimension. The CDPC further noted the importance attached to ensuring the non-criminalisation of humanitarian assistance, and of the Secretariat's cooperation with UN agencies, in particular UNODC but also UNHCR, and with the EU (the European Commission participating in its technical capacity).

As regards the CoE Action Plan on Fostering International Cooperation and Investigative Strategies in Fighting the SoM, the CDPC took note that the Action Plan, although adopted in 2020, remains relevant, and that one of its key actions, namely the establishment of a specialised network of prosecutors has been implemented and continues to contribute to the development of country profiles focused on SoM. Exchanges of information with the Eurojust Group of Prosecutors on SoM continues.

The CDPC took note that a first draft of the Recommendation prepared by the Secretariat, considering the contributions from the PC-TM and the experts as well as the CoE standards and methodology, will be discussed at its 2nd meeting of the PC-TM to be held on 9-10 November 2026, and that the outcome would be reported to the CDPC at its next Plenary meeting.

9. Combatting technology-facilitated violence against women and girls

The CDPC recalled that, at its last Plenary meeting in November 2025, it approved, in a joint hybrid session with the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), the draft Recommendation on Accountability for Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls, together with its draft Explanatory Memorandum.

The CDPC took note that this Recommendation was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 4 March 2026.

The CDPC participated in a joint launch event with delegates from the Gender Equality Committee for the above Recommendation, entitled “*From standards to action: making accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls a reality*”, which took place on 10 June 2026 in Strasbourg. The event focused on next steps for implementation and brought together representatives from member States, civil society and other stakeholders. It was also broadcast online to enable broad participation. The Recommendation is the first international legal standard focused on this topic. The stress on accountability emphasises the duty of states to ensure those responsible for this kind of violence are held accountable, covering multiple stakeholders including technological companies and internet intermediaries. It proposes a comprehensive notion of accountability, extending beyond criminal law to civil and administrative fields.

10. Asset recovery

The CDPC took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the state of play of the Additional Protocol to the Warsaw Convention (CETS No. 198), recalling that the Protocol was approved by the CDPC at its November 2025 Plenary meeting and subsequently adopted by the Committee of Ministers in Chişinău on 15 May 2026. The CDPC further took note that the Parliamentary Assembly welcomed the Protocol at its spring session, and that the opening for signature is planned for 14 October 2026, on the margins of the Octopus Conference on cybercrime in Strasbourg.

The Secretariat drew attention to the key features of the Protocol, notably the extension of confiscation powers, the strengthening of financial intelligence units, and the introduction of mandatory asset recovery officers and asset management officers. It was noted that the Protocol requires only five ratifications for entry into force, of which three must be CoE member States, reflecting the urgency attached to its rapid implementation. The Secretariat also noted that the Protocol is fully aligned with the updated FATF standards and the EU acquis, which should facilitate its signature and ratification by EU member States and the EU.

The CDPC encouraged member States to sign and ratify the Protocol at the earliest opportunity and took note that the Secretariat would circulate summary documentation on the Protocol's main provisions to assist delegations in promoting it at national level.

11. Artificial Intelligence and criminal law (AICL)

The CDPC took note of the information provided by the Secretary of the CDPC-AICL Working Group, Mr Radu Pantiru, and by the President of the Working Group, Professor Stefano Filetti, on the progress achieved since the last Plenary meeting.

The CDPC took note that the Working Group held its 4th meeting on 18 December 2025, at which delegations examined the Mapping Study based on the questionnaire circulated in July 2025 and concluded that the breadth of the subject matter made it impossible to develop a legal instrument on the use of AI in criminal law in general. In light of the Mapping Study's

findings, and noting that deepfakes emerged as the issue of greatest concern among member States, the Secretariat proposed, and the Working Group agreed, to narrow the focus of its future work to this specific issue, and decided to circulate a dedicated questionnaire on deepfakes.

Following the receipt of replies to the deepfakes questionnaire, the Working Group held its 5th meeting on 20 February 2026, at which it confirmed by a majority the decision to develop a Recommendation rather than a binding instrument, and agreed on a provisional structure for the future Recommendation.

