



NEWSLETTER

DG Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI)

November 2023

CPT

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) held its 112th plenary meeting from 6 to 10 November 2023 during which, it adopted the reports on its periodic visits to Albania (May 2023), Cyprus (May 2023), Estonia (May-June 2023) and Hungary (March 2023) and on its ad hoc visit to monitor the treatment of foreign nationals during a Frontex-supported return flight from Germany to Pakistan (September 2023).

The Committee published 2 reports in November 2023: the report of its periodic visit to Croatia in September 2022, together with the response of the Croatian authorities and its report on the September 2022 visit to San Marino, accompanied by the response from the Sanmarinese authorities.

The Committee also published the response of the Moldovan authorities to the report on the Committee's December 2022 ad hoc visit to Moldova which was published on 13 September 2023.

Venice Commission

In November the Commission was engaged in the preparation of the following:

- **Armenia** - Joint opinion with DGI on the Concept Paper concerning the reform of the Ethics and Disciplinary Committee of the General Assembly of Judges;
- **Georgia** – Joint opinion with ODIHR on the draft amendments to the Election Code and to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament; Opinion on the Law on the Special Investigation Service and on the provisions of the Law on Personal Data Protection concerning the Personal Data Protection Service; Opinion on the provisions of the Law on the Fight against Corruption concerning the Anti-Corruption Bureau.
- **Kosovo**^{*i} - Follow-up opinion to the previous opinions concerning amendments to the Law on the Prosecutorial Council;
- **Republic of Moldova** – Joint follow-up opinion with ODIHR to the joint opinion on amendments to the Electoral Code and other related laws concerning ineligibility of persons connected to political parties declared unconstitutional; *Amicus curiae* brief on the ineligibility of persons connected to political parties declared unconstitutional;
- **Ukraine** - *Amicus curiae* brief relating to additional sanctions for committing an administrative offence;
- Study related to the interim opinion on Article 49.3 of the Constitution of **France**;
- **Reports** on Judicial Appointments (update) and on Judicial Councils.

Also the Commission conducted country visits and online meetings in the framework of the preparation of the above-mentioned opinions on [Armenia](#) (online, 8 November), [Georgia](#)

(Tbilisi, 15-17 November) and on the joint opinion on electoral law concerning the [Republic of Moldova](#) (online, 22-24 November).

On 8 November, the President of the Commission, Ms Claire Bazy Malaurie, [exchanged views with the Committee of Ministers](#), specifically on the impact of the Commission's work. Also on 10 November Ms Bazy Malaurie delivered an opening speech at the Conference of the Presidents of Constitutional Jurisdictions of EU Member States, organised by the **EU** Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders in Brussels.



The Advisory Group of Experts (AGE), set up to assist the Ukrainian authorities in evaluating the moral qualities and professional competences of candidate judges of the Constitutional Court, [held its first official meeting on 12 November in Lviv, Ukraine](#). It was organised by the Constitutional Court, the EU, the USAID and the Venice Commission (cf. photo).

On 15-16 November a delegation of the Commission headed by its Vice-President Mr Michael Frendo, and also composed of Ms S. Granata-Menghini, Director, Secretary of the Commission and Mr E. Holmøyvik, Norwegian Member, conducted [high level meetings](#) with the Georgian authorities in Tbilisi, **Georgia**.

Lastly, on 3 November the Commission co-organised with the University of Barcelona the [4th Scientific Electoral Experts Debates](#) on the stability of electoral law in Barcelona, **Spain**. Also, the 17th UniDem Med seminar on [Digital transformation and artificial intelligence : rules and applications](#) was co-organised by the Commission and the Ministry of Digital Transition and Reform of the Administration of the Kingdom of **Morocco** on 21 – 22 November in Rabat.

