



Strasbourg, 02 January 2025

CJ-OR(2025)01

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ACCESS TO ORIGINS  
(CJ-OR)**

**CJ-OR's TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR 2025-2026**

adopted by the Committee of Ministers' Deputies  
at their 1481<sup>st</sup> (Budget) meeting, 21-23 November 2023

*(extract from document CM(2023)131-add final)*

## Terms of reference of the

### Committee of Experts on access to origins (CJ-OR)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Category: Subordinate body

Duration: 1 January 2025 - 31 December 2026<sup>1</sup>

Programme: Building trust in public institutions

Sub-programme: Independence and efficiency of justice

### Deliverable

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, and of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), the CJ-OR is instructed to complete the following deliverable within the following deadline:

	Category ▼	Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1. Draft Recommendation on the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins	A	1	31/12/2026
<p><b>Key</b></p> <p>A: deliverable under preparation (2022-2023 terms of reference or Committee of Ministers' decision) or deliverable foreseen in the terms of reference provisionally approved for 2024-2025 and reviewed where relevant in the framework of the preparation of the draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027</p> <p>B: review of implementation/re-examination foreseen by the recommendation/protocol/convention</p> <p>C: newly proposed deliverable</p>			

### Composition

#### • Members

The Committee of Experts shall be composed of 10 representatives of the highest possible rank with appropriate expertise and knowledge of law, policy and practice in their respective countries relating to family law and/or legal, medical and scientific policy in relation to technological and legal aspects impacting on the rights of donors and donor-conceived persons, including children and their access to information, of which six designated by the member States and selected by the CDCJ, three independent experts appointed by the Secretary General, and the chairperson designated by the CDCJ from amongst its members.

The Committee shall be composed in accordance with Article 6 of Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of these 10 members. Other member States may send a representative to the meetings of the Committee of Experts without defrayal of expenses.

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

#### • Participants

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO);
- European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO);
- Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF);
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union (one or more representatives, including, as appropriate, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA));
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- United Nations International Law Commission (ILC);

<sup>1</sup> These terms of reference are approved for 2025. For 2026, they are approved on a provisional basis, subject to confirmation upon the adoption of the budget for 2026-2027.

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
- Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH);
- International Commission on Civil Status (ICCS);
- World Health Organisation (WHO).

- **Observers**

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- International Social Service (ISS);
- Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE);
- International Commission of Jurists (ICJ);
- Association internationale des magistrats de la jeunesse et de la famille (AIMJF);
- European Association of Health Law (EAHL);
- European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE).

Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

### Working methods

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Plenary meetings ▼			
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2024	-	-	-
2025	10	2	3
2026	10	2	3

The CJ-OR will appoint from amongst its members one Gender Equality Rapporteur.

### Budgetary information\*

	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members reimbursed	Plenary in €K	Bureau in €K	Working groups in €K	Secretariat (A, B)
2024	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2025	2	3	10	50.4	-	-	0.5 A; 0.5 B
2026	2	3	10	↔	-	-	↔

\*The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of standard costs.