COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 18 September 2026 CDPC-BU(2026)OJ2-annotated

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS (CDPC)

Bureau meeting

Venice, 19-20 October 2026
Council of Europe Programme Office
San Marco 180C, 30124 Venice,
Italy

Opening at 2 p.m., Monday
Closing around 5:30 p.m., Tuesday

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Criminal Law Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting will start at 2 p.m. on Monday, 19 October 2026.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda and order of business

The Bureau will adopt the draft agenda and the order of business of the meeting.

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

Bureau members are invited to exchange views on the most recent and significant criminal law issues arising within their national frameworks and across Europe, and to suggest possible new initiatives by the CDPC in the field of criminal law.

The Bureau is invited to have an exchange with the Secretariat on recent developments in the Council of Europe, including the outcome of the 89th CDPC Plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 9-11 June 2026) and the follow-up given to its decisions. In this context, the Bureau is reminded that, at that Plenary meeting, the Secretariat drew attention to the need to begin planning the CDPC's programme of work for the biennium 2028-2029, and that possible areas for future work were identified, including a potential update of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, crypto-assets, fireworks and pyrotechnics, and possible work related to road safety.

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

The Bureau is reminded that the PC-FIMI produced a draft feasibility study which the CDPC approved at its ad-hoc Plenary meeting on 27 March 2026. The Committee of Ministers adopted it at its 135th Session held in Chișinău on 14-15 May 2026 and instructed the Secretary General to submit proposals for the negotiation of an appropriate legal instrument on FIMI, including a possible framework convention, based on Council of Europe standards and expertise. As noted by the Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law at the CDPC Plenary meeting in June 2026, this work is not placed under the CDPC's oversight and does not, at this stage, have a criminal law scope.

The Bureau is accordingly invited to hold an exchange of views on the implications of this decision for the CDPC's programme of work.

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

The Bureau is invited to take note of the Lists of Decisions of the 41st PC-CP Working Group Meeting, held on 14-16 April 2026 in Paris, and of the 42nd PC-CP Working Group Meeting, held on 15-17 September 2026 in Strasbourg, and to engage in an exchange of views with the President of the PC-CP, Mr Jorge Monteiro (Portugal), and the Secretary to the PC-CP, Ms Louise Riondel.

The Bureau is invited to take note of the priorities entrusted to the PC-CP Working Group for the 2026-2027 biennium, namely foreign nationals in prison and probation, and the revision of the Council of Europe Probation Rules.

The Bureau is further invited to take note of the publication of the SPACE II statistics reports on 9 July 2026, and of the organisation on 14 September 2026 of the 2nd Meeting of the SPACE

National Correspondents and the outcomes thereof, including the adjustments made to both the format and content of the publications. Finally, the Bureau is invited to take note of the re-election of Mr Jorge Monteiro (Portugal) as President of the PC-CP and of Ms Carla Ciavarella (Italy) as Vice-President of the PC-CP for a period of one year starting 1 January 2027.

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

The Bureau is invited to take note that both the draft Recommendation and the draft Explanatory Memorandum were finalised by the PC-CP Working Group and will be submitted to the Plenary on 3-5 November 2026.

b. Revision of the Council of Europe Probation Rules and their Commentary

The Bureau is invited to take note that the PC-CP Working Group held a first reading of the revised Council of Europe Probation Rules during its last meeting. The revised text will be presented to the Plenary, along with a first draft of the revised Commentary. The Rapporteurs for this deliverable are Ms Danijela Mrhar Prelič (Slovenia) and Ms Iuliana-Elena Cărbunaru (Romania).

c. Draft Terms of reference of the PC-CP (2028-2031)

The Bureau is invited to take note of the deliverables proposed by the PC-CP Working Group for the PC-CP's Draft Terms of Reference for 2028-2031.

d. 32nd Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) (Dublin, Ireland, 2-3 June 2027)

The Bureau is invited to take note that the 32nd Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services will take place on 2-3 June 2027 in Dublin, Ireland, and will be dedicated to mental health.

