

Committee of the Parties

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)

Report of the 10th meeting

Strasbourg, 13 April 2021

IC-CP/Inf(2021)RAP10

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Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereinafter referred to respectively as “the Committee” and “the Convention”) held its 10th meeting on 13 April 2021 in Strasbourg, by virtual means. It adopted the draft agenda of the meeting as it appears in document IC-CP(2021)OJ10 and which is set out in Appendix I. The list of participants is set out in Appendix II.

Agenda item 2. Administrative and budgetary Information

2. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee about the exceptional measures for monitoring mechanisms authorised by the Committee of Ministers, aiming to reinforce the work of monitoring mechanisms by allocating part of the 2020 unspent appropriations to a special account for the purpose of reducing, in the period 2022-2023, the backlog of monitoring visits caused by the restrictions on travel in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, an additional staff member will be recruited to join the Secretariat for a period of 24 months as of 2022.

Agenda item 3. Current affairs

3. The Committee discussed the recent decision of the Turkish authorities to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, delivered a [speech](#) and exchanged on the situation with the Committee members and participants. The Secretary General recalled that it is the first time in the history of the Council of Europe that a member state has withdrawn from a major human rights treaty. She shared her determination to uphold, promote and preserve the Convention as well as to expand the circle of those committed to the treaty and promote the positive and honest narrative around it, including with the help of the Venice Commission Opinion on the constitutional implications of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Armenia ([CDL\(2019\)035](#)).

4. Several delegations took the floor to thank the Secretary General for her strong support to the Istanbul Convention. They expressed their regrets towards the steps taken by the Turkish President and recalled the importance of the convention. They stated the need to dispel false narratives around the convention as well as to encourage signatory states to ratify it.

Agenda item 4. State of signatures and ratifications of the Istanbul Convention

a) Action taken by member States of the Council of Europe towards ratification of the Istanbul Convention

5. The delegations of Liechtenstein and Ukraine shared information regarding the ratification process under way in their respective countries.

b) Declarations and reservations

6. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that Poland communicated its partial renewal of its reservations as well as the reasons therefore. According to Article 79, paragraph 3, of the Istanbul Convention, the explanations of the Polish authorities on the grounds justifying the reservations' continuance will be communicated to GREVIO.

Agenda item 5. Exchange of views with Marceline Naudi, President of GREVIO

7. The Chair recalled that based on the rules of procedure, the Committee regularly meets with the President of GREVIO to hear about the state of the work of GREVIO and progress in preparing its reports and conclusions concerning the measures taken by the Parties to implement the provisions of the Convention, as well as any other issue relating to the functioning of the monitoring mechanism of the Convention.

8. On the basis of the 1st and 2nd general activity reports of GREVIO, Marceline Naudi presented trends and challenges in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention which stem from GREVIO's evaluation reports published so far. She addressed the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on violence against women and victims' access to support services. She informed the Committee of several aspects of GREVIO's work, such as the process of developing its first General Recommendation on the Digital Dimension of Violence against Women, and its support to the Platform of Independent Regional and United Nations monitoring bodies on Women's Rights and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform). Marceline Naudi thanked states parties for their co-operation and commitment to the evaluation procedure.

9. Several delegations took the floor to thank Marceline Naudi for her and GREVIO's work. They shared information on measures taken to further implement the Istanbul Convention and GREVIO's findings. In addition, issues such as the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the EDVAW Platform and the co-ordination with other human rights monitoring bodies were addressed. Marceline Naudi expressed her interest in the framework for supervising the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee of the Parties, looking forward to future co-operation between GREVIO and the Committee on that matter.

Agenda item 6. Framework for supervising the implementation of recommendations addressed to states parties

10. The Chair recalled that the Committee of the Parties' Rules of Procedure task the Committee of the Parties with the supervision of the implementation of its recommendations addressed to states parties. Following the discussion held at the 9th meeting of the Committee on the possible modalities of such supervision, as well as the decision, at the same meeting, to use a standardised reporting form to report back to the Committee, the Chair presented a revised version of the framework for supervising the implementation of recommendations addressed to states parties.

11. Two delegations suggested amendments to the framework. The Committee discussed the arrangements for the publication of the different documents of the procedure as well as the modalities for participation of non-governmental organisations, civil society and national institutions for the protection of human rights.

12. With a modification agreed on during the meeting, the Committee adopted the framework for supervising the implementation of recommendations addressed to states parties.

Agenda item 7. Declaration of the Committee of the Parties on the 10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Istanbul Convention

13. The Chair informed the Committee that the 10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Istanbul Convention will be celebrated in many ways, including with a virtual conference on 11 May 2021 organised by the Council of Europe together with the German Presidency to

the Council of Europe, as well as a wide range of multi-media material promoting the Istanbul Convention and showcasing the impact and positive change it has created in the past 10 years, and the publication of a horizontal review of all 17 GREVIO evaluation reports issued to date. The Chair recalled the decision, at the 9th meeting of the Committee, to adopt a declaration on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Istanbul Convention. The Committee thus discussed the amendments proposed to the declaration and adopted the text of the declaration with modifications agreed during the meeting. The Committee agreed to give the opportunity to one state party to confirm its agreement to join the declaration in the upcoming days.

