



T-ES(2017)13_en

27 October 2017

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe
Convention on the protection of children against sexual
exploitation and sexual abuse

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List of decisions

19th meeting

Strasbourg, 25-27 October 2017

Adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 27 October 2017

The Committee of the Parties (hereinafter referred to as “the Lanzarote Committee” or “the Committee”) to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (hereinafter referred to as “the Lanzarote Convention” or “the Convention”) held its 19th meeting in Strasbourg on 25-27 October 2017.

During this meeting, the Lanzarote Committee:

1. Was informed on progress in the ratification processes by Ireland and the United Kingdom.
2. Was informed of the situation with regards to its urgent monitoring round: “Special report further to a visit of a delegation of the Lanzarote Committee to transit zones at the Serbian/Hungarian border (5-7 July 2017)” and took note that:
 - further to the Hungarian authorities’ invitation (at its 18th meeting – 10-12 May 2017) a delegation of the Lanzarote Committee visited the transit zones of Röszke and Tompa on 5-7 July 2017 to verify in loco the situation of children (in particular unaccompanied children aged 14-18);
 - the finalisation of the report prepared by the delegation took longer than expected leaving thus too little time to the Hungarian authorities to review it before the current meeting;
 - as a consequence, the examination of the report by the Lanzarote Committee has been postponed to the next meeting;
 - due to the special nature of the delegation’s report (prepared in the context of the Committee’s urgent monitoring round), it was decided to anticipate the next meeting to 29-31 January 2018 (instead of 4-6 April 2018).
3. Reviewed the draft 2nd implementation report on the “Protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust: The strategies” and, in this context:
 - decided that every “urge” recommendation addressed to “those Parties that have not yet taken measures” will include a footnote listing the Parties concerned;
 - agreed that Parties listed in the “urge” recommendation footnotes could, no later than 19 January 2018, submit information to the Secretariat (lanzarote.committee@coe.int) arguing why they should be deleted from the list;
 - asked the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of the implementation report taking into account the suggestions made during its 19th meeting as well as any additional information submitted by 27 November 2017 to enrich the report (see Appendix I for a check list of possible information to be submitted);
 - asked the Secretariat to send this revised version of the implementation report to the Lanzarote Committee by 15 December 2017.

4. Took note that half of the Parties sent replies to the thematic questionnaire on “The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)” within the deadline (25 October 2017).
5. Called on the remaining 21 Parties to reply to the thematic questionnaire as a matter of urgency.
6. Called on civil society representatives and any other stakeholders involved in preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children to send their comments on Parties’ replies to the Secretariat (lanzarote.committee@coe.int) within 2 months from the Parties’ replies having been made public.
7. Took note of a possible methodology to gather children’s views and experiences about self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos, self-generated sexual content and related ICT facilitated sexual coercion and/or extortion.
8. In this context, took note that such methodology would be published on the Committee’s webpage and further information about it could be sought by contacting the Secretariat (lanzarote.committee@coe.int).
9. Appointed Ms Manuela TROPPOCHER (Austria) as Rapporteur to prepare observations on replies to question 9 (Criminalisation) of the [2nd monitoring round](#) questionnaire on “*The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)*”.
10. Called on other Lanzarote Committee members, participants and/or observers to consider to act as Rapporteurs on the remaining questions of the questionnaire for the 2nd monitoring round and to inform the Secretariat of their choice as soon as possible.
11. Highlighted that the first observations on replies to the 2nd monitoring questionnaire are expected to be presented to the Lanzarote Committee during its 21st meeting (20-22 June 2018).
12. Held de-briefings on the:
 - Seminar for National Associations of Local and Regional authorities on the Pact of Towns and Regions to stop sexual violence against children, and on refugee children and non-accompanied minors (Belgrade, 13 June 2017);
 - PROMISE conference for the launching the European Barnahus Movement (Brussels, 14 June 2017);
 - training for NGOs on rights protection for vulnerable groups (women and children), within the context of the Council of Europe cooperation project “Combating violence against vulnerable groups (women and children) in Ukraine”(Odessa, 15 June 2017);

- transition meeting on implementing the recommendations of the global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT) (Madrid, 13 July 2017);
- World Child Dignity Congress (Rome, 3-6 October 2017);
- presentation of the Committee’s 3rd activity report to the Committee of Ministers Rapporteur Group on Human Rights (Strasbourg, 5 October 2017).

