



Strasbourg, 23 October 2025

CDPC-BU(2025)02

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS (CDPC)

Bureau meeting

Strasbourg, 22-23 October 2025
Agora building, Room G05

Opening at 2 p.m., Wednesday
Closing around 5.30 p.m., Thursday

LIST OF DECISIONS

Criminal Law Secretariat

DGI-CDPC@coe.int / www.coe.int/cdpc

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting started at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 22 October 2025.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda and order of business

The Bureau 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

After opening the meeting, the President, Mr Fritz Zeder, invited the Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Mr Gianluca Esposito, to give a presentation and exchange views with the Bureau on recent developments within the Council of Europe and the need for the CDPC to encompass its work with two main political priorities.

Mr Esposito informed the Bureau about a new initiative by the Secretary General addressing the issue of foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI). This initiative originated during the 6th European Political Community Summit in Tirana, was further discussed at the 7th Summit in Copenhagen and figured prominently at the 35th anniversary event of the Venice Commission. After a proposed multidisciplinary committee was discarded (largely on budget grounds), a proposal - undergoing a silent procedure for final adoption - was made to establish a CDPC sub-committee to deal with the preventive and repressive side of FIMI and was tasked with preparing a feasibility study on FIMI.

The expected sub-committee will consist of 12 members, funded by the Council of Europe, however, other states may delegate representatives on their own expense. The sub-committee might be expected to complete its feasibility study before the Committee of Ministers meeting in May 2026, to be held in Chisinau. Alongside the CDPC's Secretariat, Mr Kristian Bartholin will coordinate the work for this sub-committee. The Committee of Ministers expects to receive the feasibility study by mid-April 2026, so the CDPC should finalise it accordingly.

Another key issue raised by Mr Esposito concerned the smuggling of migrants (SoM) and the expected CDPC's committee of experts (PC-TM). Referring to the open letter signed by a number of CoE Heads of state and government on the ECtHR's case-law on migration, he informed the Bureau that the Secretary General intends to address the debate on migration within existing Council of Europe structures, namely the Committee on Human Rights (CDDH) on ECHR-related matters, the CDPC in relation to criminal law aspects of SoM, and another dedicated body on other issues such as externalisation of migration policies.

The Secretary to the CDPC, Ms Eva Pastrana provided an update of events relevant to the CDPC's work.

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

The Bureau began by welcoming the newly appointed Secretary of the PC-CP, Mrs Louise Riondel, who replaced Ms Ilina Taneva following her retirement. It then took note of the summary meeting reports of the 38th and 39th PC-CP Working Group meetings, held respectively on 20-22 May 2025 in Madrid, Spain, and on 23 September 2025 in Krakow, Poland, and heard a presentation by the PC-CP Secretary.

The Bureau also took note of the election of Mr Jorge Monteiro (Portugal) as President of the PC-CP and Ms Carla Ciavarella (Italy) as Vice-President of the PC-CP for a one-year term (renewable once) starting 1 January 2026.

a. Education in prison

The Bureau also took note that work on updating and replacing CM Recommendation Rec(89)12 on education in prison is underway. A first draft of the revised text, scheduled for completion by the end of 2025, was examined at the PC-CP Plenary meeting in November 2024. It was subsequently revised and supplemented, and its draft Explanatory Memorandum was reviewed at the 37th PC-CP Working Group meeting in February 2025. This work continued at the 38th and 39th PC-CP Working Group meetings in May and September 2025. The final draft Recommendation, together with its Explanatory Memorandum, is expected to be approved by the CDPC Plenary in November 2025 and then submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.

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

The Bureau took note that, in line with its mandate, the PC-CP Working Group is continuing its work on revising and updating Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)12 concerning foreign prisoners, together with its Explanatory Memorandum. This work is expected to also encompass probation and be completed by the end of 2026.

c. Updated Council of Europe Probation Rules

The Bureau took note that, in line with its mandate, the PC-CP will review the Council of Europe Probation Rules and Explanatory Memorandum. In this context, a survey on the use and revision of the Rules was recently prepared jointly with the Confederation of European Probation and sent to the Directors General of prison and probation services, the responses to which will serve as the basis for this work to be completed by the end of 2027.

