

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 11th meeting

Strasbourg, 7 December 2021

IC-CP/Inf(2021)RAP11

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Table of contents

Agenda item 1.	Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda	3
Agenda item 2.	Administrative and budgetary Information	3
Agenda item 3.	State of signatures and ratifications of the Istanbul Convention.....	3
Agenda item 4.	Election of one member of GREVIO.....	3
Agenda item 5.	Election of Bureau members	4
Agenda item 6.	Exchange of views with the President of GREVIO.....	4
Agenda item 7.	Recommendations on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.....	4
Agenda item 8.	Supervising the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee of the Parties	5
Agenda item 9.	Protecting women and girls from violence in the digital age	5
Agenda item 10.	Date of next meeting	5
Agenda item 11.	Other business	5
Agenda item 12.	Adoption of the list of decisions taken	6
Appendix I: Agenda		7
Appendix II: List of attendees	Error! Bookmark not defined.	

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

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 11th meeting on 7 December 2021 in Strasbourg, in hybrid format. It adopted the draft agenda of the meeting as it appears in document IC-CP(2021)OJ11 and which is set out in Appendix I. The list of participants is set out in Appendix II.

Anne Nègre, President of University Women Europe, requested observer status for this meeting, which the Committee approved in relation to the agenda items following the election to GREVIO.

Agenda item 2. Administrative and budgetary Information

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that two new Administrators have joined the Secretariat since the last Committee meeting, and that recruitment is currently underway to fill an existing vacancy for administrative support. A new additional administrative support role is also being established for 12 months out of the special funds, which will be shared jointly with the GRETA Secretariat.

Agenda item 3. 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

The Chair announced the recent ratification by Liechtenstein, supported by further information shared by Mr Domenik Wanger, Representative of Liechtenstein. The Committee were further informed that the process for ratification is also underway in Moldova, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. Israel expressed its interest in obtaining an invitation from the Committee of Ministers to accede to the Convention.

- b) Action taken by the European Union towards signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee of the opinion issued by the European Court of Justice (the Court) on 6th October 2021 regarding European Union (EU) accession to the Convention, declaring no legal obstacles to such a step. Ms Carla Pambianco of the European Commission further informed the Committee that the European Commission may decide on ratification without the agreement of all EU members, but rather on the basis of a qualified majority, as clarified by the Court's Opinion. It is now therefore for the European Commission and the Council of the EU to take the next steps towards EU ratification of the Convention.

Agenda item 4. Election of one member of GREVIO**4.1. Examination of nominations of candidates for GREVIO membership (Rules 9 and 10 of CM/Res(2014)43)**

The First Vice-President recalled that six States Parties (Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Poland, and Spain) submitted a total of 10 candidates (eight women and two men) for consideration for GREVIO membership. He reminded the Committee of the relevant rules

on the election procedure of the members of GREVIO according to Resolution CM/Res(2014)43.

4.2. Election of one member of GREVIO (paragraph 3 of Article 66 and paragraph 2 of Article 67 of the Istanbul Convention; Rules 11 and 13 of Resolution CM/Res(2014)43)

Four rounds of voting were held, after which the Representatives of Cyprus, Denmark and Finland withdrew their candidates. Upon the fifth round of voting, Ms María Rún Bjarnadóttir was elected as GREVIO member from Iceland, having received 19 votes. Ms Ragnhildur Arnljótsdóttir, Ambassador of Iceland, thanked the Committee for the election.

Agenda item 5. Election of Bureau members

The Chair informed the Committee that three nominations to the Bureau were received for each of the available posts: Ms Marie Fontanel, Ambassador of France for President; Mr Domenik Wanger, Ambassador of Liechtenstein for First Vice-President; and Mr Andrej Slapničar, Ambassador of Slovenia for Second Vice-President. The new Bureau was elected by acclamation. They will take up their posts from 1 February 2022.

Agenda item 6. Exchange of views with the President of GREVIO

The President of GREVIO, Iris Luarasi, presented on the work of GREVIO to the Committee, including the publication of GREVIO General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women.

Several delegations took the floor to thank Iris Luarasi for her and GREVIO's work. They shared information on measures taken to further implement the Istanbul Convention and GREVIO's findings. In response to a question from the Chair, Iris Luarasi provided further information regarding GREVIO's participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and chairing of the Platform of independent regional and United Nations monitoring bodies on women's rights and violence against women (EDVAW Platform), including the plans for a joint meeting of the Platform members on the issue of online violence against women to raise visibility around GREVIO's General Recommendation No. 1 at the CSW in March 2022.

