



NEWSLETTER

DGI - Human Rights and Rule of Law

June 2024

Secretariat of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) President, Dr Alan Mitchell, [met with the Polish Minister of Justice](#), Mr Adam Bodnar, and Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Justice, Ms Maria Ejchart. The meeting which took place in Strasbourg on 6 June, focused on implementing CPT recommendations on police custody safeguards, prison conditions, remand prisoner regulations, and the National Centre for Prevention of Dissocial Behaviour.

The CPT Bureau held an exchange of views with the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) on how to enhance mutual cooperation and coordination in **Geneva** on 6 June and also held its inter-plenary meeting in Geneva on 7 June.

Several members of the Secretariat spoke at the NGO Forum in Strasbourg (4-5 June) on remand detention and transgender persons in prisons and the President and Executive Secretary of the CPT both delivered talks at the Conference of Directors of Prisons and Probation Services in **Sofia** (24-25 June). The President and members of the CPT participated in the Concertina, summer meetings on deprivation of liberty, Dieulefit (28-30 June).

Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards

The first meeting of National Co-ordinators for the execution of the ECtHR judgments took place in **Helsinki**, [launching the "Execution Co-ordinators Network"](#).

The European NPM Forum (ENPMF) held a workshop on "monitoring rights and material conditions of detention of persons held in pre-trial detention and other subjects", gathering NPMs from Europe and beyond. ENPMF staff also participated in an expert meeting of the European Commission on the same topic. The 7th annual Superior Courts Network Forum on "National courts and the challenge of climate change litigation" brought together 75 member courts from 38 States; the event was supported but the "Enhancing Subsidiarity" project, jointly implemented by the Court and DGI.

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The 2024 HELP Network Conference celebrating the 20th anniversary of the HELP Programme is under intensive preparation. It will bring together participants from National Judicial Training Institutions and Training Centres for Lawyers from the CoE Member States, South Mediterranean, and Central Asia regions.

Key Activities by Country: **Albania:** Roundtable on property compensation claims; **Armenia:** [Workshop on alternatives to detention](#); launch of the adapted HELP course “Human Rights in the Armed Forces” with the Ministry of Defence, Ombuds Institution, and law-enforcement agencies; training for military personnel on prevention of non-combat deaths and ill-treatment; **Montenegro:** [Workshop](#) on judicial and prosecutorial ethics; **Republic of Moldova:** Training for prosecutors on administrative procedure; visit of the Ministry of Interior and the Labour Ministry to Federal Migration Office in Germany; **North Macedonia:** [Handover of software for appointing ex-officio lawyers](#); **Türkiye:** [Conference on migration](#); training on Turkish Constitutional Court case law; **Ukraine:** Project launch on IDPs and returnees; workshops on criminalistics during war; **Kazakhstan:** [Launch of HELP course on ill-treatment](#) for prosecutors; **Uzbekistan:** Launch of HELP course for judges on anti-trafficking.

Death Penalty:

The 2nd workshop “Death is not Justice – youth advocacy and awareness-raising for the abolition of the death penalty” gathered on 19-21 June 2024 in the EYC in Strasbourg 50 young people from 30 Member States to fight against pro-death penalty narratives in Europe and contribute to the global abolition. This event was prepared in cooperation with civil society organisations, funded by a voluntary contribution from **France** and the Franco-German Youth Office (OFAJ/DFJW), and supported by **Portugal, Switzerland** and the CM **Lithuanian Presidency**. A similar workshop dedicated to young people from Africa took place on 24-27 June within the framework of the African University on Youth and Development organized by the North-South Center. Those workshops, including the one held in Vilnius last May for young people from **Belarus**, also aim to create a network of young ambassadors against the death penalty. An important part of these events focused on the actions that the participants could carry out in the course of the year. In addition, during the European National Preventive Mechanisms Forum, a presentation was made on 4 June on the CoE work on the abolition of the death penalty, in particular on the CM Recommendation on measures against the trade in goods used for the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Execution of Judgments of the ECtHR

The Department for the execution of judgments of the ECHR (DEJ) was engaged in the [1501st CM Human Rights meeting](#), during which the CM [adopted 42 decisions concerning 22 member states](#), including interim resolutions in two cases/groups of cases, and in one case the decision to invite its Chair to send a letter to the relevant minister of the respondent state.