Register of Damage for Ukraine

The Register of Damage for Ukraine is actively engaged in an ongoing process of recruiting staff and setting up its organisational structure, functions and facilities. In November, considerable attention was directed towards the organisation and holding of the third meeting of the Conference of Participants of the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The Conference, held on November 16 at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg, commenced by welcoming the accession of **Albania** to the Register as a Participant.

Regarding the main agenda item, the appointment of members of the Board, eighteen candidates were nominated by Participants and Associate Members. Following a secret ballot, seven candidates were elected and subsequently appointed for a three-year term, renewable once. The elected members include Ms Chiara Giorgetti (**Italy**), Mr Veijo Heiskanen (**Finland**), Ms. Yulia Kyrpa (**Ukraine**), Ms Aleksandra Mężykowska (**Poland**), Ms Lucy Reed (**United States**), Mr **Robert Spano** (Iceland), Mr **Norbert Wühler** (Germany).

The Conference also addressed various matters, including the approval of the budget for 2024 and for 2025 on a provisional basis. Additionally, the Executive Director of the Register presented an oral report to the Conference, highlighting the progress achieved since the 2nd meeting. Updates were provided on the permanent office space in The Hague, staff recruitment, IT and development of the Digital Platform of the Register, preparation for the commencement of the Board's work, outreach and engagement with International Organisations, NGO/CSO, and the interaction between the Register and Ukrainian registers.

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

Several activities were organised concerning the digitalisation of justice. The CEPEJ's European Cyberjustice Network held a [seminar on Digitalisation and AI in Criminal Justice](#). The 2023 [Cyberjustice Europe Conference](#) was co-organised with [IERDJ](#) (Paris), the [Cyberjustice Laboratory](#) (Montreal) and the [University of Strasbourg](#). The conference brought together more than 150 participants to discuss the impact of technology on justice and human rights. The [TJENI](#) project organised a [Hackathon](#) titled "[Digital Future of Justice](#)". The [Enhancing Subsidiarity project](#) supported the 7th webinar of the Superior Courts Network on AI.

The taskforce of CEPEJ pilot courts met to continue developing a tool on the length of the stages of civil proceedings. The CEPEJ ran trainings on the functioning of courts, collection of data, and judicial communication in **Albania**, the **Republic of Moldova**, **Georgia**, and in **Kosovo***. In **Hungary**, it ran a regional event on case flow data and court efficiency while in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** two court coaching visits were organised.

A new joint **EU-CoE** project in **Malta** was launched to support re-organisation of the offices of the Attorney General and State Advocate. In other projects, recent activities include: **Armenia** - a [mediation training programme](#); **Bosnia and Herzegovina** - consultations on the length of court proceedings; **Republic of Moldova** - two [trainings](#) on migration; **Serbia** - a [conference](#) for the 60th anniversary of the Constitutional Court; **Türkiye** - Symposiums on [Family law](#) and [mediation](#), trainings [on migration](#), [individual constitutional application procedure](#); **Ukraine** - trainings for [police officers](#) and [investigators and prosecutors](#), a senior-level event in Warsaw on the reform of judicial self-governance; **Kosovo***- a [workshop](#) and a [HELP Training of Tutors](#).

A [HELP Training-of-Trainers](#) (ToT) was organised in the **EU-CoE** project "Judicial Training on Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights". The new course on the [ECHR, ESC and EU Charter Interplay](#) was [launched](#) with representatives from ECtHR, CJEU and CDDH. HELP courses were launched including face-to-face in **Ukraine** ([Prohibition of Ill-treatment](#), [Human Rights in the Armed Forces](#) and, with the presence of the Ukrainian Vice-Prime-Minister, [Internal Displacement](#)), in **Spain** (Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and Introduction to the ECHR), **Republic of Moldova** (Cybercrime and Data Protection) and in **North Macedonia** (Combatting trafficking and Child-friendly Justice). HELP was presented at the **German-Swiss** Judges Academies' bi-annual seminar and the [CCBE](#) Plenary session.

