DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN DIGNITY
DIRECTORATE OF EQUAL RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

Department for Human Dignity and Gender Equality
Violence against Women Division
Secretariat of the Istanbul Convention Monitoring Mechanism

Fourth meeting of the national co-ordinating bodies established under the Istanbul Convention

Room 6, Palais de l'Europe
Council of Europe – Strasbourg

4 November 2026

Draft programme

9:00	**Registration**
9:15	**Words of welcome and opening of the meeting** **Marja Ruotanen**, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe **Vebjørn Heines,** President of the Committee of the Parties, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe
9:30	**Heeding the call for primary prevention of all forms of violence against women: an overview of the findings from GREVIO's monitoring work** **Presentation by Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou,** President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) *Questions and discussion*
10:30	**Coffee break**
10:45	**Preventing violence against women and girls: How can national co-ordinating bodies strengthen and co-ordinate effective prevention policies across government and society?** **Keynote speech: From theory to practice: unpacking the Istanbul Convention's obligations under the pillar of prevention: primary, secondary, tertiary** **Karin Heisecke,** International expert on gender equality and prevention of violence against women **Moderator: Françoise Kempf,** Senior legal advisor, Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism of the Istanbul Convention **Experiences from Parties to the Istanbul Convention:** - **Ophélie Schärer and Véronique Jaquier Erard,** State representatives of Switzerland - **Samantha Pace Gasan**, State representative of Malta - **Frida Hansson** (Division of Gender Equality at the Government Offices) **and Maria Björsson** (Gender Equality Agency), State representatives of Sweden

	Questions and discussion
12:30	**Lunch**
14:00	**National monitoring and evidence-based policymaking: the role of national co-ordinating bodies in data collection and research for the establishment of a knowledge base** **Introduction: The role of national monitoring for primary prevention** **Johanna Nelles**, Executive Secretary to the Istanbul Convention **Experiences from Parties to the Istanbul Convention:** - **Pauline Grahl**, State representative of Germany - **Hilde Marit Knotten,** State representatives of Norway - **Viorica Țîmbalari,** State representative of the Republic of Moldova *Questions and discussion*
15:15	*Photo session* **Coffee break**
15:45	**Ensuring a knowledge base for the primary prevention of violence against women: challenges and positive practices** **Moderator: Françoise Kempf,** Senior legal advisor, Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism of the Istanbul Convention **Experiences from Parties to the Istanbul Convention:** - **Stefania Chiru**, State representative of France - **Marta Silva**, State representative of Portugal *Questions and discussion*
17:00	**Wrap-up session: open floor for discussion**
17:15	**Closing remarks** **Johanna Nelles**, Executive Secretary to the Istanbul Convention