The first annual [meeting between the DEJ and the national co-ordinators for the execution of judgments](#) took place in Helsinki. The national co-ordinators decided to establish the “**Execution Co-ordinators Network**” as a means to facilitate the exchange of expertise and experience among national co-ordinators of member States.

The DEJ carried out a [mission to Budapest](#) to discuss cases pending against **Hungary**. It met with the Deputy State Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, the staff of the Government Agent’s

Office, experts from the National Judicial Office, the Prosecution Services (incl. the HELP focal point), the Ministry of Interior, the Prison Service Headquarters, the National Police Headquarters, the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing, and civil society.

The DEJ participated in a [study visit](#) to **Croatia**, organised for the key stakeholders from relevant institutions of **North Macedonia** to exchange on good practice to address school segregation of Roma children. It also participated in a teleconference gathering authorities of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Romania** to exchange experiences in the execution of judgments on access to classified documents in proceedings on expulsions on national security grounds.

The DEJ [met with a delegation from the Ministry of Justice of Curaçao](#), presented the supervision process and discussed the case [Murray v. Netherlands](#).

The DEJ held an online meeting with the Cypriot authorities to discuss the cases pending against **Cyprus** and a potential mission in 2024. Similarly, an online meeting was held with authorities from **Ireland** to prepare the examination of the [McFarlane](#) case at the CM Human Rights meeting in September.

The DEJ gave several **presentations on the supervision process** in Strasbourg, incl. to judges and prosecutors from the European Judicial Training Network, lawyers from the Franco-British Lawyers Society, students from Brandenburg State Police University, and future judicial law clerks from the University of Applied Sciences in Rotenburg an der Fulda.

Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standard-Setting activities

Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation

The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) held its [100th meeting](#) in **Helsinki, Finland** on 25-28 June. During this meeting, it held a [Conference](#) on the protection and promotion of civil society space in Europe. It adopted, *inter alia*, a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation on the effective protection of human rights in situations of crisis, a Progress Report on the preparation of a CDDH Study on the need for and feasibility of a further instrument or instruments in the field of human rights and the environment, and a questionnaire to member States on implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)2 on measures against the trade in goods used for the death penalty and torture. It also established a new Drafting Group on the safe third country concept (CDDH-PTS).

Legal Co-operation

The CDCJ held its 102nd plenary meeting on 11-13 June 2024. The Committee examined the draft convention for the protection of the profession of lawyer, that will be approved at its next plenary meeting. In the context of its ongoing work on a compendium of good practice and a non-legally binding instrument on stateless children and procedures around statelessness and access to nationality, the CDCJ discussed the results of the multistakeholder meeting on "Statelessness and children", held in **Luxembourg** and online on 6 June and co-organised with the European Migration Network (EMN), and worked on a questionnaire on this topic. The CDCJ also worked, *inter alia*, on the elaboration of a draft practical guide and other tools to promote the implementation of the European Convention on Information on Foreign Law and its Additional Protocol.

Human Rights and Biomedicine

At its 5th plenary meeting (11 – 13 June), the [Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health](#) (CDBIO) finalized its report on the impact of [AI on patient-doctor relationship](#) with a view to its publication.

On 17 June, an [expert discussion on the execution of the judgement “Nikolyan vs Armenia”](#) was organized in Yerevan in the framework of the cooperation project on “Human Rights and Biomedicine II” under the **Armenia** Action Plan (2023 – 2026).

European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)

The CEPEJ adopted the [Evaluation Report on European Judicial Systems](#), 2024 edition at its 42nd plenary meeting (18-19 June). The Report will be published in October, after its presentation to the Committee of Ministers. The meeting also addressed the progress made in the field of artificial intelligence in the justice sector, and the reduction of backlog. The Junior Crystal Scale of Justice Prize was awarded to a team of Master's students from the University of Leiden (**Netherlands**), who analyzed a **Belgian** initiative to set up a chamber specialized in environmental issues. On 11 June, the CEPEJ published the 2024 edition of the [Evaluation Report on the judicial systems of the European Union countries](#), as part of the Justice Scoreboard. A workshop was held in Tirana (**Albania**) on 6-8 June 6 to 8 for court councils on their role in improving court performance.