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 Bureau took note that the 30th Council of Europe Annual Conference of Directors of Prisons and Probation Services had been held on 24–25 September 2025 in Krakow, Poland, under the title “Can we move away from the overuse of penal sanctions?”. The keynote speech addressed the issue of the net-widening of penal sanctions, while the four workshops focused on the latest SPACE data, the use of data in penal policy and risk assessment, the promotion of positive health among prisoners and probationers and trauma-informed care, children with imprisoned parents, and the strategic approach of prison and probation services to crisis management.

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

The Bureau finally took note that the 31st Council of Europe Annual Conference of Directors of Prisons and Probation Services will take place on 3-4 June 2026 in Valletta, Malta. The CDPC might send a representative to this Conference.

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

The Bureau took note of the List of Decisions of the 38th meeting of the PC-OC Mod, held on 23-25 September 2025, as well as of the oral information provided by the PC-OC Secretary, Mr Hasan Bermek. The Bureau noted, in particular, the ongoing work of the PC-OC on various aspects of extradition, mutual assistance, and the transfer of sentenced persons. It was also informed of the progress made by the PC-OC on its draft paper concerning the application of Council of Europe conventions on international cooperation in criminal matters (ICCM) to core international crimes, and on the interplay between these conventions and the Ljubljana-The Hague Convention, which the PC-OC expects to finalise its paper at its first Plenary Meeting in 2026.

The Bureau further took note of information regarding the opening for signature of the Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (the “Valletta Protocol”), as well as of developments related to the accession of third States to Council of Europe conventions on ICCM.

6. Environment and Criminal Law

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretary of the CDPC regarding the Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, as well as the measures to promote its signature by CoE MS and the EU when it is opened for signature on 3 December 2025 in Strasbourg, with the participation of the former President of the PC-ENV, Mr Šimon Pepřík.

Upon a member’s request, Ms Eva Pastrana briefed the Bureau about her participation in the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on crimes that affect the environment under the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In this expert group, several states highlighted the relevance of the CoE Convention.

7. Smuggling of Migrants

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the 3rd International Conference on Migrant Smuggling and on the meeting of the Network of Prosecutors on SoM, organised by the CDPC in collaboration with the Council of Europe Division on Migration and Refugees in Strasbourg on 21–22 October 2025. The discussions will help inform the preparation of the draft comprehensive Recommendation on deterring and fighting the smuggling of migrants, emphasising international cooperation, effective legal frameworks, and protection of victims and those assisting them.

The Bureau engaged in an exchange of views on the planned subcommittee responsible for drafting the Recommendation, as well as at supporting the implementation of the Council of Europe’s Action Plan on Fostering International Cooperation and Investigative Strategies in Combatting the Smuggling of Migrants.

8. Combatting technology-facilitated violence against women and girls

The Bureau took note of the report of the fourth meeting of the GEC/PC-eVIO, held in Strasbourg from 30 September to 2 October 2025, during which the draft text of the Recommendation on

accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls was finalised. The Recommendation will be submitted to the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) and the CDPC for joint approval at the CDPC Plenary meeting in November 2025.

The Bureau also heard a presentation by, and exchanged views with, the President of the GEC/PC-eVIO, Ms Venus Mahmood, who provided an overview of the new Recommendation, focusing on how the committee had addressed the salient issues raised during the CDPC's Plenary in June and the public consultation of the draft text.

The President noted that the draft Recommendation was far-reaching and that the number of committee representatives was limited. It was clarified that CDPC members have until 31 October 2025 to submit any comments, which will then be reviewed by the GEC at its meeting one week before the CDPC Plenary meeting in November 2025.

9. Artificial Intelligence and criminal law

The Bureau was reminded that the draft questionnaire, prepared by the Secretariat and the two experts, Ms Sabine Gless and Mr Alfonso Peralta, was approved by the CDPC Plenary in June 2025 and subsequently circulated to member States, which were invited to respond by September 2025. After replies were received from twenty-five States, the Secretariat invited the two experts to prepare a mapping study based on the responses and convened the fourth meeting of the CDPC-AICL Working Group for 18 December 2025.

The purpose of this meeting will be to review the results of the mapping exercise, as synthesised from member States' replies by the experts. Participants will have the opportunity to validate the findings, identify possible remaining gaps, and discuss the main legal issues related to artificial intelligence and criminal liability. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to assess the need for greater coherence or a possible common legal instrument and to outline the next steps, including the experts' mandate and the work schedule for 2026–2027.

