



T-ES(2020)25_en

25 September 2020

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

.....

List of decisions

28th meeting (remote)

Venue: KUDO platform

Adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 25 September 2020

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 28th meeting remotely on KUDO on 21-25 September 2020.

During this meeting, the Lanzarote Committee:

1. Opening of the meeting, adoption of the agenda and up-date on ratifications of the Lanzarote Convention

1. Took note of the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention by Armenia on 7 September 2020 and its entry into force with respect to it on 1st January 2021, becoming the 47th State Party to the Convention.
2. Welcomed progress in the ratification procedure by Ireland and looked forward to the forthcoming governmental approval and action in this respect.
3. Adopted its agenda.

2. Monitoring of the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention

2.1. “The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs”

2.1.1. First reading of the preliminary draft implementation report

4. Held a first exchange of views on the preliminary draft report of the second monitoring round of the Lanzarote Convention (document T-ES(2020)22), focussing more specifically on the title, structure, introduction and some of the recommendations in chapters IV (international cooperation), V (Assistance to victims), and VI (Civil society involvement and cooperation).
5. Decided, with regard to the title of the implementation report for the second monitoring round:
 - To retain as the main title “The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)”;
 - To add the following subtitle, “Addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos”, in order to better reflect the specific focus of the current monitoring round.
6. Decided, with regard to the recommendations addressed to Parties throughout the implementation report:
 - To draft the recommendations as precisely as possible, so as to ensure a clear understanding of what is expected of the Parties;
 - To replace the current verbs used in the recommendations with “require”, “request” and “invite” (instead of “urge”, “consider” and “invite”);
 - To bear in mind that recommendations where “require” and “request” are used correspond to legal obligations arising from the text of the Lanzarote Convention, as clarified by its Explanatory Report and documents adopted by the Committee, and are thus binding;

- To use the verb “invite” in the recommendations encouraging Parties to even go beyond the Convention or highlighting specific promising practices.

7. Discussed the possibility of using "indicators" as elements explaining in detail what is expected of Parties to implement each one of the recommendations and mentioned the possibility of forming working groups composed of representatives of Parties and independent experts to prepare such indicators. In this regard, decided that:

- it would not embark on such an exercise for the current monitoring round implementation report not to slow down its adoption;
- to entrust its Bureau to put forward concrete suggestions as to how to proceed for the elaboration of such indicators in the future.

8. Acknowledged that any additional information to document T-ES(2020)22, whether proposed amendments to the recommendations or revisions to the content of the analysis preceding the recommendations, could be submitted to the Secretariat (lanzarote.committee@coe.int) by Parties and other stakeholders by **15 October 2020 at the latest**.

9. Noted that the French version of document T-ES(2020)23 (Legal chapters of the preliminary draft implementation report) will be ready on 21 October 2020, allowing for a distribution of both linguistic versions of this document on the 22 October 2020.

10. Given the importance of this document, decided to convene a one-day plenary remote meeting on **16 November 2020**, for an initial exchange of views on it.

2.2. “Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse”

2.2.1. Follow-up by Parties to the 10 “consider” recommendations of the [special report](#): taking stock of additional information submitted and way ahead

11. Noted that, as half of the States Parties to the Lanzarote Convention had not yet sent the Secretariat any additional information related to the ten analytical tables and documents shared by the Secretariat on 10 and 16 July 2020 containing the analysis of the information sent by Parties and other stakeholders, the deadline to submit such information was extended by a month, i.e. information can still be submitted to the Secretariat (lanzarote.committee@coe.int) by **10 October 2020 at the latest**.

2.3. 3rd monitoring round theme

12. Decided to agree on a few possible themes for the third monitoring round during its 30th plenary meeting (7-11 December 2020) so that factsheets for each of such themes could thereafter be prepared to enable the Committee to take a final decision on one of them at its first meeting in 2021.

3. Exchange of information, experiences and good practices

3.1. Presentation of relevant activities by national authorities, international governmental and non-governmental organisations, experts, as well as services of the Council of Europe

3.1.1. Recent relevant progress in legislation, policies and strategies

13. Heard presentations and exchanged views with:

- Mr Mark Kavenagh, Head of Research & Policy, and Ms Lene Andersen, Programme manager, ECPAT International, concerning an up-date on the [ECPAT Global Initiative on Boys](#);
- Mr Anton Toni Klančnik, EUROPOL, on an update to the questionnaire on child sex dolls sent to the States through the Lanzarote Committee as a partner;
- Mr Elik Katsav, Director for Research, Ministry of Community Empowerment and advancement, Superintendent Sony Inger, Deputy Commander, 105-Child Online Protection Hotline, Superintendent Adv. Kobi Ezra, Legal Adviser, 105-Child Online Protection Hotline, Israel, on the [activities of the Ministry of Public Security and especially the 105-Child Online Protection hotline Bureau](#);
- Ms Bertille Dourthe, judge, Ministry of Justice, France, on several provisions of [Act 2020-936 of 30 July 2020](#) to better combat sexual abuse against children (particularly facilitated by ICTs) and on an up-date concerning the increase in number of Paediatric Home Units for Children in Danger;
- Mr Ian Mulholland and Ms Annette Cassar, Fight Against Child Sexual Abuse, EU Commission, on the [EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse](#).