Digital Development and Governance

Artificial Intelligence

During the month of June, organisation of, and participation in a series of events outside of the Organisation was ensured by the Head of the Digital Development and Governance Department and the Digital development Unit for the purpose of raising awareness of the new Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law:

- **The Secretary General** gave a keynote speech on artificial intelligence and the Framework Convention at the **EuroDIG, (Vilnius, Lithuania) on 19 June**.
- AI Governance Global 2024 Conference (**Brussels, Belgium**), 4 – 5 June
- Fifth Edition of the Leuven AI Law & Ethics Conference (LAILEC) (**Leuven, Belgium**), 6 June
- Privacy Symposium (**Venice, Italy/online**), 13 June
- EuroDIG (**Vilnius, Lithuania**), 17 -19 June
- European Economic and Social Committee (**Brussels, Belgium**), 18 June
- 9th European AI Forum (**Vilnius, Lithuania**), 20 June Centenary Congress of the AIDP/IAPL (**Paris, France**), 27 June
- General Assembly of EuroISPA (**Rome, Italy/online**), 27 – 28 June
- Policy Dialogue on AI Governance, UNESCO (**Paris, France**), 28 June

In addition, the Digital Development unit organised an informal breakfast meeting for the Ambassadors on the Framework Convention and the procedures relating to its opening for signature on 5 September 2024 (**Strasbourg, France**), 21 June.

Data Protection

The Secretary General opened with a keynote speech the 3rd **Venice International Privacy Symposium** (10-14 June) where the importance of Convention 108+ was highlighted in several panels. The 46th meeting of the Convention 108 Committee (T-PD) took place on 5-7 June, with the adoption of the 3rd module of the Model Contractual Clauses and the Guidelines on data protection in voter registration and authentication. The Stefano Rodota 2024 award and the annual report of the Data Protection Commissioner were among the highlights. Data Protection was discussed with the Central Election Commission of **Georgia** visit to the Council of Europe (4 June). Under South Programme V a coordinated CoE visit to **Algeria** (12-13 June) and two Data Protection trainings for youth trainers

in **Tunisia** (24-27 June) took place. The European approach to data governance was among panels of EuroDIG 2024 (**Vilnius**, 18 June).

Cybercrime

[Benin, Fiji and Kiribati](#) acceded to the [Budapest Convention on Cybercrime](#) (ETS 185) during a Treaty ceremony held on the margins of the T-CY Plenary (18-20 June 2024). With these new accessions, 75 States are now Parties to the Convention.

[Benin](#) acceded to the [Additional Protocol to the Convention on cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems](#) (ETS 189) becoming its 36 Party.

[The Czech Republic and Sierra Leone](#) signed the [Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on enhanced co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence](#) (CETS 224). With these, 46 States have signed it, two of which are already Parties.

Steering Committee meetings of [GLACY-e](#) and [CyberSEE](#) as well as [Planning Meeting of the CyberEast+](#) project also took place within the framework of the T-CY Plenary. Launching event of the [CyberSPEX](#) project was held on 20 and 21 June in Strasbourg.

Criminal law and Counter-terrorism

The PC-ENV held its 4th meeting on 4-7 June 2024 at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The Committee made substantial progress in the negotiations leading to the **approval of the final text of the draft Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law**. The final text of the draft Convention contains provisions that will help states to prevent, prosecute and sanction the most serious criminal offences, such as pollution, hazardous waste, trading in wildlife species and the disruption of protected habitats. A provision titled "particularly serious offence" covering conduct akin to what is sometimes described as "ecocide" has been included as well.

The 5th and final meeting of the PC-ENV will be held from 7 to 9 October 2024 at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. It will be dedicated to discussing and approving the Explanatory Memorandum.



The European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) convened its [85th Plenary meeting](#) in Strasbourg, under the Chairmanship of Mr Fritz Zeder (**Austria**). During the meeting the CDPC welcomed the significant advancements made by the Council for Penological Co-operation ([PC-CP](#)) and the Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters ([PC-OC](#)) and other committees under the CDPC.