The Executive Secretary recalled that some examples of good practices from States Parties in the context of online violence against women can be found in GREVIO's Mid-term Horizontal Review, published 10 May 2021.

Agenda item 7. Recommendations on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention

The Chair presented to the Committee the recommendations on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention to Poland, San Marino, and Slovenia. Representatives of each of the three States Parties thanked GREVIO for the report and recommendations, expressed the intention of their countries to implement the recommendations and gave examples of current efforts to implement the Istanbul Convention in their national contexts. The recommendations to Poland, San Marino and Slovenia were adopted by the Committee.

Agenda item 8. Supervising the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee of the Parties

The Chair presented to the Committee the conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Albania, Austria, Denmark, and Monaco. Representatives from each of the four States Parties shared their experiences of the process and gave examples of current and planned efforts to implement the recommendations in their respective countries. GREVIO Rapporteurs for each of the four States Parties also took the floor to share their impressions on the States Parties' implementation of the recommendations (Helena Leita for Albania; Marceline Naudi for Austria; Iris Luarasi for Denmark; and Françoise Brie for Monaco). Interest was also expressed by members of the Committee to further exchange on States Parties' approach to implementing recommendations, given the substantial overlap in recommendations to different States Parties. Some members of the Committee also expressed interest in hearing reflections from Albania, Austria, Denmark, and Monaco on their experience of the process, which were either addressed in the meeting or will be followed up bilaterally.

The Executive Secretary noted that submissions from NGOs were received for only two out of the four countries, indicating possible lack of awareness and/or resources of NGOs for engaging in the procedure. Efforts were made by the Secretariat to ensure a comparable level of detail for each of the four States Parties under assessment, with or without NGO input.

The conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Albania, Austria, Denmark, and Monaco were adopted.

Agenda item 9. Protecting women and girls from violence in the digital age

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee of an informal exchange held by the Committee of Ministers in December 2019 focusing on cyberviolence against women and girls, including through the lens of Council of Europe instruments such as the Istanbul Convention. This led to the commission of a comparative study on the relevance of the Istanbul Convention and the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime in addressing online and technology-facilitated violence against women.

Ms Elif Sariaydin from the Secretariat presented to the Committee the main findings and recommendations of the study. In the ensuing exchange, the Executive Secretary encouraged the Committee to disseminate the study at national level and with relevant national authorities.

The Chair invited the Committee to suggest topics for thematic discussions to be held at future meetings of the Committee.

Agenda item 10. Date of next meeting

The Committee decided to hold its next meeting on 31 May 2022.

Agenda item 11. Other business

Ms Satu Sistonen, Representative of Finland, informed the Committee that the meeting of coordinating bodies scheduled to take place in Helsinki on 14 December 2021 had been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms Sistonen apologised for this and expressed hope that the meeting could nonetheless be held later in 2022.

Agenda item 12. Adoption of the list of decisions taken

The Committee adopted the list of decisions as set out in document IC-CP/Inf(2021)LD11.

Appendix I: Agenda

- 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda (9:30am)**
- 2. Administrative and budgetary information**
- 3. 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
- 4. Election of one member of GREVIO (10:15am)**
 - 4.1 *Examination of nominations of candidates for GREVIO membership (Rules 9 and 10 of CM/Res(2014)43)*
 - 4.2 *Election of one member of GREVIO (paragraph 3 of Article 66 and paragraph 2 of Article 67 of the Istanbul Convention; Rules 11 and 13 of Resolution CM/Res(2014)43)*
 - Resolution CM/Res(2014)43 on rules on the election procedure of the members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 November 2014 CM/Res(2014)43
 - Names and *curricula vitae* of the candidates submitted for the election of members of GREVIO IC-CP(2021)5
CONFIDENTIAL
 - Overview of nominations for GREVIO membership IC-CP(2021)6
Confidential
 - Questions and answers on the election procedure of members of GREVIO IC-CP(2019)10
RESTRICTED
- 5. Election of Bureau members [[Rules of procedure](#)]**
- 6. Exchange of views with the President of GREVIO (11:30am)**
- 7. Recommendations on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention**
 - **Poland** [IC-CP(2021)7 prov]
 - **San Marino** [IC-CP(2021)8 prov]
 - **Slovenia** [IC-CP(2021)9 prov]