13. Held a de-briefing on the [conference](#) “Ending sexual exploitation and abuse of children: Towards a world of trust” organised on 24-25 October 2017 in Strasbourg, in order to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Lanzarote Committee and took note of the conclusions delivered by its Chairperson (see Appendix II).

14. Took note of the forthcoming 3rd Edition of the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual exploitation and Sexual abuse of children, 18 November 2017, dedicated more specifically to "The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)" and called on its members, participants and observers to organise activities in this context in order to raise awareness on the issue.

15. Took note of the project entitled “International Child Sexual Exploitation Database Connectivity and Awareness Raising Enhancements – [I-CARE](#)” being carried out by ECPAT and INTERPOL aimed at:

- increasing the sharing of information related to Child Abuse Material between national law enforcement and international law enforcement; and
- publishing metrics on child sexual abuse material to allow policy makers and the public in general to have a better understanding of this pressing issue.

16. Took note of the recent activities of the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly presented by Baroness Doreen MASSEY (United Kingdom, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Children, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development).

17. Exchanged views on how best to implement the Lanzarote Committee’s special report recommendations on “Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse”. In this context, decided that:

- The Parties concerned by this report are asked to state the measures they have taken to implement the “urge” recommendations of this report by Friday 1 June 2018 (or explain why they were not in a position to do so); they will also have the possibility to refer to measures taken to implement the “consider” and “invite” recommendations within the same deadline;
- The Lanzarote Committee will consider the above-mentioned measures and decide on possible actions to be taken towards Parties which have not given any follow-up to the “urge” recommendations at its 21st meeting (20-22 June 2018). This could include, in particular, meetings with representatives of the national authorities in charge of the specific files or *in situ* visits.

18. Adopted the present list of decisions of the meeting.
19. Took note that the dates for its next meetings are:
 - 20th meeting: 29-31 January 2018 (instead of 4-6 April 2018), Strasbourg
 - 21st meeting: 20-22 June 2018, Strasbourg
 - 22nd meeting: 7-9 November 2018, Strasbourg

In accordance with Rule 10, paragraph 5 of the Rules of Procedure and as the Lanzarote Committee has not decided otherwise, this list of decisions shall be made public.

In accordance with Rule 10, paragraph 6 of the Rules of Procedure, a full meeting report shall be submitted to the members, participants and observers of the Lanzarote Committee at a later stage.

Appendix I

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO COMPLETE DOCUMENT T-ES(2017)12 REV¹ (Submission to lanzarote.committee@coe.int by 27 November 2017)

As regards all chapters:

- Provide links to promising practices if any (even if the webpages are in national language only);
- Check the yellow highlights as these call on specific countries for explicit information.

As regards Chapter I (Participation)

1. Examples of measures taken to protect children against the possible misuse of social media and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) in cases of sexual abuse of children (in the circle of trust).
2. Examples of initiatives involving the ICT sector in the efforts to protect children against sexual abuse of children (in the circle of trust).
3. Examples of codes of conduct/ethics of the media aimed at protecting children against sexual abuse of children (in the circle of trust).

As regards Chapter III (Education and training)

4. Specify whether sexual relationship education in school includes a focus on preventing sexual abuse (including in the circle of trust).
5. How do you ensure that persons who have regular contacts with children in the education and social protection sectors have adequate knowledge of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, of the means to identify them and the possibility of reporting them? (Article 5§§1-2).

As regards Chapter IV (Reporting)

6. Any person who knows about or suspects, in good faith, sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of children should be encouraged to report these facts to the competent services: are there any exceptions foreseen by law in this respect?

As regards Chapter V (Screening)

7. Is screening carried out for paid or unpaid persons that provide external services to children in the school/day care system?
8. Is screening carried out within the context of leisure/extracurricular activities (sports, theatre, music, religious activities, boy/girl scouts)?
9. What about those professionals who are not in direct contact with children (such as school bus drivers, canteen personnel or cleaning staff in a schools/day care centres, etc.): are they screened as well?

As regards Chapter VI (Intervention programmes)

Please note that there are two important yellow highlights where 5 Parties are asked for information on assistance that may be provided to persons who fear that they may sexually abuse children and 14 Parties did not reply to additional questions on the implementation of Articles 15, 16 and 17 addressed to them individually by the Rapporteur (Ms De Craim). The email with her specific requests will be forwarded again.