Death Penalty: A Forum talk was dedicated to "the death penalty as a tool of terror" took place on 7 November during the last World Forum for Democracy. After the screening of the film "7 winters in Teheran", participants had the opportunity to exchange on this theme with the mother of a victim of the death penalty, the director of the film, and the director of the world coalition against the death penalty.

Execution of Judgments of the ECtHR

The Department for the Execution of Judgments participated in an online meeting of the Working Group on the National Execution Strategy and Action Plan for the Execution of Judgments and Decisions of the ECtHR by **Azerbaijan**. The meeting focused on establishing an effective legislative framework, improving coordination, resolving the backlog, enhancing domestic monitoring by Parliament as well as the Commissioner for Human Rights of Azerbaijan, and ensuring adequate training for all stakeholders.

The Department carried out a mission to **Croatia** to discuss with the authorities (incl. the Minister of Justice, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Minister of Physical Planning) the execution of cases on excessive length of civil proceedings, poor conditions of detention, and the long-standing issue of statutory limitations on the landlords' use of flats subject to protected tenancy. The delegation met with the Supreme Court, the State Attorney's Office, and the Council of Experts for the Execution of Judgments. It also participated in the meeting of the **PACE Sub-Committee** on implementation of judgments of the ECtHR, held in the Croatian Parliament, with regard to the role of PACE and national parliamentarians in implementing ECtHR judgments.

The Department participated at the 6th regional meeting in **Copenhagen** of National Preventive Mechanisms and Civil Society Organisations of the OSCE region on mental health in detention. It also took part in the Annual Trial Monitoring Meeting in **Skopje**, organised by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The Department participated in a meeting with representatives of the **Georgian state institutions** and civil society on the Draft National Strategy and Action Plan for Execution of ECtHR Judgments.

The Department also participated in a roundtable in **Athens** on the functioning of the new remedy in respect of poor conditions of detention. It also met with representatives of the investigative and prosecutorial bodies of **Ukraine** to discuss the measures required for effective prevention and investigation of ill-treatment in the context of the execution of the *Kaverzin* group of cases.

The Director of Human Rights and the Department held a videoconference with the newly-appointed Deputy State Secretary in the **Hungarian Ministry of Justice**, the Government Agent's Office and the Permanent Representation on the most important cases pending execution.

Social Rights



As its mandate is coming to an end, the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS) held an informal consultation on **9 November** in Strasbourg, France, and by videoconference. It finalised Draft Declarations on Social Cohesion at the Crossroads and on Preserving Social Cohesion in the Transition to a Green Economy.

On **9 - 10 November**, the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) visited Denmark with the aim of promoting the acceptance of the revised European Social Charter, as well as of the 1995 Additional Protocol providing for a system of collective complaints and the 1991 Amending Protocol of the European Social Charter reforming the supervisory mechanism.

On **23 November**, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights intervened on the implementation of the obligations of the Czech Republic as a State Party to the European Social Charter during a Conference organised by the Office of the Government Agent of the Czech Republic, in its capacity as representative of the Czech Republic in proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights, the European Committee on Social Rights and the UN Human Rights Committee.

The Council of Europe project "Enhancing Employment Rights in the Republic of Moldova" organised a workshop on **22 November 2023**, aiming at enhancing the dialogue between the Ombudsperson Institution, the Equality Council and the European Social Charter monitoring bodies for ensuring a better monitoring of the observance of social and economic rights, including of persons from vulnerable groups in the country.

Police, Detention, Drugs and Addictions

Pompidou Group

The third hybrid prison staff training was co-organised with the Health Centre of the State-Criminal Executive Service of Ukraine on 6-7 Novembre. 15 participants working in **Lutsk** and **Rivne** prisons were equipped with the necessary theoretical knowledge along with the right tools and evidence-based practices to successfully start and run treatment in line with international standards. The training was organised in the context of the Pompidou Group's assistance to **Ukraine** in the rollout of Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) in prison since 2018, and with the support of the Joint Project "European Union and Council of Europe working together to support the Prison Reform in Ukraine Plus" (SPERU+ Project).