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

The Bureau is invited to take note of the List of Decisions of the 40th meeting of the PC-OC Mod, held on 22-24 September 2026, and to have an exchange with the Secretariat.

The Bureau is reminded that the CDPC, at its 89th Plenary meeting, 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, and decided to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers, inviting the latter to take note of it.

The Bureau is also invited to take 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, re-extradition, death penalty and MLA, the follow-up to a questionnaire on the application of the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, as well as other issues currently on the agenda of the PC-OC.

The Bureau is invited to take note of the state of play regarding several non-member states at different stages of the accession process to Council of Europe conventions on judicial cooperation

in criminal matters, including the procedure initiated at the request of Kazakhstan concerning its accession to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

Finally, the Bureau is invited to take note of the preliminary ideas discussed in the PC-OC Mod - to be further discussed in the PC-OC Plenary on the PC-OC's programme of work for the biennium 2028-2029.

7. Smuggling of Migrants

The Bureau is reminded that the Committee of Experts on combatting the smuggling of migrants (PC-TM) is tasked with drafting a comprehensive Recommendation on deterring and fighting the smuggling of migrants, with particular emphasis on international cooperation, effective legal frameworks, and the protection of victims and those assisting them, and that the draft Recommendation is expected to be finalised by the end of 2027.

The Bureau is invited to take note that the PC-TM held its 1st meeting on 28-29 April 2026 in Strasbourg, in hybrid form, and that it elected Mr Klemen Princes (Slovenia) as President and Mr Temur Tsindeliani (Georgia) as Vice-President and launched a call for the nomination of a Gender Equality Rapporteur.

The Bureau is further invited to take note that the two independent experts, Professor Andreas Schloenhardt and Mr Calogero Ferrara, 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"), while taking into account developments at EU level.

The Bureau is finally invited to take note that a first draft of the Recommendation will be discussed at the 2nd meeting of the PC-TM, to be held in hybrid form on 9-10 November 2026, and that the outcome will be reported to the CDPC at its next Plenary meeting. The zero draft Recommendation will address criminalisation, protection and assistance, prevention and international cooperation, and will include additional sections on the financial dimension (a "follow-the-money" approach) and the digital dimension; particular importance is attached to ensuring the non-criminalisation of humanitarian assistance.

8. Combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls

The Bureau is invited to recall that, at its Plenary meeting in November 2025, the CDPC 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 Recommendation was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 4 March 2026. As it is the first international legal instrument focused on this topic, it featured prominently at the 70th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women held in New York in March 2026. A joint launch event with the GEC, entitled "From standards to action: making accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls a reality", took place on 10 June 2026 in Strasbourg.

9. Asset recovery

The Bureau is invited to recall that, at its Plenary meeting in November 2025, the CDPC approved 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), together with its draft Explanatory Memorandum.

The Bureau is invited to take note that the Additional Protocol was adopted by the Committee of Ministers at its 135th Session, held on 14-15 May 2026 in Chișinău, that the Parliamentary Assembly welcomed it at its spring session, and that the opening for signature took place on 14 October 2026, on the margins of the Octopus Conference on cybercrime in Strasbourg. The Bureau is further invited to note that the Protocol requires only five ratifications for entry into force, of which three must be Council of Europe member states, and that it is fully aligned with the updated FATF standards and the EU acquis.

10. Artificial Intelligence and criminal law

The Bureau is reminded that, following the circulation in July 2025 of a questionnaire on artificial intelligence and criminal law and the preparation of a Mapping Study, the CDPC-AICL Working Group concluded at its 4th meeting on 18 December 2025 that it was not feasible to develop a legal instrument on the use of AI in criminal law in general. It therefore decided to narrow the focus of its future work to deepfakes, which had emerged as the matter of greatest concern to member states.

At its 5th meeting on 20 February 2026, the Working Group confirmed by a majority its decision to elaborate a Recommendation rather than a binding instrument. At its 6th meeting, held online on 22 May 2026, it examined the zero draft of the Recommendation on deepfakes prepared by the Secretariat in co-operation with its expert, Judge Alfonso Peralta. The Working Group decided, among other things, to retain the term “deepfakes” in the title, to extend the scope from sexually explicit images to intimate images, and to refine the provisions on sentencing and possession.