8. Supervising the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee of the Parties

- **Albania**
 - Draft Conclusions [IC-CP(2021)10 prov]
 - Reporting form submitted by the Government
 - Additional submissions from:
 - AWEN – Albanian Women’s Empowerment Network
 - The Monitoring Network against Gender-based Violence in Albania
 - Human Rights Democracy Centre
- **Austria**
 - Draft Conclusions [IC-CP(2021)11 prov]
 - Reporting form submitted by the Government
- **Denmark**
 - Draft Conclusions [IC-CP(2021)12 prov]
 - Reporting form submitted by the Government
 - Additional submissions from:
 - The Danish National Observatory on Violence against Women
 - Danish Institute for Human Rights
 - The Joan Sisters
 - Mother’s Help
 - Stop Violence against Children Denmark
- **Monaco**
 - Draft conclusions [IC-CP(2021)13 prov]
 - Reporting form submitted by the Government

9. Protecting women and girls from violence in the digital age: The relevance of the Istanbul Convention and the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime in addressing online and technology-facilitated violence against women

a) Presentation of a study and thematic debate

10. Date of next meeting

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

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Mr Dastid Koreshi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
of Albania to the Council of Europe

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

Ms Merita Xhafaj
Adviser to the Minister of Youth and Social Welfare

ANDORRA / ANDORRE

M. Joan FORNER ROVIRA
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire
Représentant Permanent

Ms Mireia V. Porras 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

Ms Katharina ENZESBERGER
Deputy to the Permanent Representative

BELGIUM

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

M. Nicolas Belkacemi
Attaché
Institut pour l'égalité des femmes et des hommes

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

Mr Almir HASECIC
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Council of Europe

CROATIA / CROATIE

Ms Narcisa BEĆIREVIĆ
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Croatia

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.

Mr Kostas PSEVDIOTIS
Deputy Permanent Representative of Cyprus

DENMARK / DANEMARK

Mr. Erik LAURSEN
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the Council of Europe

Ms Mathilde SILJE HELØ
Political Adviser
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the Council of Europe

ESTONIA

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

Mr Silver KÜNGAS
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation 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

FRANCE

Mme Marie FONTANEL
Ambassadrice
Représentante Permanente de la France auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

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. Ekaterine ZODELAVA
Adjointe au Représentant Permanent

Ms Maka PERADZE

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

M. Georgios SKEMPERIS
Adjoint au Représentant Permanent de la Grèce

ICELAND / ISLANDE

Ms Ragnhildur ARNLJÓTSDÓTTIR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Iceland

Ms Hildur Sunna PÁLMAÐÓTTIR
Ministry of Justice

IRELAND / IRLANDE

Mr Fiachra BYRNE
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
of Ireland to the Council of Europe

Ms Hannah HARMAN CONLON
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
of Ireland to the Council of Europe

ITALY / ITALIE

M. Michele GIACOMELLI
Ambassadeur
Représentant Permanent

M. Raffaele FESTA
Adjoint au Représentant Permanent de l'Italie

M. Stefano PIZZICANNELLA

LIECHTENSTEIN

Mr Domenik WANGER
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to the Council of Europe

Ms Daniela Sele
Division for Economic Affairs and Development

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Mme Isabelle SCHROEDER -
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Politique sociale et Egalité hommes/femmes
Le Gouvernement du Grand -Duché de Luxembourg
Ministère de l'Egalité entre les femmes et les hommes

MALTA / MALTE

Mr Lorenzo VELLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Malta

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

MONACO

Mme Véronique SEGUI-CHARLOT
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Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

Ms Violeta BERIŠAJ
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of Montenegro

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The Hague, The Netherlands

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Svetlana CVETKOVSKA
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Sector for Equal Opportunity

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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
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POLAND / POLOGNE

Mr Jerzy BAURSKI
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Poland

Mme Iwona RZYMOWSKA
Directeur du Bureau du Plenipotentiaire du Gouvernement pour l'Egalite du Traitement

Mme Joanna MACIEJEWSKA
Departament de la Cooperation Internationale

PORTUGAL

Mr Gilberto JERÓNIMO
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Ms Ramona Maria CIUCĂ
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Romania

SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN

Ambassador Eros GASPERONI
Permanent Representative of the Republic of San Marino to the Council of Europe

Mr Stefano PALMUCCI
Département des Affaires Etrangères
République de Saint Marin

SERBIA / SERBIE

Ms. Gordana GAVRILOVIĆ
Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister
President of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality

Mr Marko POTIC
Deputy to the Permanent Representative

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Mr Andrej SLAPNIČAR
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

Ms Sara SLANA –
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Deputy Permanent Representative

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Permanent Representative

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Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe

INVITEES

Ms Iris Luarasi
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 Francesca MONTAGNA

Administrator / Administratrice

Ms Christine EBEL

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Ms Irida VARFI-BOEHRER

Administrative Assistant / Assistante administrative

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