The MedNET network of the Pompidou Group held its 29th Steering Committee meeting on 8 November at the Council of Europe Headquarters in Strasbourg. The 7 Southern Mediterranean countries (**Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine*¹ and Tunisia**) presented the state of progress of the projects carried out in 2023 with the support of MedNET and presented their activity proposals for 2024. After holding the presidency of the network between 2022 and 2023, Cyprus handed it over to **Morocco** for 2024 and 2025.

The 93rd meeting of Permanent Correspondents took place in **Strasbourg** on 9-10 November 2023. Among many points on the agenda, member states had an opportunity to discuss the Pompidou Groups' follow-up activities to the Reykjavik Summit; to have exchanges with representatives of the Istanbul Convention to combat violence against women and domestic violence and the Anti-Doping Convention; to address the topic of addictions facilitated by technologies and online practices and to share recent developments in drug policy at national and international levels.

In the framework of the Project "Developing A Drug Prevention Support Network for Parents and Professionals in Georgia", representatives of the Georgian state agencies and institutions within the Inter-Agency Coordination Council on Anti-Drug Policy gathered for a two-day workshop to discuss and develop the 2nd National Action Plan on Drug Prevention for 2024-2026 in **Borjomi, Georgia**. As a result, the draft Action Plan has been prepared to be adopted by the Inter-Agency Council in early 2024.

Co-operation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty

On 9-10 November in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** representatives from ministries of justice of all levels in the country, prisons and centres for social welfare validated the results of piloting the tools and programmes for preparing violent extremist prisoners for release and agreed on their future use by prison staff.

On 28 and 29 November, a multilateral meeting of prison and probation officials in **Strasbourg** was dedicated to the topic of refocusing the process of execution of criminal sanctions from a punitive to a rehabilitative approach, where an eponymous study of measures introduced in selected countries was presented.

A conference "Preventing radicalisation and violent extremism in the criminal justice system and beyond" on 29 November in Lisbon brought together prison professionals from the **Western Balkans** region and other Southern and Eastern European countries. Co-organised by the Council of Europe and the HOPE (Holistic Radicalisation Prevention

¹ **This name should not be interpreted as recognition of a State of Palestine, without prejudice to the position of each Council of Europe member state on this issue.*

Initiative) project, it contributed to the building of synergies between the Council of Europe and other international community led initiatives in the Western Balkans on the management, rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist prisoners.

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

Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation

The [Access Info Group](#) at its [4th meeting](#) (14-16 November) approved a draft first baseline evaluation report on the implementation of the [Tromsø Convention](#) by the first 11 Parties to the convention, which has then been transmitted to those Parties for comments.

The Steering Committee for Human Rights ([CDDH](#)) at its [99th meeting](#) (28 November – 1 December) approved a draft Committee of Ministers Toolkit for human rights impact assessment of the measures taken by the State in situations of crisis and adopted a Report on issues relating to judges of the European Court of Human Rights. It also, i.a., held an exchange of views on implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)1 on National Human Rights institutions, and took decisions on the organisation of its future work in the light of its new terms of reference.

Legal Co-operation

During its 101st meeting (15-17 November), the European Committee on Legal Co-operation ([CDCJ](#)) provided guidance to the Committee of Experts on the Protection of Lawyers (CJ-AV) for its work on a draft convention on the protection of the profession of lawyer. The CDCJ and the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) jointly approved a draft Committee of Ministers' recommendation on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings and its explanatory memorandum. The CDCJ also took decisions on the organisation of its future work, including as regards the thematic follow-up to the Report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Plan of Action on Strengthening Judicial Independence and Impartiality. The CDCJ [guide for practitioners on the administrative detention of migrants and asylum seekers](#) has now been published.