The Working Group held its 6th meeting online on 22 May 2026, during which it examined the zero draft of the Recommendation on deepfakes prepared by the Secretariat, in collaboration with its expert, Judge Alfonso Peralta, and reached agreement on the principal structural and substantive issues. Key decisions included retaining the term “deepfakes” in the title of the Recommendation, expanding the scope from sexually explicit images to intimate images, including a reference in the preamble of the disproportionate impact of deepfakes on women and girls, and refining the provisions on sentencing and possession. The Working Group also took note of written comments submitted by eight delegations and contributors ahead of the meeting.

The CDPC took note that the Secretariat would prepare a revised zero draft incorporating all comments received, to be circulated to delegations at least four weeks before the next meeting of the Working Group, to be held in hybrid format in October 2026, at which a section-by-section examination of the draft is expected to take place. Delegations were invited to provide comments, preferably within the time limits set by the Secretariat.

12. Restorative justice

The CDPC took note of a presentation by Ms Laura Hein, Policy Officer of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ), on the current landscape of restorative justice in Europe and the vision of the EFRJ for the draft guidelines to be developed by the CDPC under deliverable No. 22 of its ToR. Ms Hein highlighted the significant disparities in the implementation of restorative justice across CoE member States, the main barriers to access, and the importance of national action plans as a practical tool to support member States in developing restorative justice in line with the Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)8 and the Venice Declaration on restorative justice of 2021. She also drew attention to the forthcoming launch of the International Encyclopaedia of Restorative Justice, with related country profiles publicly available for free on the EFRJ’s website.

The CDPC took note that the Secretariat, in cooperation with the EFRJ and Ms Carla Ciavarella (designated PC-CP member on restorative justice), has been working on a first draft of the guidelines, which will be circulated to delegations two to three weeks ahead of the next CDPC Plenary meeting. The CDPC took note that delegations will be invited to submit substantive comments on the draft, which will be developed collectively without a dedicated working group.

The CDPC finally took note of the extended deadline, until end 2027, for this deliverable, and agreed to revert to this item at its next Plenary meeting in November 2026.

13. Crypto-assets

The CDPC took note of a presentation by Mr Evgeni Evgeniev, Head of the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division of the Council of Europe, on the work of the Division in the area of crypto assets, with particular focus on decentralised finance and its implications for financial

crime investigations and asset recovery. The CDPC took note of two publications prepared by the Division in this area, including its publication on Crypto-assets and decentralised finance.

Delegations welcomed the presentation and expressed support for the work ahead. Several delegations indicated their intention to submit written contributions with proposals for the scope and content of the future report on national practices regarding investigations on crypto assets (deliverable No. 21). The delegation of Germany requested that a draft mainstreamed questionnaire be circulated to member States for written comments prior to its finalisation.

The Secretariat indicated its intention to develop such a targeted questionnaire in consultation with subject-matter experts and invited delegations to submit ideas formally or informally during the Plenary. The CDPC agreed that the Bureau would discuss the modalities and planning of this work at its October 2026 meeting.

14. Child Friendly Justice

The CDPC took note of a presentation by Ms Tanja Gerwien, Children's Rights Division, on the process regarding the possible update of the Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers on Child-friendly Justice, adopted in 2010. She presented the gap analysis report, finalised in March 2026 on the basis of a larger thematic review report, and explained the phases of the consultation process leading to a decision, expected in November 2026, on whether to update the Guidelines.

The CDPC was invited to submit comments on the conclusions of the gap analysis report by 7 September 2026 and took note that the Secretariat will circulate a reminder ahead of that deadline. The CDPC also took note that it will be invited to the meeting of the Committee on Children's Rights (CDENF), to be held on 25-27 November 2026, at which a conclusion on the possible update of the Guidelines is expected to be reached, and noted the potential overlap with its own 90th Plenary meeting scheduled for 24-26 November 2026.

Delegations engaged in an exchange of views on key issues raised in the gap analysis, including the growing trend in some member States towards lowering the age of criminal responsibility, the need to address situations where children are exploited by adults to commit crimes, and the importance of reintegration measures. The CDPC agreed that these issues warranted careful consideration in the context of the consultation, with a view to ensuring that any update of the Guidelines does not lower the standards already achieved.

15. Information points

a. Environment and Criminal Law

The CDPC took note of the information provided by Ms Eva Pastrana, on the state of signature of the CoE Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, noting that the Convention had now been signed by six member States - Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova and Sweden - as well as by the EU.