One of the experts will attend the November Plenary meeting of the CDPC to present a provisional version of the mapping study, providing the Plenary with an overview of the current state of the work.

10. Information points

a. Asset recovery

The Bureau took note that the Committee of Experts on Criminal Asset Recovery (PC-RAC) had held its sixth meeting from 6 to 10 October 2025. The main objective of the meeting had been to finalise 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 (CETS No. 198) and its Explanatory Report.

The Bureau also took note that the PC-RAC had reached agreement on the text of the draft Additional Protocol. The text reflects the outcome of extensive discussions held over six meetings since May 2024, with the participation of experts from Council of Europe member States, Morocco and the European Union, as well as representatives of relevant international organisations.

The Bureau further took note that the PC-RAC had not been able to finalise the draft Explanatory Report to the Additional Protocol and that its final version should be examined and agreed at the seventh meeting of the PC-RAC to be held from 8 to 10 December 2025.

The Bureau held an exchange of views with the President of the PC-RAC, Mr Cornel-Virgiliu Călinescu, on the Committee's work and on the next steps in the process. In particular, the Bureau and Mr Călinescu exchanged on the manner in which the Additional Protocol and the Explanatory Report will be discussed and approved by the CDPC. The Bureau agreed to the online participation of the representatives of the European Commission who participated in the negotiations of the PC-RAC at the CDPC Plenary when this matter will be discussed.

b. Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI)

The Bureau was reminded that the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law had been adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 May 2024 and opened for signature in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 5 September 2024.

Mr Vadim Pak, from the CAI secretariat briefed the Bureau about the current state of play, including recent signatories to the Convention (Canada, Japan, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Ukraine and Uruguay). In addition, Cameroon and Ghana have joined the CAI as observers. Cabo Verde, South Korea and Malaysia expressed interest in becoming observers.

Finally, the Bureau received an update on the ongoing work within the CAI concerning the risk and impact assessment framework (HUDERIA), on the upcoming 14th and last CAI meeting on 4 November 2025 and had an exchange with the CAI secretariat.

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

The Bureau took note that the Joint Expert Group tasked with developing policy guidelines on combatting organised crime relating to drug trafficking based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (OC-DT) held its 6th meeting on 1-2 October 2025 and its 7th meeting (online) on 17 October 2025. The focus of the meetings was to examine and provide comments and inputs over the draft-zero Policy Guidelines as prepared by the Secretariat and produce a document entitled The Key Priorities. The two documents will be presented at the Pompidou Group ministerial meeting which will take place on 27 and 28 November 2025 for adoption.

The Bureau engaged in an exchange with the CDPC Vice-President, Mr Lorenzo Salazar, who liaises with the Pompidou Group and with Ms Ardita Abdiu, Deputy Executive Secretary to the Pompidou Group, on the manner of future cooperation between the CDPC and the Pompidou Group in light of a possible evolution of the work on the Guidelines into a potential Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

d. Terrorism

The Bureau took note of the List of Decisions of the 14th Plenary meeting of the Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) of 20-21 May 2025 and of the List of Decisions of its 15th Bureau meeting of 8 October 2025 and heard a presentation from Mr Carlo Chiaromonte, Secretary of the CDCT, on the current work of the CDCT.

He highlighted the adoption of the new amending Protocol to the Counter-terrorism Convention.

Three priorities for future work include extremism, children and youth involved in terrorism as well as use of internet and social media in terrorism-related modus operandi.

e. Medicrime

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Executive Secretary of the MEDICRIME Convention, Mr Oscar Alarcon, on both the Bureau meeting (21 October) and the forthcoming 10th Plenary meeting of the Committee of the Parties (9-10 December 2025).

The Bureau also took note of the progress made on the Working Group on unauthorised removal, including theft, from the supply chain of medical products. Furthermore, the Bureau took note of the MEDICRIME Committee's collaborative work with other bodies and observers, including: a) The Joint Expert Group on Organised Crime and Drug Trafficking (OC-DT): This group, which is developing policy guidelines based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, held its 5th meeting in Brussels on 1-2 October 2025 to review the draft Policy Guidelines; b) The Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention; c) Interpol.

f. Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Executive Secretary of the Santiago de Compostela Convention regarding both the Bureau meeting held on 24-25 September 2025 and the Plenary meeting on 16-17 October 2025 and of the topics discussed therein.