Agenda item 8. Opinion of the Committee of the Parties on GREVIO's draft General Recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women

14. The Chair recalled that the Committee was invited to provide its opinion on GREVIO's draft General Recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women. Following the adoption of the draft General Recommendation at its last meeting in February, GREVIO started a consultation process, asking several Committees within the Council of Europe for their opinion on the draft. Comments submitted will be reviewed by GREVIO, which will decide whether to reflect them or not in the final version of the General Recommendation.

15. The Chair thanked all delegations that had sent in comments and proposals for alternative wording for consideration by GREVIO. These comments had been compiled into a consolidated opinion for discussion and adoption by the Committee, which was adopted with the modifications agreed on during the meeting.

Agenda item 9. Date of next meeting

16. The Committee decided to hold its next meeting on 7 December 2021 in Strasbourg.

Agenda item 10. Designation of a Gender Equality Rapporteur

17. The Committee designated Ms Jitske Bosch (Netherlands) as Gender Equality Rapporteur.

Agenda item 11. Other business

18. The Chair informed the Committee of the decision of the Committee of Ministers to communicate the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2196 (2021) on the "Impact of labour migration on left-behind children" to the Committee of the Parties for information and possible comments by 30 April 2021. The Chair highlighted the importance of the topic which might be considered by the Committee in relation to some countries and suggested to take this recommendation under advisement.

Agenda item 12. Adoption of the list of decisions taken

19. The Committee adopted the list of decisions as set out in document IC-CP/Inf(2021)LD10.

Appendix I: Agenda

1. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
2. **Administrative and budgetary Information**
3. **Current affairs**

Exchange with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms **Marija Pejčinović Burić**
4. **State of signatures and ratifications of the Istanbul Convention**
 - a) Action taken by member States of the Council of Europe towards ratification of the Istanbul Convention
 - b) Action taken by the European Union towards signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention
 - c) Declarations and reservations
5. **Exchange of views with Marceline Naudi, President of GREVIO**
6. **Framework for supervising the implementation of recommendations addressed to states parties**
7. **Declaration of the Committee of the Parties on the 10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Istanbul Convention**
8. **Opinion of the Committee of the Parties on GREVIO's draft General Recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women**
9. **Date of next meeting**
10. **Designation of a Gender Equality Rapporteur**
11. **Other business**
12. **Adoption of the list of decisions taken**

Appendix II: List of attendees

BUREAU

Ms Nina NORDSTROM
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe

Mr Breifne O'REILLY
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the Council of Europe

Ms Albana DAUTLLARI
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Albania to the Council of Europe

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms Sidita Gjipali
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
of Albania to the Council of Europe

ANDORRA / ANDORRE

Ms Mireia V. Porrás García
Cap d'Àrea de Polítiques d'Igualtat
Ministeri d'Afers Socials, Habitatge i Joventut

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Ms Marie Theres PRANTNER
Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs
IV/4 – Violence against Women and women-specific legislation

Ms Verena Wehmeyer
Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs
IV/4 – Violence against Women and women-specific legislation

Mr Andreas BILGERI
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Austria
to the Council of Europe

BELGIUM

Ms Marijke WEEWAUTERS
Institut pour l'Égalité des femmes et des hommes

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

Ms Samra HADZIABDIC
Director
Agency for Gender Equality Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees Bosnia and Herzegovina

CROATIA / CROATIE

Ms Sandra BATLAK
Advisor to the Minister at the Ministry for Demography
Family, Youth and Social Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

Ms Monika BEGOVIC
Ministry for Demography
Family, Youth and Social Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

CYPRUS

Ms Niki ANDREOU
Administrative Officer
Gender Equality Unit of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order.

DENMARK / DANEMARK

Ms Natasja WALBOM
Ministry of Justice of Denmark

ESTONIA

Ms Anne KRUUSEMENT
Adviser
Penal Law and Procedure Division
Estonian Ministry of Justice

Ms Kerli TIIK
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
of Estonia to the Council of Europe

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Ms Satu SISTONEN
Legal Counsellor
Unit for Human Rights Courts and Conventions
Legal Service
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Ms Taina Riski
Secretary General of the National Coordination Body (NAPE)

FRANCE

M. Alexis RINCKENBACH
Chef du bureau des affaires européennes et internationales
Direction générale de la cohésion sociale
Ministère des affaires sociales et de la santé