A session was devoted to discussions on the countering of smuggling of migrants.

The 29th Council of Europe Annual Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS): "Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law at the Heart of Prisons and Probation" was held in Sofia, **Bulgaria** on 24 and 25 June 2024. It was hosted by and co-organised with the General Directorate for the Execution of Sanctions, Ministry of Justice, **Bulgaria**.

The Conference, opened by Maria Pavlova, Minister of Justice and Hanne Juncher, Director of Security, Integrity and Rule of law, was held in plenary sessions and in six workshops. The workshops dealt with autonomy of prisoners, combating organised crime groups; net-

widening in probation; managing returnees and their families; the role of victims in the rehabilitation process; and dealing with life-long sentences and high security regimes.

The Conference was attended by more than 170 participants, Directors General of prison and probation services of the Council of Europe member and observer States as well as by representatives of the United Nations, the European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris), the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) and the Confederation of European Probation (CEP). It was also attended by renown researchers, professionals and NGOs working in the field. The complete list of participants, its programme and presentations can be found on the following website: <http://www.coe.int/cdpps2024>. During the same period, the Probation Statistics for 2023 (SPACE II) were also published and can be found at www.coe.int/prison.



Group of States against Corruption

Groupe d'États contre la corruption

On 18 June 2024, the **Secretary General** of the Council of Europe addressed the 21st International Anti-corruption Conference (IACC) held in Vilnius, Lithuania ([Speech](#)).

To mark its 25th anniversary, on 20 June, GRECO organised a special session during its **97th plenary** meeting (Strasbourg, 17 – 21 June) aiming to take stock of its achievements and to examine the challenges ahead in preventing and combatting corruption. Addressing the GRECO plenary, **Deputy Secretary General** Bjørn Berge said: *“For a quarter of a century now, GRECO’s monitoring reports have gone to the very heart of the way in which the state functions. And their follow-up has been defined by a steady persistence in reminding members of their obligations. Moving forward, what remains important is that GRECO continues to ensure its high level of scrutiny and expectations of its members.”* The [list of decisions](#) of the 97th plenary meeting is public.

GRECO has published the 5th Evaluation Round Compliance Report on [Greece](#), the 5th Evaluation Round Second Compliance Report on [Croatia](#), both dealing with preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments and law enforcement agencies. Under this round, a delegation comprising four GRECO evaluators (**Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, and the United States of America**) and the secretariat carried out an on-site visit to San Marino from 24-28 June 2024.

Economic crime and corruption

MONEYVAL and Criminal Asset Recovery Division

Following the 67th Plenary meeting held from 21 to 24 May 2024, **MONEYVAL** published 5th Round follow up reports on the [Republic of Moldova](#), [the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar](#) and [Hungary](#).

A MONEYVAL delegation, led by its President Mr Nicola Muccioli, took an active part in the FATF plenary and working groups meetings held in Singapore from 22 to 28 June 2024. The delegation officially welcomed the new FATF President, Ms Elisa de Anda Madrazo (Mexico), and contributed to a number of the FATF workstreams, including strengthening of the FATF and FSRBs coordination and cooperation, changes in the FATF methodology, ensuring a consistent and coherent approach to EU Supranational measures, as well as the discussions on the FATF mutual evaluation reports.

The delegation also closely followed the processes of the International Co-operation Review Group (**ICRG**), in respect of MONEYVAL members which are currently subject to the ICRG processes (**Bulgaria, Croatia, Monaco**).

MONEYVAL contributed to an AML/CFT conference organised by the Bankers Association for Central and Eastern Europe (**Budapest**, 17 June 2024), presenting developments in the regulation and supervision of virtual assets service providers, including an overview of findings of MONEYVAL's typologies report.

The Chair of the **Committee of Experts on Criminal Asset Recovery (PC-RAC)**, Mr. Cornel Virgiliu Călinescu (**Romania**), participated in the 85th Plenary meeting of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) (17 - 19 June 2024) and presented the workplan of the PC-RAC as well as the key discussion points and [decisions](#) taken at the first meeting (29 to 31 May 2024).

