

Strasbourg, 18 January 2024

CJ-AV(2024)02 prov

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE PROTECTION OF LAWYERS  
(CJ-AV)**

**7<sup>th</sup> meeting  
30 January – 1 February 2024  
Strasbourg, Agora building, room G2**

**INDICATIVE WORKPLAN FOR 2024 AND 2025**

## **I. Background**

1. The Committee of Ministers established as of January 2022 a Committee of experts on the protection of lawyers (CJ-AV) composed of 15 representatives of member States, as well as participants and observers. as set out in the Terms of reference for 2022-2023 and 2024, adopted by the Committee of Ministers.
2. Accordingly, the CJ-AV is tasked with finalising by 31 December 2024, under the authority of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), a draft legally binding instrument aiming at strengthening the protection of the profession of lawyer and the right to practice the profession without prejudice or restraint, which sets out a comprehensive set of minimum standards applicable to a lawyer's right to freely exercise their professional activities and ensure protection and independence of the profession, including a possible mechanism entrusted with the implementation of the standards by the states parties.

## **II. Indicative workplan for 2024 and 2025**

3. Considering the progress of the CJ-AV on the elaboration of a draft convention as of January 2024, including significant decisions taken concerning the nature of the instrument and a possible monitoring mechanism of the future instrument, as well as the broad agreement on key principles to be safeguarded by the future convention, the proposed workplan focuses on the final steps (finalising the draft for the approval by the CDCJ by the end of 2024 and internal steps for its submission for adoption by the Committee of Ministers in early 2025).
4. The stakeholder consultation is an integral part of the consolidation of the text of convention. Therefore, it is proposed to launch a consultation process right after the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CJ-AV (30 January - 1 February 2024). The stakeholder consultation process will be twofold – the first involves consultations with the relevant committees and bodies of the Council of Europe, including the CDCJ, while as part of the restricted consultation process, it is proposed that the CJ-AV seeks the opinion of a selected number of prominent organisations in the field, including those organisations which sought and did not obtain the observer status with the committee as they were to be given the opportunity to provide feedback to the CJ-AV at a later stage.
5. Holding the consultation from mid-February to mid-April will allow the CJ-AV to examine the results of the consultation and revise the draft convention at its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting (13-15 May 2024) before its transmission to the CDCJ. The CDCJ will examine the draft convention in detail at its 102<sup>nd</sup> plenary in June 2024 and will provide further guidance to the CJ-AV for finalising the text of the draft convention at its final meeting at a date to be fixed in September 2024. In parallel, the draft explanatory report will be refined to reflect the evolution of the text of the draft convention.
6. The CDCJ is then to approve the draft convention at its 103<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting (19-21 November 2024) and adopt its explanatory report. The last steps before transmission of the draft convention to the Committee of Ministers for adoption includes a linguistic review by the Council of Europe Department of Translation and a review by the Treaty Office of the Council of Europe. Linguistic review will start ahead of the last meeting of the CJ-AV, with a final review after approval by the CDCJ, and review by the Treaty Office will also take place after approval of the text of the draft convention by the CDCJ. This should lead to the text of the draft convention being submitted for adoption of the Committee of Ministers in early 2025.
7. The activities proposed take into account the necessity to adapt, where appropriate, the working methods, in particular the need to make use of new technologies, of videoconferences and written procedures.



## Indicative workplan of CJ-AV activities for 2024

Activities/task	DATES / PLACES	Responsibility
<b>7<sup>th</sup> meeting of CJ-AV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examination of the revised draft provisions and its explanatory memorandum</li> <li>- Examination of the final closes of the convention and articles concerning monitoring mechanisms</li> </ul>	30 January – 1 February 2024	CJ-AV
<b>Stakeholder consultation process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation process on the draft convention with the member States (through other committees and bodies of the Council of Europe, including the CDCJ)</li> <li>- Restricted consultation process on the draft convention with civil society organisations prominent in field of human rights, rule of law and protection of lawyers</li> </ul>	Mid-February – Mid-April 2024	CJ-AV
<b>8<sup>th</sup> meeting of CJ-AV</b> Examination of the draft provisions of the legal instrument in light of the comments and suggestions received through the consultation processes and preparing the convention for the examination of the CDCJ at its 102 <sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting	13 – 15 May 2024	CJ-AV
<b>CDCJ 102<sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting</b> Examination of the draft convention and its explanatory report by the CDCJ	11-13 June 2024	CDCJ
<b>9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CJ-AV</b> Final review and examination of the draft convention in the light of comments and proposals made by the CDCJ at its 102 <sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting	9-11 September 2024 (tbc)	CJ-AV
<b>103<sup>rd</sup> CDCJ plenary meeting</b> Discussion and approval of the draft legal instrument and adoption of its explanatory report and communication to the Committee of Ministers	19-21 November 2024	CDCJ
<b>Quality check</b> Proofreading and editing of the draft convention and its explanatory report to be reviewed and proofread by the translation services & consultation of the Treaty Office	End 2024- Early 2025	Secretariat
<b>CM Rapporteur group (GR-J) meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examination of the draft convention and its explanatory report</li> <li>- Adoption of the draft convention and taking note of its explanatory report</li> </ul>	First half of 2025	CM