Ms Pastrana reported on the recent outreach activities in support of the Convention, including a presentation at the European Judicial Network Plenary held in Cyprus and participation in a side event on environment issues at the session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It was noted that the CoE Convention and the EU Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law are fully compatible instruments. She also drew attention to practical challenges identified in member States regarding the coordination of competences across multiple agencies and ministries, and to the growing interest in the Convention from States outside Europe as an inspiring model for legislation.

The CDPC finally took note that administrative responsibility for the promotion and implementation of the Convention had been transferred to the Directorate of Social Rights, Health and Environment, while oversight remains with the CDPC, and agreed that a representative of the relevant services would be invited to present their activities at the next Plenary meeting.

b. Steering Committee for New and Emerging Digital Technologies (CDNET) (former CAI)

The CDPC took note of a presentation by Mr Vadim Pak on developments concerning the Steering Committee for New and Emerging Digital Technologies (CDNET) and the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence.

The CDPC took note that the Framework Convention now has 20 signatories, following the recent signatures by Armenia and North Macedonia, and that the EU ratified the Convention on 15 May 2026, recalling that five ratifications are required for its entry into force. The CDPC further took note that the CDNET held its 1st Plenary meeting in April 2026, at which it re-elected Mr Mario Hernández Ramos (Spain) as Chair and Mr Thomas Schneider (Switzerland) as Vice-Chair, and that Brazil and Cabo Verde have joined as observers, while Egypt and the Republic of Korea have applied for observer status.

The CDPC took note of the ongoing work of the CDNET, in particular on the risk and impact assessment framework (HUDERIA), including new guidance on roles and responsibilities in the AI lifecycle and on procurement, as well as of the capacity-building programmes being developed, notably the HUDERIA Academy. The CDPC also took note of the CDNET's mandate to assist other Council of Europe committees in carrying out work touching on AI, and welcomed its availability to support the CDPC in this regard.

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

The CDPC took note of the information provided by the President, Mr Lorenzo Salazar, in his capacity as CDPC liaison with the Pompidou Group, on the Policy Guidelines on Combating Organised Crime Related to Drug Trafficking Based on the Case-Law of the European Court of Human Rights, prepared by the Joint Expert Group (OC-DT). The President recalled that, following the conclusion of discussions in October 2025 and subsequent exchanges, the Guidelines had been finalised. Mr Salazar also recalled the multidisciplinary nature of the Guidelines and noted that a possible next step could be the development of the Guidelines into a Committee of Ministers Recommendation, a decision which would rest with the Pompidou Group, with any such work expected to start in 2027.

Several delegations expressed reservations regarding the development of the Guidelines into a Recommendation in their current form. The delegations of Sweden and Germany noted, among other things, that ongoing legislative developments at EU level should be taken into account, and questioned the added value of a Recommendation in relation to existing EU instruments. The delegation of Austria raised the question of coordination between the Pompidou Group's focus on law enforcement and supply reduction and the CDPC's specific mandate in the field of criminal law.

The CDPC took note of these views and agreed that they would be transmitted to the Pompidou Group. The President noted that the question of the format and content of any future instrument remained open and would be subject to further discussion at a later stage.

d. Terrorism

The CDPC took note of a presentation by Ms Jelena Jolić, Co-Secretary of the Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT), on recent developments in the work of the CDCT.

The CDPC took note of the opening for signature of the Protocol amending the CoE Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, which took place on 26 May 2026 in Strasbourg, and that ten member States, together with the EU, had signed the Protocol on that occasion. It was recalled that the entry into force of the Protocol requires ratification by two thirds of the current Parties to the Convention. The CDPC also took note of the invitation extended to member States to sign and ratify the Protocol at the earliest opportunity.

The CDPC further took note of the Conference on terrorism and the radicalisation of youth, held in May 2026 under the Monaco Presidency of the Committee of Ministers in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office, which served to launch the CDCT initiative on youth radicalisation, and its conclusions.

The CDPC took note of the outcome of the 16th CDCT Plenary meeting, held on 27-28 May 2026, in particular the approval of the draft Recommendation on the prosecution of terrorist offences, serious violations of international humanitarian law and other core international crimes committed in the context of non-international armed conflicts. The CDPC also took note of the decision of the CDCT to launch the preparation of a new counter-terrorism strategy to succeed the current one expiring in December 2027, and of the invitation to member States to nominate experts to the relevant working group.

The CDPC further took note of the other ongoing activities of the CDCT, including the preparation of a draft Recommendation on non-criminal-law measures applicable to violent extremist groups and networks, the analysis of the acquisition and use of weapons and explosives by terrorists and violent extremists, work on the use of generative AI in criminal proceedings relating to terrorist offences, and the development of a model strategy for whole-of-society disengagement and social reintegration.