Economic Crime and Cooperation (ECCD)

Within the Lithuanian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, the ECCD organised a multi-country conference on AML/CFT supervision of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) and Virtual Assets Service Providers (VASPs). The event brought together AML/CFT supervisory authorities from 22 Council of Europe member States – including **Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Spain and Türkiye and Kosovo***ⁱ.

Albanian Financial Intelligence Agency was supported in conducting an inclusive consultation process with responsible authorities, key stakeholders and international partners aimed at finetuning the National Strategy on Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing 2024-2030 and its Action Plan.

Representatives of NGOs of **Armenia** benefited from capacity-building sessions on whistleblowing protection aimed to bolster their training competences on international standards relating to protection of whistleblowers, enforcement challenges and ways to enhance whistleblower protection and accountability.

The **Bulgarian** Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) received support in organising awareness-raising activities for various sectors of obliged entities – VASPs and DNFBPs on ML/TF risks, trends, and typologies, reporting suspicious transactions, and implementing Targeted Financial Sanctions.

Law enforcement agents, investigators and prosecutors of **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan** participated in a training on investigation of economic crimes involving virtual assets.

Members of the Analytical Coordination Team in **Kosovo*** benefited from a peer-to-peer exchange with their counterparts in Albania regarding lessons learned and challenges during implementation of the ML/TF National Risk Assessment based on the Council of Europe Methodology.

Finalised the process of money laundering and terrorist financing risk assessment of legal entities in **Tajikistan** and submitted the draft report for adoption by the relevant authorities.

AML/CTF supervisory authorities in **Ukraine**, including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice and National Securities and Stock Market Commission, benefited from expert advice and recommendations on technologies and IT solutions for improving risk-based supervision over DNFBPs.

Social Rights



The Council of Europe's Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSCEO) held its 25th meeting on **13 June 2024** in Strasbourg, with virtual participation via Zoom. The network brings together 11 Member States* of the Council of Europe and is complementary to the EU's MISSOC network. These are useful tools that relate to two Council of Europe treaties, the European Code of Social Security and the European

Social Charter (Art 12).

At the meeting, MISSCEO correspondents discussed recent developments on social protection in the respective countries. The meeting aimed to set the stage for future collaborations and outline upcoming projects and priorities.

* Members of MISSCEO: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, Türkiye, Ukraine

A new [Complaint No. 241/2024](#), **International Movement ATD - Fourth World v. Spain** (*text in French - original in [Spanish](#)*) was registered on **4 June 2024**.

ATD Fourth World alleges that certain provisions of Law 19/2021 on the minimum subsistence income (LIMV) lay down requirements for granting and for the continued payment of benefits which breach of several provisions of [the Charter](#). In particular, ATD Fourth World complains about the inadequacy of the budget allocated to this benefit, the age or legal residence requirements, the time limits for granting benefits and the annual review procedures, which sometimes lead to demand for restitution of payments, thus exacerbating the vulnerable situation of some beneficiaries. ATD Fourth World alleges that the LIMV and its application exacerbate the discriminatory treatment of the most disadvantaged people in society.

Reykjavik Process and Environment



The Bureau to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention held its second meeting of 2024 on 20-21 June 2024 online, under the presidency of Ms Merike Linnamägi (**Estonia**).

The Bureau assessed progress in the implementation of the Convention's [Programme of Activities for 2024](#) and the state of preparation of upcoming meetings and processes, including the ongoing Reykjavik process, financing of the Bern Convention, Groups of Expert's meetings, and the Kresna Technical Workshop. The Bureau also took note of a new complaint against **France** concerning an alleged insufficient protection of the Hermann's tortoise. Finally, the Bureau adopted comments on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2273 (2024) – "Towards Council of Europe strategies for healthy seas and oceans to counter the climate crisis."

The 5th Conference of the Transnational exchange platform for the management of large carnivores in the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos region took place on 11-13 June 2024 in Sofia, hosted at the Ministry of Environment and Water of **Bulgaria**. The involvement of the Bern Convention contributed to the monitoring of the implementation of its Standing Committee recommendations on the conservation of large carnivores. Sharing of good practice in the monitoring of the protected species populations was of an added value to the policy makers, researchers and practitioners from all the participating countries.