GEORGIA / GÉORGIE

Ms Maka Peradze
Head of the Human Rights Secretariat
Administration of the Government of Georgia

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

Ms Alina KUHL
Protection of Women from Violence, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth

GREECE / GRÈCE

Ms Angeliki Papazoglou
Deputy Head of Directorate of social Protection and Counselling services
General secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

ICELAND / ISLANDE

Ms Hildur Sunna Pálmadóttir
Ministry of Justice

IRELAND / IRLANDE

Ms Laura Cooney
Community Safety, Criminal Justice Policy
Department of Justice

ITALY / ITALIE

M. Stefano PIZZICANNELLA

Mme Cordialina COPPOLA

LUXEMBOURG

Mme Isabelle SCHROEDER
Juriste
Politique sociale et Egalité hommes/femmes

Le Gouvernement du Grand -Duché de Luxembourg
Ministère de l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes

MALTA / MALTE

Katya Unah
Assistant Director
Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence
Ministry for Justice, Equality and Governance

MONACO

Mme Mariam TAVASSOLI ZEA
Adjointe au Représentant Permanent
de Monaco auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

MONTENEGRO

Ms Jovana RADIVIKOVIC
Senior Adviser III
Directorate for Social Welfare and Children Protection
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

Ms Ana RADUSINOVIĆ
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
of Montenegro to the Council of Europe

NETHERLANDS

Mr Roeland BÖCKER
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Netherlands
to the Council of Europe

Ms Jitske BOSCH
Senior policy advisor
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports
The Hague, The Netherlands

Ms Johanna PALM
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the Council Europe

NORTH MACEDONIA

Svetlana CVETKOVSKA,
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Sector for Equal Opportunity

Mr Zoran BARBUTOV
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative
of North Macedonia to the Council of Europe

NORWAY / NORVEGE

Ms Hilde Marit KNOTTEN
Senior Advisor
Ministry of Justice and Public Security
Police Department

Ms Jannicke Elisabeth WITSØ
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
of Norway to the Council of Europe

POLAND / POLOGNE

Ms Alice NEFFE
Acting Director
Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment

PORTUGAL

Ms Marta SILVA
Head of the Domestic Violence / Gender Violence Unit at the Commission for Citizenship and
Gender Equality of Portugal

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Ms Andreea PASCU
Head of unit – Gender Equality Unit
National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men

SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN

Mr Stefano PALMUCCI
Département des Affaires Etrangères
République de Saint Marin

SERBIA / SERBIE

Ms Gordana GAVRILOVIC
Adviser
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Mining and Energy

Ms Andja PETROVIC

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Ms Sara SLANA
Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Ms Barbara TARDON
Advisor to the Spanish Minister of Equality

Ms Izabel SANCHI
Advisor to the Government Delegation for Gender-Based Violence
Ministry of Equality

SWEDEN / SUÈDE

Ms Anna COLLINS-FALK
International Coordinator
Swedish Gender Equality Agency

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

Mr Gian BEELI
Collaborateur scientifique « Domaine Violence »
Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI
Bureau fédéral de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes BFEG

TURKEY / TURQUIE

Absent

PARTICIPANTS**STATES WHICH HAVE SIGNED BUT NOT YET RATIFIED THE CONVENTION****ARMENIA/ ARMENIE**

Ms Lena TERZIKYAN
Représentation Permanente de l'Arménie auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Mr Jan ŠKEŘIK
Deputy to the Permanent Representative

LATVIA/LETTONIE

Mr Jānis KĀRKLIŅŠ
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Latvia
to the Council of Europe

LIECHTENSTEIN

Ms Helen LOREZ
Deputy Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein
to the Council of Europe

UNITED KINGDOM

Mr Mark GOREY
Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe

UKRAINE

Ms Kateryna LEVCHENKO
Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy

**OTHER COUNCIL OF EUROPE BODIES / AUTRES INSTANCES DU CONSEIL DE
L'EUROPE****European Union / Union européenne**

Ms Meglena KUNEVA
Ambassador
Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe

**Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe / Conférence des OING du Conseil
de l'Europe**

Anne NEGRE

INVITEES

Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ
Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Ms Marceline NAUDI
President of GREVIO

Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence / Secrétariat du mécanisme de suivi de la Convention du Conseil de l'Europe sur la prévention et la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes et la violence domestique

Ms Johanna NELLES
Executive Secretary / Secrétaire exécutive
Head of the Violence against Women Division / Cheffe de la Division Violence à l'égard des femmes

Ms Elif Sariaydin
Administrator / Administratrice

Ms Camille GOY
Project assistant / Assistante de projet

Ms Christine EBEL
Assistante administrative principale

Ms Irida VARFI-BOEHRER
Administrative Assistant / Assistante administrative

INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES

Mr Luke TILDEN
Ms Lucie DE BURLET
Mr Jean-Jacques PEDUSSAUD
Mr Rémy JAIN