Human Rights and Biomedicine

On 14 November, a [conference](#) on "Promoting autonomy in healthcare practice", was held under the auspices of the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, showcasing examples of human rights-based responses in mental health care. At its 4th meeting (Riga, 15-17 November), the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO) adopted a [Guide to children's participation in decisions about their health](#), jointly developed with the CDENF.

Information Society

Media

On 6-7 November the CDMSI Bureau [25th meeting](#) examined final drafts of the subordinate expert committees and held an exchange of views on the future work of the CDMSI. On 29-30 November [the CDMSI 24th plenary meeting](#) approved the draft Recommendation on countering the use of strategic litigation against public participation; adopted the draft Guidance Note on countering the spread of online mis- and disinformation through fact-checking and platform design solutions in a human rights compliant manner and the draft Guidelines on the responsible implementation of AI in journalism; and endorsed the report on Good practices for sustainable media financing. The CDMSI also discussed about

the [Extended Implementation Guide to the Recommendation CM/Rec\(2016\)4](#) on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors published on the occasion of the launch of the Campaign for the Safety of Journalists.

Cooperation on Freedom of Expression

Ukraine's (SFEM) project, carried a [training for judges of administrative courts on access to public information](#) and a bilateral meeting with the Ukrainian Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine on the challenges during the war time. In **Moldova**, [PROM-MD](#) project supported [young filmmakers, participating at the annual Council of Europe Human Rights Documentary School](#). Also in the **Republic of Moldova**, about 240 professionals were trained on the newly adopted Law on Access to Information. [PRO-M-FEX](#) project in **Azerbaijan** completed two comprehensive studies related to the implementation of the newly enacted Law on Media, and the Law on Personal Data Protection. [FREX-PLUME](#) continued its support to the General Authority of Monitoring Media Content of **Libya** [on the institution's strategy and operational plan](#). In **Morocco**, representatives of the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication, media professionals and regulatory authority discussed issues on media in the digital age. Within [HF 3' PRO-FREX](#) 38 legal professionals and law enforcement officials were trained on [hate speech and antigypsism](#) in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**; 47 trained on [safety and the protection of journalists](#), and [legal protection of freedom of expression online](#) in **Kosovo***. A Study on the legal framework of the Media regulator of **Serbia** was [published](#); in **Kosovo*** legal advice was provided to the IMC on the draft law. A [workshop](#) towards mapping information disorder took place in **Serbia** with journalists' associations. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, a [technical paper](#) reviewing relevant standards and reporting obligations on freedom of expression was published under [EEx](#).

Artificial Intelligence

On 7 November, CAI Secretary Mr Bartholin updated the OECD Working Party on AI Governance about the state of negotiations in the committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI). On 8 November, the CAI Bureau held its 8th meeting in hybrid format and the Informal Drafting Group of the CAI met in hybrid format on 14 and 22 November. The Chair of the CAI, Ambassador Schneider (**CH**), gave a keynote speech on the Framework Convention on AI at the New York University (**USA**) Law Conference "AI, Crime, Security and International Regulation" on 9 November and made a presentation to the members of the Superior Courts Network at the European Court of Human Rights on the topic of global governance of AI on 16 November. The Digital Development Unit also participated in a capacity building workshop on "Forecasting and new technologies in asylum governance" organised by the European Migration Network in **Luxembourg** on 7 November and the panel on the regulation of AI in the sphere of justice in the conference "Cyberjustice Europe 2023" jointly organised by the Cyberjustice Laboratory (**Canada**) and the Council of Europe on 24 November.

Data Protection



On 16 November, **San Marino** ratified [Protocol CETS No.223](#) thus becoming the 31st country to join [Convention 108+](#). At its [45th Plenary meeting](#), the Committee of Convention 108 adopted the [2nd Module of the Model Contractual Clauses](#). Elsa Mein, the [Chair of the Committee of Convention 108](#), took part in the [17th UniDem Seminar](#) in Rabat (**Morocco**). Patrick Penninckx, Head of the

Information Society Department, took part in a panel dedicated to Convention 108+ in the 5th edition of the [Privacy Symposium Africa](#) and, together with the Data Protection Unit, he

also participated in the 2023 edition of the International Intelligence Oversight Forum (IIOF) in Washington (**USA**).