¹ List of Parties concerned by this appendix: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Spain, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey and Ukraine.

Appendix II

Conclusions delivered by Mr Claude Janizzi, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee on the occasion of the conference “Ending sexual exploitation and abuse of children: Towards a world of trust” (Strasbourg, 24-25 October 2017), celebrating the 10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Lanzarote Committee

Distinguished guests,
Dear colleagues,

I'm proud to be the chairman of this Committee composed by colleagues and friends committed to the protection of children and trying to make a difference.

We had a very interesting conference with great interventions from all speakers, witnesses and participants in the room and with rich discussions. Personally I learned a lot. Thank you very much for this.

Ten years is a good moment to look back and see our achievements.

But it is also a good moment to be critical and reflect on how to improve the Committee's efficiency.

- How can we improve the functioning of the Committee?
- How can we improve the impact of our work?
- What questions still need to be addressed?

How to improve the functioning of the Convention and of the Lanzarote Committee?

We've been physically meeting survivors. This has been very string moments that reminded us why we are here. Obviously these live witnessing are retraumatising for the victims and we should be very conscious of this and be grateful for our guests accepting this retraumatisation in order to help us better understand the human impact of abuse and exploitation. It was interesting to hear that a psychological support of survivors at a conference is essential.

In public awareness raising survivors telling the story of their suffering are very important but this should be done in respect of the privacy and the vulnerability of survivors.

In our work we should integrate the voice of survivors and invite them on a regular basis to our Committee to be able to have their input.

We also need to think about how to integrate children and youngsters voices in our work. We all know the paternalistic principle « I know better than you what is good for you », but do we remember the Child's right to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child.

Direct involvement of children in the Lanzarote Committee monitoring process should be possible. This should be put in place, as far as possible, at all stage of the monitoring process, from the consideration of the issue to be addressed in the next monitoring round, to the drafting of the questionnaire, the replies to be given to it and their analysis and measures to be put in place.

I would also like to take up the idea of assessing the reservations to the Lanzarote Convention: Why are they there and what is their scope?

The follow-up of our recommendations is another important subject. Neither the Convention nor the rules of procedure refer to the follow up. So we have to discuss how we can organise this essential element of our work. If we formulate recommendations we need to organise a follow-up of these recommendations, may be with the help of local civil society or the media?

How could we create a link to the private internet providers? How could we associate them on a voluntary basis to our aim of protecting children?

Finally the richness of information we could reach at our first country visit in July in Hungary should make us reflect on how to define in which case we organise a visit, how we organise it technically and what outcomes we expect from these visits.

How to improve the impact of the work carried out by the Lanzarote Committee on others' work?

The role of civil society and other stakeholders at the national level could be further developed: They could be involved at an earlier stage (e.g. through national debates) than it is currently the case.

May be the Lanzarote Committee should be given a more participative role when initiatives are developed in other Council of Europe Departments, for example through an automatic consultation of the Lanzarote Committee.

Speaking about participation, what about a better connection of our Committee to the UN 2030 agenda? These are questions that need to be discussed.

Issues which should be addressed in the coming years

We all know one of the principles of public policy: No data, no problem, no problem, no budget!

If we want to know at the national level as well as on the international level where we are going and what are our results, we need to work on improving our data collection. Our monitoring rounds have shown that data collection and data processing is a common weakness of almost all our countries.

Some problems are reported frequently and need an answer:

- Statute of limitation: How can we help survivors that are prosecuted by perpetrators for fake accusations to address the situations where perpetrators prosecute their victims for false accusation;
- protection with a whistleblower status of adults reporting about what they hear and see;
- Better regulation of the voluntary sector (incl. sports): Most stakeholders in this sector do currently not have the expertise to deal with sexual abuse cases. Awareness raising and training should be encouraged. Screening should be put in place for voluntary workers as well as for professionals, for a better protection of our children.

These are just a few examples to show you that the task is huge.

With more than 40 countries we need to be aware that the cruising speed of our boat might be slowed down by the size of information that needs to be processed at every monitoring round.

So we need to keep our themes at a reasonable scope and we hope for sufficient resources from the Council of Europe but also, through secondments and subsidies, from the member states.

Thank you again for your active participation at this conference and your interest in the subject. I can assure you that we will continue to do all we can to improve the protection of children against sexual abuse and exploitation.

Thanks for your attention!