Health, detention and addiction

Pompidou Group

On 11 and 26 June respectively, the Pompidou Group participated in the launching events of the 2024 European Drug Report (by the EMCDDA in Lisbon, **Portugal**) and the 2024 World Drug Report (by the UNODC in Vienna, **Austria**).

[On 12 June, the policy paper on "Strategies and regulatory options aimed at reducing risks and harms related to online gaming and online gambling"](#) was adopted by Permanent Correspondents by silent procedure after their 94th meeting on 30 May (Naples, **Italy**). The document will be presented to the GR-SOC on 9 July, with a view to its transmission to the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) and the subsequent preparation of a draft Recommendation to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2025. In parallel, the report on "[Risks and Harms associated with Online Gaming and Gambling](#)" prepared by the expert group on new forms of addictions was published.

During the PACE summer session on 25 June the Pompidou Group, together with the CoE Sport Division and the PACE Committee on culture, science, education and media, organised a hearing on 'Addiction to sport betting'. This joint event addressed the raising threat, especially for young people, from both dimensions – sport and addictions side, thus emphasizing the need to tackle these issues in an urgent manner.

On 26 June, the Italian Presidency of the Pompidou Group published the statement below on the occasion of the "International Drug Day":

[Statement by the Italian Presidency on the occasion of the "International Drug Day" \(26 June 2024\): - Pompidou Group \(coe.int\)](#)

Medicrime - Trafficking in Human Organs and Cultural property

An [International Seminar](#) on the fight against offences Relating to Cultural Property was organised by the Nicosia Secretariat in Zaragoza (**Spain**) (20-21 June 2024). This event aimed at both promoting the signature and ratification of the [Nicosia Convention](#) among countries and advocating the work implemented by them to protect their cultural heritage from crimes covered by the Nicosia Convention. On this occasion, an informal group of national contact points was set up, the *Aragon Group*.

The Nicosia Convention was presented at the seminars held in **Bosnia-Herzegovina** and **Northern Macedonia** (12 and 17 June 2024) as part of a EU-UNESCO project in the Western Balkans.

The [MEDICRIME convention](#) was presented at a Workshop within the [African University on Youth and Development \(AUJD\)](#) organised within the North South Centre Activities in **Cabo Verde** (24 June 2024).

Co-operation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty (CPDL)

Between 4 and 6 June, a group of high-level representatives of the Directorate General of Prisons and Detention Houses of **Türkiye** visited Spain to learn about good practices regarding discipline and reward procedures for prisoners, especially the innovative and effective respect modules designed to foster a culture of respect and dignity among inmates, promoting a fair and transparent system.

On 10 June, the Faculty of Law at the Yerevan State University discussed with the Council of Europe new avenues of cooperation between probation services of **Armenia** and its academic institutions, which would allow the former to rely on the latest research findings in effective crime management through rehabilitation and the use of new technologies.

Also on 10 June, a new systemic reintegration programme for persons serving long prison sentences was presented to treatment prison officers from several regions of **Serbia**. The programme's focus is on preparation for release from the first day of imprisonment, which allows a gradual development of essential life skills that offenders need to rebuild their lives in liberty.

Psychologists and social staff of the Ali Demi prison, the only women's prison in **Albania**, are ready to introduce trauma-informed therapy for female prisoners who require help in managing their trauma triggers and achieving post-traumatic emotional recovery and growth in a prison environment, after a training held on 10-11 June in Tirana.

Partial agreement on the COE Development Bank (CEB)

On the 6-9 June **Iceland** hosted the 57th annual Joint Meeting of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) to discuss the role of the Bank in supporting its member states in disaster risk management as well as Climate Change and a Just Transition.

The meeting was preceded by the CEB Award for Social Cohesion. The winner (€45,000) and 2 runners-up (€5,000 each) are selected by an international Jury of experts based on the criteria of impact, sustainability and innovation/replicability. This year, the Jury was presided over by Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General, Human Rights and the Rule of Law. The winner of this year's Award was the Warsaw Ukrainian School, known as SzkoUA, for its outstanding work supporting the integration of refugee children from **Ukraine**.