Finally, the CDPC noted the relevance of the work of the CDCT on weapons and explosives to the discussion held under agenda item 3 concerning a possible future initiative on fireworks and pyrotechnics and agreed on the need for coordination between the relevant committees on this cross-cutting issue.

e. MEDICRIME

The CDPC took note of a presentation by Mr Oscar Alarcón, Executive Secretary of the MEDICRIME Convention, on developments since the last CDPC Plenary meeting.

The CDPC took note of the MEDICRIME Regional Conference held in April 2026 in Chişinău, organised under the Moldovan Presidency of the CM, which addressed, in particular, the threat posed by falsified medical products and the links between falsified medical products and anti-doping. The CDPC took note of the six priorities arising from the Conference, namely encouraging further accessions, strengthening the 24/7 network, addressing emerging threats, multi-agency cooperation, public awareness, and victim protection. It was noted, with regret, that no new accessions to the Convention have taken place, despite continued interest from a number of third countries, including from Africa and Latin America.

The CDPC took note of the report of the 11th Plenary meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the MEDICRIME Convention, held on 29 April 2026 in Chişinău, and of the ongoing second monitoring round. The CDPC further took note of the adoption of a report on the MEDICRIME

Convention in the age of AI, and of the establishment of a new working group on the unauthorised removal, including theft, of medical products from the supply chain, the work of which may lead to a Recommendation. In this connection, the Secretariat invited the CDPC to include, in its next ToR, the preparation of such a Recommendation.

Finally, the CDPC took note of the granting of observer status to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), of a circulated questionnaire on gender equality dimensions in the implementation of the Convention, of the ongoing cooperation with the CoE Anti-Doping Convention with a view to a joint report, and of the forthcoming online meeting of the 24/7 network on 25 September 2026.

f. Trafficking in Human Organs

The CDPC took note of a presentation by Mr Oscar Alarcón, Secretary of the Santiago de Compostela Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs, on developments since the last CDPC Plenary meeting, including the outcome of the 8th Plenary meeting of the Committee of the Parties, held in Strasbourg.

The CDPC took note of recent developments regarding signatures and ratifications, in particular the signature of the Convention by Bosnia and Herzegovina on 17 March 2026, the forthcoming signature by the Netherlands in June 2026, and the ratification by Azerbaijan on 26 May 2026. It was noted, however, that a number of CoE member States have signed but not yet ratified the Convention.

The CDPC noted the adoption of the first monitoring report and the country profile questionnaire, the launch of the second monitoring round, and the conduct of a flash survey on the mandatory reporting of transplantations performed abroad. It further took note of the ongoing work on a position paper concerning illicit transplant-related websites, on the establishment of national platforms bringing together health, justice and law enforcement authorities, and on a document clarifying the distinction between trafficking in human organs (THO) and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of organ removal (THBOR), prepared in cooperation with the bodies of the Anti-Trafficking Convention.

The CDPC also took note of the Secretariat's concerns regarding challenges to the principle of financial neutrality, in particular in light of legislative developments outside Europe, and of the intention to prepare a joint position paper with the relevant CoE committees (CD-BIO and CD-P-TO) for submission to the Committee of Ministers.

Finally, the CDPC took note of the visibility activities carried out in connection with the International Day against Organ Trafficking, marked on 25 March 2026, and of activities carried out in connection with the European Day for Organ Donation, and noted that the next Plenary meeting of the Committee of the Parties will be held on 20-22 October 2026 in Strasbourg.

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

The CDPC took note of an intervention by Mr Oscar Alarcón, Secretary of the Nicosia Convention, on developments since the last CDPC Plenary meeting, recalling that responsibility for the Convention had been transferred to the CDPC in the previous year.

The CDPC took note that there have been no new signatures or ratifications, and that the situation regarding the Convention remains at a standstill. The Secretariat reported on continued interest in the Convention from countries of the Southern Mediterranean, including Tunisia and Egypt, as well as from UNESCO and several EU-funded projects, and noted its outreach activities, including a presentation delivered at a meeting in Cyprus.

The CDPC took note of the information provided by the delegation of North Macedonia, which reported that the procedure for signature of the Convention is underway.