The Bureau is invited to note that the CDPC-AICL Working Group held its 7th meeting on 7 October 2026, at which the draft was examined section by section. The input made by the delegations will be incorporated into the draft ahead of the next meeting.

11. Restorative justice

The Bureau is invited to take note of the extended deadline, until the end of 2027, for the deliverable “Draft guidelines for implementing Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)8 on restorative justice in criminal matters”, of the renewed interest expressed by the PC-CP in supporting progress in this area, and of updates provided by the Secretariat.

The Bureau is further invited to take note that the Secretariat, in cooperation with the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) and Ms Carla Ciavarella (designated PC-CP contact point on restorative justice), has begun work on a first draft of the guidelines, which will be circulated to delegations ahead of the next CDPC Plenary meeting, and that the draft will be developed collectively without a dedicated working group.

12. Crypto-assets

The Bureau is invited to take note that, under its current Terms of Reference, the CDPC is tasked with preparing, by 31 December 2027, a report on national practices as regards investigations on cryptocurrencies (deliverable No. 21), and that, at its 89th Plenary meeting, the CDPC held a preliminary exchange of views on the basis of a presentation by the Economic Crime and

Cooperation Division and of the Council of Europe publication “Crypto-assets and decentralised finance”.

The Bureau is invited to discuss the modalities and planning of this work, taking into account the request made by several delegations, in particular Germany, that a draft mainstreamed questionnaire be circulated to member states for written comments prior to its finalisation.

13. Child Friendly Justice

The Bureau is invited to take note of the process regarding the possible update of the Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers on Child-friendly Justice, adopted in 2010, and of the gap analysis report finalised in March 2026 on the basis of a thematic review report prepared by consultants engaged by the Committee on Children’s Rights (CDENF).

The Bureau is invited to note that delegations were invited to submit comments on the conclusions of the gap analysis report by 7 September 2026, and that the CDPC will be invited to the meeting of the 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 – a date which partly overlaps with the CDPC’s own 90th Plenary meeting scheduled for 24-26 November 2026. Any update of the Guidelines should not lower the standards already achieved.

14. Corruption

The Bureau is invited to take note of the information provided by the President, Mr Lorenzo Salazar, on his exchange with the President and the Bureau of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) concerning a possible update of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption of 1999 (ETS No. 173).

The Bureau is invited to take note of the developments that have taken place since the adoption of the Convention, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Merida Convention) of 2003, the Recommendations of the OECD Working Group on Bribery, and the recent EU Directive on combating corruption, under which a number of offences subject to a “shall consider” formulation under the Merida Convention have become mandatory.

The Bureau is invited to hold an exchange of views on the possible way forward, on the understanding that – without prejudging any future course of action – the matter could be taken forward by seeking the opinion of GRECO, with a view to a further exchange of views at one of the next Plenary meetings, and 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.

15. Fireworks and pyrotechnics

The Bureau is reminded that, at its 89th Plenary meeting, following an initiative by the delegation of the Netherlands, the CDPC held an exchange of views on the growing misuse of fireworks and pyrotechnics, noting that this phenomenon poses significant risks to public order, causes damage to property and is increasingly used as a means of intimidation, including against emergency responders, public figures and members of the judiciary, as well as in connection with terrorist activities.

The Bureau is further reminded that during the exchange several delegations 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, and that the Secretariat noted the procedural challenges under the current Terms of Reference. 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 a paper on the topic, taking into account the comments made and the relationship with the planned revision of the EU's Pyrotechnics Directive.

The Bureau is invited to hold a preliminary exchange of views on the possible inclusion of a concrete deliverable in this field in the CDPC's programme of work for the biennium 2028-2029, bearing in mind the need for coordination with the work of the CDCT on weapons and explosives.

16. Information points

a. Environment and Criminal Law

The Bureau is invited to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning the state of signatures of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (CETS No. 228), which, so far had been signed by seven member states – Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova and Sweden – as well as by the European Union, and of the measures undertaken to promote its signature, including through outreach at United Nations level. The Bureau is further invited to take note that administrative responsibility for the promotion and implementation of the Convention has been transferred to the Directorate of Social Rights, Health and Environment, while oversight remains with the CDPC. A representative from that Directorate will update the CDPC Plenary.

