

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL COHESION (CCS)

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.

Type of committee: **Ad hoc Committee**

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2022 until 31 December 2025**⁴⁷

PILLAR/PROGRAMME/SUB-PROGRAMME ▼	
Pillar: Human Rights Programme: Social Rights Sub-programme: Social Rights	
MAIN TASKS ▼	
<p>Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS) will promote the Council of Europe's work in the area of social cohesion, in particular the European Social Charter and its collective complaints procedure in order to ensure equal and effective access to social rights.</p> <p>In particular, the CCS is instructed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) ensure the follow-up of the relevant decisions taken at the 131st Session of the Committee of Ministers (Hamburg, 21 May 2021),⁴⁸ and in particular contribute to the implementation of the key strategic priorities relating to its specific field of expertise as identified in the Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe, and respond to the respective key findings and challenges set out in the Secretary General's 2021 Report on the state of democracy, human rights and rule of law "A democratic renewal for Europe"; (ii) ensure the mainstreaming of social cohesion throughout the Council of Europe by further developing the concept, by contributing to impact assessments of the various activities in the different sectors with regard to achieving social cohesion, including the relevant activities aimed at building inclusive societies, and by promoting specific actions which contribute to social cohesion. Particular attention will be paid to ensuring that everyone can enjoy their social rights, as guaranteed by the European Social Charter and other relevant instruments, in practice and without any discrimination, with a special emphasis on vulnerable groups, persons with disabilities and young people, taking into account the findings of the relevant monitoring mechanisms. For this purpose, the CCS will support co-operation activities carried out upon the request of member States; (iii) foster the exchange of good practices and innovative approaches in the field of social cohesion among member States, as well as with relevant international organisations and other stakeholders; promote dialogue with the European Union, the United Nations and other international organisations, with a view to identifying opportunities for co-operation in the field of social cohesion; (iv) examine new trends in and challenges to social cohesion, in particular with regard to issues raised by the Covid-19 pandemic; (v) hold an exchange of views annually in order to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued; (vi) take due account of the following mainstreamed perspectives in the performance of its tasks: gender, youth, children's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and Roma and Traveller⁴⁹ issues; (vii) where relevant, contribute to strengthening the role and meaningful participation of civil society in its work; (viii) contribute to the achievement of, and review progress towards, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regards to Goal 1: No poverty; Goal 3: Good health and well-being; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and Goal 13: Climate action. 	
MAIN DELIVERABLES ▼	
<p>Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CCS is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadlines:</p>	
	<i>Deadline ▼</i>
1. Seminar for national policy makers, civil servants and other national stakeholders to follow-up the concept paper on the new trends and challenges to social cohesion in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic taking account of the European Committee of Social Rights' statements on "Covid-19 and social rights" and "The right to protection of health in times of pandemic"	31/12/2022
2. Report on transition to the green economy – social cohesion aspects: how the European green deal agenda interacts with the social cohesion	31/12/2022
3. Conference on transition of jobs: the platform economy and its impact on social cohesion	31/12/2023
4. Draft Recommendation on social cohesion enablers	31/12/2023
5. Analytical paper on social security as required under the European Social Charter and having regard to the European Code of Social Security, and minimum income	31/12/2024

⁴⁷ These terms of reference are approved for the first biennial period 2022-2023. For the second biennial period 2024-2025, they are approved on a provisional basis, subject to confirmation upon the adoption of the budget for 2024-2025.

⁴⁸ [CM/Del/Dec\(2021\)131/2a](#), [CM/Del/Dec\(2021\)131/2b](#), [CM/Del/Dec\(2021\)131/2c](#) and [CM/Del/Dec\(2021\)131/3](#).

⁴⁹ The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "Gens du voyage", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

6. Draft Recommendation on poverty eradication, including the challenges stemming from migration and global warming	31/12/2024
7. Report/Study on integrated approaches to sustainable development, with particular reference to social security, employment, human resources development and health	31/12/2025
8. Conference on ensuring effective rights for persons in vulnerable situations	31/12/2025

COMPOSITION ▼

MEMBERS:

Governments of member States are invited to designate one or more representatives of the highest possible rank in the field of social cohesion.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each member State (two in the case of the state whose representative has been elected Chair).

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;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);
- European Committee of Social Rights;
- Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB);
- Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security;
- 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 including its specialised agencies, programmes, funds and other entities, in particular International Labour Organisation;
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) (including ODIHR);
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- Nordic Centre for Welfare and Social Issues (NVC) under the aegis of the Nordic Council of Ministers;
- European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and/or Business Europe and International Organisation of Employers ("social partners").

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;
- European Youth Forum.

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 ▼

	Plenary meetings ▼			Bureau meetings ▼		
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2022	48	1	2	5	1	1
2023	48	1	2	5	1	1
2024	48	1	2	5	1	1
2025	48	1	2	5	1	1

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.

The CCS will appoint from amongst its members up to 5 Rapporteurs on mainstreamed perspectives, including a 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)
2022	1	2	48	41.5	-	-	1 A
2023	1	2	48	41.5	-	-	1 A
2024	1	2	48	↔	-	-	↔
2025	1	2	48	↔	-	-	↔

*The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of the 2021 standard costs.