Mr Alarcon welcomed the inclusion of the state of signatures and ratifications of the Conventions on Medicrime, Trafficking in Human Organs, and Offences relating to Cultural Property during the CDPC tour de table at its next Plenary (see point 4 above). Particularly for the latter, he invited delegates to mention the reasons for Member States' reluctance to join it.

h. Hate Crime

The CDPC heard a presentation by Mr Wolfram Bechtel, Secretary of the Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), on recent activities in the field of hate crime and hate speech.

The CDPC took note of the Conference on Challenging Hate, held at the University of Limerick (Ireland), which brought together over 100 participants and contributed to raising awareness of the Recommendation on combating hate crime and the Recommendation on combating hate speech.

The CDPC further took note of the work of the joint working group on hate speech and hate crime, which is currently conducting a review of the implementation of the Recommendation on combating hate speech, examining relevant legal frameworks relating to criminalised (online) hate speech, the role of internet intermediaries and the use of AI, the responsibilities of public officials and political parties, as well as non-legal measures concerning prevention, education and training. It was noted that, given the broad definition of hate crime used in the relevant CoE standards, which also covers criminalised forms of hate speech, this implementation review is of particular relevance to the CDPC.

Finally, the CDPC took note that project funding has been secured from the EEA and Norway Grants, and that one of the main initiatives in this field is the development of a practical manual on the effective investigation and prosecution of criminalised hate speech, intended for police officers and prosecutors.

16. Any other business

The CDPC took note of the information provided by the President, Mr Lorenzo Salazar, on his recent exchange with the President of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), Mr David Meyer, and respective Secretaries, concerning a possible update of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption of 1999.

The President recalled the developments that have taken place since the adoption of the Convention, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Merida Convention) of 2003, the two Recommendations of the OECD Working Group on Bribery (2009 and 2021), and the recent EU Directive on combating corruption. Mr Salazar noted that a number of offences which are subject to a "shall consider" formulation under the Merida Convention have become mandatory under the EU Directive. He also drew attention to the considerable body of expertise accumulated by GRECO and the OECD Working Group on Bribery through their respective evaluation reports.

The President indicated that, without prejudging any future course of action, the matter could be taken forward by seeking the opinion of GRECO - through its Bureau in September 2026 - and by reverting to the CDPC Bureau in October 2026, with a view to a further exchange of views at the next Plenary meeting in November 2026. He underlined that any possible future

legislative initiative in this field, whether a protocol, a recommendation or another instrument, should be conducted under the authority of the CDPC.

17. Closing remarks by the Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law

The closing remarks were delivered by Mr Gianluca Esposito, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe, who thanked the participants and the President for their contributions during an intensive Plenary meeting.

Mr Esposito recalled the significant progress achieved at the Ministerial Session held in Chişinău, notably the agreement on the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, the adoption of the Additional Protocol to the Warsaw Convention on criminal asset recovery, the mandate to develop a legal instrument on FIMI -not under CDPC's oversight and without a criminal law scope at this stage-, and the political declaration on migration reaffirming member States' commitment to the ECHR system and to combating migrant smuggling.

He encouraged States that have not yet signed the Third Additional Protocol modernising the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters to do so and called for further signatures and ratifications of the Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, as well as of the CoE Conventions on MEDICRIME, trafficking in human organs and cultural property offences.

Mr Esposito highlighted the new Protocol amending the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism. He praised the CDPC and its subcommittees for their role, and expressed particular gratitude to Mr Hasan Bermek, Secretary of the PC-OC, who will be leaving his post later in 2026.

Finally, he encouraged CDPC members to begin reflecting on priorities for the biennium 2028–2029, covering both new and evolving areas of criminal law, including some of those raised during the present Plenary, such as corruption, cryptocurrencies, fireworks and pyrotechnics, and possible work related to road safety and the CoE Convention on the Punishment of Road Traffic Offences.

18. Dates of the next meetings

The CDPC confirmed that the next Plenary meeting will be held from 24 to 26 November 2026 in Strasbourg, and took note of indicative dates for the subsequent Plenary meeting in 2027, to be discussed at the October 2026 Bureau meeting.

19. Adoption of the List of Decisions

The CDPC adopted the List of Decisions of its 89th Plenary meeting.