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

The Bureau is reminded that, as of 1 January 2026, the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) completed its mandate and was replaced by the Steering Committee for New and Emerging Digital Technologies (CDNET). The CDNET held its 1st Plenary meeting in April 2026 and re-elected Mr Mario Hernández Ramos (Spain) as Chair and Mr Thomas Schneider (Switzerland) as Vice-Chair. The Bureau is further invited to take note that on 7 September 2026 the CDNET held an Academic Conference organised on the occasion of the second anniversary of the opening for signature of the Council of Europe Framework Convention and that on 8 September 2026 it held its Bureau meeting. The Bureau is finally invited to note that the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence (CETS No. 225) now has 20 signatories and that the European Union ratified it on 15 May 2026, and to take note of the ongoing work of the CDNET on the risk and impact assessment framework (HUDERIA).

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

The Bureau is invited to take 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), which have been finalised. The Bureau is invited to take note that several delegations expressed reservations regarding the development of the Guidelines into a Recommendation in their current form, that these views would be transmitted to the Pompidou Group, and that any such work would be expected to start in 2027.

d. Terrorism

The Bureau is invited to take note of a presentation by the Secretariat on recent developments in the work of the Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT), including the opening for signature, on 26 May 2026 in Strasbourg, of the Protocol amending the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196), signed on that occasion by ten member states together with the European Union.

The Bureau is further invited to take 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 decision to launch the preparation of a new counter-terrorism strategy to succeed the current one expiring in December 2027, and the ongoing analysis of the acquisition and use of weapons and explosives by terrorists and violent extremists, which is of relevance to the discussion on fireworks and pyrotechnics. The Bureau is finally invited to take note that the on 22 September 2026 the CM adopted the Recommendation mentioned above.

e. Medicrime

The Bureau is invited to take note of a presentation by the Executive Secretary of the MEDICRIME Convention on recent developments, including the MEDICRIME Regional Conference held in April 2026 in Chișinău, the report of the 11th Plenary meeting of the Committee of the Parties held on 29 April 2026, the ongoing second monitoring round, and 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 Bureau is invited to take note that the Secretariat has invited the CDPC to include the preparation of such a Recommendation in its next Terms of Reference.

f. Countering trafficking in human organs

The Bureau is invited to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat of the Santiago de Compostela Convention on developments since the last CDPC Plenary meeting, including the signature of the Convention by Bosnia and Herzegovina on 17 March 2026, the forthcoming signature by the Netherlands, and the ratification by Azerbaijan on 26 May 2026, as well as the ongoing work on the distinction between trafficking in human organs (THO) and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of organ removal (THBOR). The Bureau is finally invited to note 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 Bureau is invited to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat of the Nicosia Convention on developments since the last CDPC Plenary meeting, recalling that responsibility for the Convention was transferred to the CDPC in the previous year. The Bureau is invited to take note that no new signatures or ratifications have been recorded, that the situation regarding the Convention remains at a standstill, and that the delegation of North Macedonia has reported that the procedure for signature of the Convention is underway. The Secretariat also reported on continued interest from countries of the Southern Mediterranean, including Tunisia and Egypt, and from UNESCO.

h. Hate Crime

The Bureau is invited to hear an update from the Secretariat of the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) on recent activities in the field of hate crime and hate speech, including the Conference on Challenging Hate held at the University of Limerick (Ireland), the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Recommendation on equal rights for intersex persons and, in March 2026, of the Recommendation on Equality and Artificial Intelligence, and the ongoing review, by the joint working group on hate speech and hate crime, of the implementation of the Recommendation on combating hate speech, which is of particular relevance to the CDPC.

The Bureau is also invited to hear a brief presentation on the draft Manual on the effective investigation and prosecution of criminalised hate speech developed by CDADI.

17. Any other business

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

18. Dates of the next meetings

19. Adoption of the List of Decisions