3.1.2. Up-date on “Stepping up protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse in times of the COVID-19 pandemic”

14. Noted the technical difficulties to publish the information shared by Parties and observers following the [statement on stepping up protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse in times of the COVID-19 pandemic](#) and the call by the Bureau of the Committee to send replies to the four COVID-19-focused questions and was informed that these have now been solved and the information will be published soon.

3.1.3. Up-coming international events of interest to the Lanzarote Committee

15. Informed that the focus of the 2020 edition of the European Day on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (18 November) will be “Preventing risky behaviour by children: sexually explicit images and/or videos of children generated by children”.

16. Took note that a list of awareness raising materials on this behaviour will be displayed on the website dedicated to the European Day, based on the list appended to the Observations on the replies to Question 1 of the Thematic Questionnaire of the Committee’s 2nd monitoring round.

17. Welcomed the prospect of a webinar organised on the occasion of the European Day, in the context of the End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OSCEA) @ Europe Project, to discuss issues related to self-generated sexual images and/or videos of children, with a key focus on the need for a comprehensive sexuality education.

3.2. Up-date from the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) and its subordinate bodies

18. Informed by Mr George Nikolaidis (representative of the Committee in the CDENF), of the [Thematic exchange of views on the preparation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child](#) held remotely on 17 September 2020.

19. Informed by Ms Regina Jensdóttir (Council of Europe Coordinator on the rights of the child, Head of the Children’s Rights Division) and Ms Maren Lambrecht (Programme officer, Co-Secretary of the CDENF) on the [recent work](#) carried out within the framework of the CDENF – including an update on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child – the Committee of Experts on the rights of children and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE), and the Working Group on responses to violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE).

20. Understood that a survey to contribute to the reflection on the future Strategy would be addressed to it by 30 September 2020 and agreed to entrust its Bureau and its representative to the CDENF (Mr George Nikolaidis) to prepare a response to the survey.

3.3. Presentation of relevant initiatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe

3.3.1. Presentation of relevant initiatives of the Parliamentary Assembly

3.3.2. Committee of Ministers decisions following the request for possible comments by the Lanzarote Committee on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation [2175 \(2020\)](#) – [“Addressing sexual violence against children: stepping up action and co-operation in Europe”](#)

21. Heard a presentation from and exchanged views with Baroness Massey (Full Member of the Sub-Committee on Children, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) on the many activities carried out by the Parliamentary Assembly in the field of children’s rights.

22. In particular, discussed Parliamentary Assembly [Recommendation 2175 \(2020\)](#) – “Addressing sexual violence against children: stepping up action and co-operation in Europe” and Baroness Massey’s accompanying report, and recalled the comments sent to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe by its Bureau on its behalf. In this context, recalled that the Lanzarote Convention does neither determine a legal age for sexual activities nor impose a time limit on Parties when determining statute of limitation.

23. Heard the suggestion of Baroness Massey to discuss in more detail the issues raised by the different ages of sexual consent/criminal liability and statutes of limitations during a forthcoming plenary meeting.

24. Asked the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) whether it could share with the Committee any updated information on national legislation relating to the statute of limitations.

3.4. Participation of the Lanzarote Committee representatives in outside events

25. Informed that the Chairperson participated in a meeting organised by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe with the chairpersons of Council of Europe monitoring bodies on 29 June 2020, and took note of the fruitful exchange of views.

26. Congratulated its Chairperson for her powerful speech in front of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe held on 23 September 2020 and the subsequent numerous supportive interventions by Ministers' Deputies.

4. Council of Europe cooperation projects on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

4.1. Up-date on progress with the End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OSCEA) @ Europe Project

27. Updated on progress in the Council of Europe "End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe" Project, which promotes a child-friendly/victim-centred approach in all aspects of responses to online child sexual exploitation and abuse in 10 focus states (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine).

4.2. Up-date concerning other on-going projects' development

28. Updated on progress in the Council of Europe cooperation projects with Slovenia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

5. Procedural matters

5.1. Reflection on ways and means to maintain the monitoring process effective and to ensure that operational follow-up is given to the Lanzarote Committee's monitoring findings

29. Due to lack of time, postponed this item to a forthcoming meeting.

5.2. Consideration of the request of observer status made by WePROTECT Global Alliance

30. Decided to invite WePROTECT Global Alliance as an observer to its forthcoming meetings.

6. Any other business

31. Informed that the Lanzarote Committee will hold an exchange of views with the new UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, Ms Mama Fatima Singhateh during the 30th plenary meeting on 7-11 December 2020.

32. Noted that contributions to enrich the website <https://helplinks.eu/> (with resources to help persons with a sexual interest in children not to act) could be sent to O34@europol.europa.eu (with lanzarote.committee@coe.int in copy).

33. Noted that the dates for its next meetings are:
- 16 November 2020, remote meeting via the Kudo platform
 - 7-11 December 2020, Strasbourg (exact dates and place/nature of the meeting tbc)
 - 15-19 March 2021, Strasbourg (exact dates and place/nature of the meeting tbc)
 - 28 June-1 July 2021, Strasbourg (exact dates and place/nature of the meeting tbc)
 - 29 November-3 December 2021, Strasbourg (exact dates and place/nature of the meeting tbc).
34. Adopted the list of decisions of the meeting.