Appendix I – List of participants

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

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

** No nomination for this meeting / *Aucune nomination pour cette réunion* **

ANDORRA / ANDORRE

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General Prosecutors Office of the Principality of Andorra

ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE

Mr Hovhannes POGHOSYAN
Head of International Co-operation
Department
Ministry of Internal Affairs

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Hon.-Prof. Dr. Fritz ZEDER
Member of the CDPC Bureau / membre du Bureau du CDPC
Director General for Criminal Law
Federal Ministry of Justice

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

Mr Samir NAJAFOV
Chief Advisor
Department for Coordination of Law
Enforcement Agencies
Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

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 JAHIĆ
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 for this meeting / *Aucune nomination pour cette réunion* **

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

** No nomination for this meeting / *Aucune nomination pour cette réunion* **

CZECHIA / TCHÉQUIE

Ms Gabriela BLAHOVA
Director
International Department for Criminal Matters
Ministry of Justice

DENMARK / DANEMARK**Ms Maria BISGAARD**

Special Prosecutor
Director of Public Prosecutions
International Affairs

Mr Daniel SOLTEN

Apologised / Excusé
Special Prosecutor
Office of the Danish Director of Public
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nomination pour cette réunion ***

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Member of the CDPC Bureau / membre du
Bureau du CDPC
Government Counsellor
Ministry of Justice

FRANCE**Mme Florence GILBERT**

Member of the CDPC Bureau / membre du
Bureau du CDPC
Cheffe du bureau de la négociation pénale
européenne et internationale
Direction des affaires criminelles et des grâces
Ministère de la Justice

GEORGIA / GÉORGIE**Mr Giorgi MIKAVA**

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

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE**Mr Martin EIBACH**

Legal Advisor Division II B 6
Division for the European Prosecutor's Office;
Eurojust and European Criminal Law Policy
Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer
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Ms Dr Garonne BEZJAK

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Head of Division
European Public Prosecutor's Office;
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Deputy Public Prosecutor
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President of the CDPC / Président du CDPC
Former Deputy Attorney General at the Attorney
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Contact Point for the European Judicial Network
and National Correspondent for Eurojust

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

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Judge
Liechtenstein Court of Appeal

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Parquet général du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg

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Direction des Services Judiciaires

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Ministry of Justice and Public Security

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SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN**Ms Giulia RENZI**

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Court of the Republic of San Marino

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SLOVAK REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE**Mr Alexander KUNOŠÍK**

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Mme Laura FONTANA

Juriste
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 Department
 Deputy Head of the International Law
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UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI**Ms Anna WARDELL**

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 Head of International Criminal Justice
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MEMBERS OF THE CDPC BUREAU / MEMBRES DU BUREAU DU
CDPC
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AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Hon.-Prof. Dr. Fritz ZEDER
 Head of Unit IV.2
 Federal Ministry of Justice

BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Mr Petar RASHKOV
 Head of Justice Unit
 Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the
 EU

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Ms Dr Paulina TALLROTH
 Government Counsellor
 Ministry of Justice

FRANCE

Mme Florence GILBERT
 Cheffe du bureau de la négociation pénale
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 Ministère de la Justice

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Vice-President of the CDPC / Vice-Président du
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 Head of Division
 European Public Prosecutor's Office;
 European criminal justice policy
 Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer
 Protection

ITALY / ITALIE

Mr Lorenzo SALAZAR
President of the CDPC / 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

MALTA / MALTE

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SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE

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UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI

Ms Anna WARDELL
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 Directorate
 Ministry of Justice

**CDPC COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS / COMITES DU CDPC
ET GROUPES DE TRAVAIL**

**COUNCIL FOR PENOLOGICAL CO-
OPERATION/ CONSEIL DE COOPERATION
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Mr Jorge MONTEIRO (online)
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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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OC*

Mr Christian SAGER
President of the PC-OC / Président du PC-OC
Chief Negotiator International Treaties
Federal Office of Justice
Directorate International Legal Assistance

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON FOREIGN
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SUR LA MANIPULATION ET L'INGERENCE
ETRANGERES DANS L'INFORMATION
(PC-FIMI)**

Mr Kristian BARTHOLIN
Secretary to PC-FIMI / Secrétaire du PC-FIMI
Head of the Data Protection Unit / Chef de
l'Unité protection des données

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

CANADA

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HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIÈGE

Maître Jean PAILLOT

JAPAN / JAPON

** No nomination for this meeting / *Aucune nomination pour cette réunion* **

MEXICO / MEXIQUE

** No nomination for this meeting / *Aucune nomination pour cette réunion* **

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DG HOME

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LAW / ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DU
DROIT PÉNAL (AIPL/AIDP)**