Chairperson of the Governing Board Ambassador Harry Alex Rusz, Chairperson of the Administrative Council Wioletta Barwicka Lofthouse, Icelandic Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Sigurður Ingi Jóhannesson, Deputy Secretary General Bjørn Berge and Governor of the CEB Carlo Monticelli opened the Joint meeting. In his opening remarks, Deputy Secretary General highlighted the fact that the meeting was taking place just one year after heads of state and government met for the Council of Europe Summit in Reykjavik, giving a "new and focused impetus" to address challenges facing the continent. He stressed the importance of the Council of Europe's collective capacity to meet the priorities set out at the Summit, with the Council of Europe Development Bank playing a decisive and crucial role at a period of political and social strain in many parts of the continent.

Venice Commission

On 21-22 June, the Venice Commission held its [139th Plenary Session](#) in **Venice**, with an agenda that included 17 opinions concerning eight countries (**Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, and Poland**), [published](#) on the Venice Commission website.

From 20 May to 02 June, a [delegation](#) of the Venice Commission travelled to **Mexico City** in the framework of the 2024 federal electoral process of Mexico. The Venice Commission delegation participated both in the **Electoral Justice Forum for Foreign Visitors** organised by the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF) on 28 and 29 May, and in the **Foreign Visitors Program** organised by the National Electoral Institute and the TEPJF.

On 05 June, the President of the Venice Commission held a [meeting](#) in Strasbourg with Mr Miroslav Lajčák, **EU Special Representative** for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues. On this occasion they exchanged on their respective activities.

On 06 June, the President of the Venice Commission, met in Strasbourg with Mr Adam Bodnar, the Minister of Justice of **Poland**, to discuss the legal reforms planned by the Polish

government and the ongoing cooperation between the Venice Commission and the Ministry of Justice.

On 11 June, the joint EU/Council of Europe **Central Asia** Rule of Law Programme 2020-2024, financed by the Council of Europe and the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe, held its [Closing Regional Conference](#) in **Astana, Kazakhstan**.

On 12-13 June, the Venice Commission and the Ministry of Justice of the **Kingdom of Morocco** organised a [seminar](#) on the exception of unconstitutionality of laws in Salé, Morocco. The seminar brought together around 50 participants from the Ministry of Justice, other ministries, ordinary judges and representatives of academia and the bar as well as a delegation from the Venice Commission led by its Vice-President, Ms. Marta Cartabia.

On 25 June, the President of the Venice Commission, Ms Claire Bazy Malaurie, held a [meeting](#) in Strasbourg with Mr Volker Türk, **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**. On this occasion they exchanged on their respective activities and discussed potential synergies and avenues for future cooperation.

On 27 June, the Vice-President of the Commission, Ms Veronika Bilkova participated in two joint hearings organised by PACE in Strasbourg on: "Regulating foreign influence: best practices and European standards", and "Examining the legitimacy and legality of the ad hominem term-limit waiver for the incumbent President of the Russian Federation".

Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine

The Board of the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine convened for its third meeting in **The Hague** from 10 to 14 June 2024. The Board adopted rules and claim forms related to twelve categories of claims, concerning the death and disappearance of immediate family members, involuntary internal displacement, various types of damage and destruction of property, as well as damage and destruction of Ukraine's critical infrastructure. Some of these categories will be open to claims from legal entities and the State of Ukraine. Once the new rules and claim forms are approved by the Conference of Participants, the Register will open for the submission of claims in the new categories via the Diia digital system and implement the new rules.

On 18 June 2024, the Register of Damage and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities held an event in **Kyiv** to kick off preparations for an awareness raising campaign aimed at involving representatives of Ukrainian cities and regions in promoting the Register's mandate and the process of submitting claims. An information session was organised for Ukrainian local and regional authorities, dedicated to the operations of the Register, with the participation of the Ukrainian delegation to the Congress and representatives of the national associations of local and regional authorities in Ukraine. It was organised as part of the project "[Strengthening multi-level governance, democracy and human rights at local level in Ukraine](#)" implemented within the [Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" for 2023-2026](#).

ⁱ * All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.