Cybercrime

The Cybercrime Programme Office supported more than [30 activities](#) that involved the following countries in **Africa**: Benin, Botswana Cape Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Sao Tome and Principe, Zambia; in **Asia-Pacific**: Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Vanuatu; in the **Eastern partnership region**: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine; in **LATAM region**: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uruguay); in the **Western Balkans** and **Türkiye**: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye and Kosovo*; and in the region of the **Southern Neighbourhood**: Jordan, Lebanon. Assessment of the implementation of Article 19 (search and seizure of stored computer data) of the Convention on Cybercrime continued and first draft of the assessment report was shared with T-CY members in November. Good Practice Study entitled "Implementing the First Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on Xenophobia and Racism" was prepared by the Octopus Project.

GRECO AND ACTION AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIME



[Group of States against Corruption](#)

[Groupe d'États contre la corruption](#)

GRECO carried out evaluation visits to [Andorra](#) and [Monaco](#) (5th evaluation round - preventing corruption and promoting integrity in the central government and in law enforcement). During its 95th [Plenary Meeting](#) on 27 November – 1 December 2023, GRECO adopted evaluation reports relating to the 5th evaluation round on the **Republic of Moldova, Türkiye** and the **United States of America** and compliance reports on **Denmark, Malta, Slovak Republic and Spain**. It also adopted 9 compliance reports relating to the 4th evaluation round (corruption among MPs, judges and prosecutors) on **Cyprus, France, Greece, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Portugal, Serbia Malta, Romania, and Switzerland**.

GRECO published the Second Compliance Report on [Austria](#) relating to the 4th evaluation round and the Second Compliance Report on [Sweden](#), relating to the 5th evaluation round. A member of the GRECO Secretariat spoke at the 22nd Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly of the European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) and European contact-point network against corruption (EACN), held in Dublin on 2-3 November 2023.

MONEYVAL and Criminal Asset Recovery Division

The Conference "Future of AML: building resilience in the evolving financial crime environment" organized within the framework of the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers jointly with MONEYVAL from 6 to 7 November 2023 brought together over 200 experts from member States of the Council of Europe and beyond, representatives of European and international organisations, private sector and civil society.

In November, Ela Franków-Jaśkiewicz, MONEYVAL Chair, spoke at the International Forum "Financial Monitoring 2023" (online, **Ukraine**) and at the Conference "Sanctions: the increasing role of regulation in the AML process (**Poland**)". Richard Walker, Vice-Chair of MONEYVAL contributed as a panelist at the MFSA Conference Against Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism which gathered hundreds of stakeholders from **Malta** and

beyond. The Secretariat contributed as a Trainer to the FATF standards training course 'Train the Trainers » in Busan, **Korea**.

The Conference of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention CETS no. 198 held its 15th meeting on 9-10 November. It adopted a thematic monitoring report in respect of **Estonia**, and follow-up reports on the implementation of Article 11 (Previous decisions) for **Montenegro**, the **Russian Federation**, **Serbia** and **Türkiye**, and on Article 25 (Confiscated property) for **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan**, **North Macedonia**, **San Marino**, and **Serbia**; and on Article 14 (Postponement of suspicious transactions) in respect of the **Russian Federation**. The newly elected Bureau is composed of Ms Oxana Gisca (**Republic of Moldova**) as President, Ms Claudia Elion (**The Netherlands**) as Vice-President, and Mr Azer Abbasov (**Azerbaijan**), Mr Aram Kirakossian (**Armenia**) and Mr Muhammed Karaca (**Türkiye**) as Bureau members.