Professor John VERVAELE
Honorary President of the AIDP

**UNITED NATIONS REFUGEE AGENCY /
AGENCE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES
REFUGIES (UNHCR)**

** No nomination for this meeting / *Aucune
nomination pour cette réunion* **

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND
CRIME / OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
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Section
Organized Crime Branch
Division for Treaty Affairs

* * * * *

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

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

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nomination pour cette réunion* **

**EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS /
COUR EUROPEENNE DES DROITS DE
L'HOMME**

Mr Mahmut Can SENYURT
Registry of the Court

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR
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nomination pour cette réunion* **

**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
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** No nomination for this meeting / *Aucune
nomination pour cette réunion* **

**STEERING COMMITTEE FOR NEW AND
EMERGING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES /
COMITE DIRECTEUR POUR LES
TECHNOLOGIES NUMERIQUES
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Mr Vadim PAK
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Digital Development Unit

**STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BERN
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nomination pour cette réunion* **

**COMMITTEE OF CONVENTION 108 /
COMITE DE LA CONVENTION 108 (T-PD)**

Mr Kristian BARTHOLIN

Head of the Data Protection Unit / Chef de l'Unité protection des données

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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** No nomination for this meeting / *Aucune nomination pour cette réunion* **

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM / COMITE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE DE LUTTE CONTRE LE TERRORISME (CDCT)

Ms Jelena JOLIĆ

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

** No nomination for this meeting / *Aucune nomination pour cette réunion* **

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION / COMMISSION POUR L'EGALITE DE GENRE

** No nomination for this meeting / *Aucune nomination pour cette réunion* **

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

** No nomination for this meeting / *Aucune nomination pour cette réunion* **

ECONOMIC CRIME AND CORRUPTION DEPARTMENT / SERVICE DE LA CRIMINALITE ECONOMIQUE ET CORRUPTION

Mr Evgeni EVGENIEV

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION GROUP ON DRUGS AND ADDICTIONS (Pompidou Group) / GROUPE DE COOPERATION INTERNATIONALE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE SUR LES DROGUES ET LES ADDICTIONS (Groupe Pompidou)

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Senior Project Officer / Gestionnaire de projet senior

Mr Lorenzo SALAZAR

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CYBERCRIME CONVENTION COMMITTEE / COMITE DE LA CONVENTION SUR LA CYBERCRIMINALITE (T-CY)

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* * * * *

LAUNCH EVENT / ÉVÉNEMENT INAUGURAL

Ms María Rún BJARNADÓTTIR

Ms Hera HUSSAIN

Ms Venus MAHMOOD
President of GEC/PC-eVIO / Présidente du
GEC/PC-eVIO
 Senior ministerial adviser on legislative affairs
 Ministry of Justice
 Finland

Prof. dr. Catherine VAN DE HEYNING
 Professor of European fundamental rights law
 Law Faculty
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Mr David WRIGHT

Ms Flurina FREI
 Co-Secretary to the GEC/PC-eVIO / *Co-*
Secrétaire du GEC/PC-eVIO

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

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)
Ms Hanne JUNCHER	Director, Directorate of Security, Integrity and Rule of Law / Directrice, Direction de la sécurité, de l'intégrité et de l'État de droit

Directorate of Social Rights, Health and the Environment /
Direction des droits sociaux, de la santé et de l'environnement

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

Mr Oscar ALARCON JIMENEZ	Executive Secretary of the MEDICRIME Committee and Executive Secretary of the Santiago de Compostela Committee / Secrétaire exécutif du Comité MEDICRIME et Secrétaire exécutif du Comité de St Jacques-de- Compostelle
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Mr Radu PANTIRU	Programme Manager / Responsable de programme
Ms Meave BUCHINGNANI	Project Support Assistant / Assistante de soutien au projet
Ms Emma GARNIER-CARREL	Project Support Assistant / Assistante de soutien au projet
Mr Michael MCLEAN	Project Support Assistant / Assistant de soutien au projet
Ms Lucy ANCELIN	Assistante / Assistante
Ms Claire ROBINS	Assistante / Assistante

Interpreters / Interprètes

Ms Célia RAWINSKI	Mr Michael HILL (10-11/06)
Ms Elisabetta BASSU (09/06)	Ms Katia DI STEFANO (11/06)