The Bureau members were also informed that the Council of Europe had organised a conference on the Protection of Health on 15 October, during which the Santiago de Compostela Convention and other conventions dealing with health were promoted.

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

The Bureau took note of the List of Decisions of the 3rd meeting of the Aragon Group (3 July 2025) and of the oral information provided by Mr Oscar Alarcon. In particular, the Bureau was informed about the discussions held during the meeting, with special attention given to the need to reduce tolerance towards offences against cultural heritage.

The Bureau also took note of the Secretariat's participation in the UNESCO Conference on Addressing Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property in the Digital Era (Paris, 26 June 2025), as well as of the study visit by representatives of the Egyptian Public Prosecution Office to the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 8–9 October 2025). Both events were used as opportunities to promote the Convention.

Finally, the Bureau was reminded that responsibility for the Convention has been transferred to the CDPC as of August 2025 and was informed about the steps to be taken in view of this handover.

h. Hate Crime

The Bureau heard a presentation from the Co-Secretary of the Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), Ms Charlotte Gilmartin, on the report of the 11th CDADI meeting, held from 1 to 3 July 2025, and noted that during that meeting it had been decided to submit to the Committee of Ministers, for consideration with a view to adoption, the draft Recommendation on equal rights for intersex persons, together with its Explanatory Memorandum.

The Bureau further took note of the launch of an online database on hate crime resources, containing publicly available and up-to-date materials that have proven effective in practice and may assist member States in their work.

The Bureau was informed of the Conference on preventing and combatting hate crime, held on 19–20 June 2025 in Strasbourg under the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and with participation of CDPC delegates.

It also took note of the upcoming Conference on the Recommendation on combatting hate crime and hate speech, to be held on 28–29 May 2026 and organised by the University of Limerick in partnership with the CDADI.

Finally, the Bureau noted the plans to organise the 3rd No Hate Speech Week, to be held on 17-19 June 2026 in Strasbourg, as well as the planned launch of a Mission-Driven Initiative entitled “Enhancing multi-stakeholder responses to hate speech and hate crime”, funded through the EEA (European Economic Area) and Norway Grants.

i. Child Friendly Justice

The CDPC took note of the process regarding the draft thematic review of the Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice, including the consultation process led by the Committee on the Rights of the Children (CDENF), in which CDCJ and CDPC delegates were invited to participate, and the possible update of the CoE Committee of Ministers Guidelines on Child-friendly Justice.

During the CDENF plenary meeting (19-21 November 2025), a meeting on the morning of 20 November will be held between the CDENF and the CDCJ to discuss the Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines. Since the CDPC will not be holding its plenary session at the same time as the other two steering committees (CDENF and CDCJ), a link will be shared with CDPC delegates to enable those members who are interested in joining this meeting online.

j. Update on restorative justice

The Secretary to the CDPC recalled the extended deadline until the end of 2027 for its deliverable: “Draft guidelines for implementing Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)8 on restorative justice in criminal matters”, and the renewed interest from the PC-CP to support progress in this area.

The Bureau heard a presentation by Edit Törzs from the European Forum for Restorative Justice and had an exchange with her.

11. Any other business

The President noted the need to elect three new Bureau members, as the members Marta Corti (UK), Marie-Charlotte Aubry (FR) and Anita Marfurt (CH) have left or will soon leave their positions. He also underlined the necessity to elect a new CDPC President and a Vice-President. The CDPC Secretary informed the Bureau that, according to the Terms of Reference, the current Bureau members may remain in office until the end of 2027.

The Secretariat was instructed to invite delegations to submit their candidacies for these posts. The Bureau underlined that the members should be elected on the basis of their own merit, should

be committed to serving for a reasonable period of time and that due consideration should be given to geographical and gender balance.

12. Dates of the next meetings

The Bureau decided to hold its Bureau meeting on 26-27 March 2026 in Paris, with the possibility of enlarging it should the prospective PC-FIMI work require it. The CDPC Plenary meeting will be held as usual in June, tentatively in the week of 8-12 June 2026.

13. Adoption of the List of Decisions