Economic Crime and Cooperation

- Representatives of institutions from **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Kosovo***, **Kyrgyz Republic, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic** and **Türkiye** participated in a roundtable discussion which allowed them to share good practices and discuss challenges in the application of the Council of Europe money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) national and sectoral risk assessment methodologies.
- Representatives of Corruption Prevention Commission, national political parties, fractions of the National Assembly and civil society in **Armenia** benefited from a workshop on the improvement of the system of public funding of political parties and discussed the findings of a legislative review of the oversight and enforcement mechanism in this area.
- Investigators, judges, financial intelligence and other law enforcement practitioners in **Azerbaijan** benefited from a training focusing on enhancing their understanding on the implementation of targeted financial sanctions against terrorism and proliferation financing.
- **Estonian** and **Slovak** FIU staff benefited from practical training on Strategic Analysis of Money Laundering.
- Hands-on guidance and expert advice were provided to the staff of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption in **Kosovo*** through the mentoring programme by providing case-based and operational input on verification and auditing of asset declarations in line with international standards and good comparative practice.
- The **Slovak** authorities received training on data collection and analysis for their ML/TF National Risk Assessment (NRA) in application of the Council of Europe's NRA methodology
- Notaries in **Ukraine** benefited from a training on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing compliance, organised in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

CRIMINAL LAW, MEDICRIME AND COUNTER-TERRORISME

Criminal Law

The [Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters \(PC-OC\)](#) held its 84th meeting on 14-16 November 2023 and examined the application of the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters to co-operation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office, a 3rd Additional Protocol which will update this Convention, the development of guidance regarding the post-surrender phase in extradition proceedings, as well as the possible accession of the **Republic of Chile** to this Convention.

At its plenary meeting on 20-22 November, the [European Committee on Crime Problems \(CDPC\)](#) approved a draft CM Recommendation regarding the ethical and organizational aspects of the use of AI and related digital technologies by the prison and probation services and adopted its commentary. The CDPC and the [Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion \(CDADI\)](#) held a joint session to approve a new comprehensive draft Recommendation on preventing and combating hate crime, together with its explanatory memorandum. These two recommendations will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption in Spring 2024.

The subordinate bodies to the CDPC, that is the PC-CP, the PC-OC and PC-ENV reported on the work carried out in 2023. Exchanges of views and of information took place with other bodies such as the Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT), the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), MONEYVAL, MEDICRIME, the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDEF) and the Gender Equality Commission (GEC).

MEDICRIME, Trafficking in Human Organs and Cultural property



The [Slovak Republic](#) signed the MEDICRIME Convention (24 October). The Committee of the Parties to the MEDICRIME Convention organised its 7th Plenary meeting (28-29 November) in which 19 Parties out of 23 took part. A Guidance Note on the term "counterfeit" and a Strategy 2024-2025 were adopted. The 1st draft monitoring report devoted to the protection of public health in times of pandemic was discussed by Parties. Within the [CRIMFAMED](#)

Project, a voluntary contribution financed by **France**, different events were organised to promote the [MEDICRIME Convention](#): an experience-sharing meeting in Mombasa (**Kenya**) (7-9 November) with representatives from 5 African countries, a [conference in Brescia \(Italy\)](#) with all national actors fighting against falsified medical products (16-17 November) and a bilateral high-level meeting to domesticate the MEDICRIME Convention (30 November) with the authorities from **Côte d'Ivoire**.

Counter-Terrorism

On 6-7 November 2023, the [Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism \(CDCT\)](#) held the *International Conference on the Abuse of Livestreaming, Gaming and Virtual Reality Services and Platforms by Terrorist Actors*. The Conference focused on contemporary trends and emerging threats related to various digital technologies, from the "gamification" of terrorism to the use of livestreaming and video-sharing services by terrorists and violent extremists to broadcast and spread footage of terrorist attacks. The Conference programme and summary are available [here](#).

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