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1 April 2021

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

31st meeting (remote)

Venue: KUDO platform

29 March – 1st April 2021

Adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 1st April 2021

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 31st meeting remotely on KUDO on 29 March – 1st April 2021.

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. Adopted its agenda.
2. Welcomed the ratification by Ireland of the Lanzarote Convention which now counts all 47 Council of Europe member States as well as Tunisia among its Parties;
3. Was honoured by the [communication by Ms PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ](#), Secretary General of the Council of Europe, who underlined the vital role of the Lanzarote Committee’s work in breaking ground in the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and emphasised that the fight against child sexual exploitation and abuse will remain a priority for the Council of Europe under its Strategic Framework.
4. Warmly thanked the Secretary General for her support and commitment.
5. Proceeded to a short tour de table, whereby Committee members, participants and observers briefly introduced themselves.

2. Monitoring of the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention

2.1. *“The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs): addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos”*

- 2.1.1. Examination of document T-ES(2020)22 rev.1 (2nd monitoring round draft implementation report):
 6. Heard a summary from Ms DE CRAIM (Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee) on the progress made on the draft implementation report during previous plenary meetings of the Committee.
 7. Took note of the suggestion made by Ms SETTER ([We Protect Global Alliance](#)) to ensure that all the spectrum of risks related to the self-generation of sexual images and videos is made clear in the report as well as the need to use terminology in this context that is not child-blaming.

8. Was informed that a letter from Ms DE CRAIM (Belgium, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee), had been sent to the children who contributed to the current monitoring round, and in this context:

- was informed about and welcomed the feedback given to this letter by the organisations having facilitated this participation;
- reiterated appreciation for the possibility of outsourcing the creation of a child-friendly and user-friendly version of the key messages and recommendations included in the implementation report of the 2nd monitoring round, once adopted.

9. Examined Chapter VII “Promoting awareness of the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves” and after an exchange of views on the scope of the term “awareness-raising activities”, decided to include a definition of what is covered by this in the introduction to the chapter, in order to ensure that the difference between these activities and “educational or non-formal educational activities” which are covered in Chapter VII “Education for children” is made clear;

10. Examined Chapter VIII “Education for children” and Chapter IX “Higher education curriculum and continuous training”, discussed some suggestions and comments made by Parties on certain recommendations asking the Secretariat to reflect them in the final version of the draft report and asked Parties to check whether their involvement in the [awareness-raising campaign “Say no” of EUROPOL](#), was referred to where appropriate in the report and if not to inform the Secretariat (lanzarote.committee@coe.int) **by 25 June 2021** in a form of a comment to the text.

11. Examined Chapter X “Research” and decided to review the wording of its four Recommendations in order to ensure their full consistency in light of decisions concerning the use of the verbs to require/request and invite.

12. Agreed that additional information could be submitted to the Secretariat (lanzarote.committee@coe.int) at the latest **by 25 June 2021** to demonstrate compliance with any of the recommendations in the above chapters requiring or requesting given Parties to act.

2.1.2. Presentation of the results of a research on sexting and imaged-based sexual abuse of children

13. Heard with great interest the presentation by Mr VAN OUYTSEL, on his research findings on sexting and image-based sexual abuse of children.

14. Noted in particular his call for evidence-based health and relationship education and policy measures specifically targeting sexting to address the issues raised by children themselves.

2.1.3. Consideration of the compromise text concerning Chapter IV (International cooperation) as set out in the [Appendix to the list of decisions](#) of the Lanzarote Committee's 30th meeting

15. Agreed to postpone a decision on a compromise text concerning Chapter IV (International cooperation) in light of the suggestions on such compromise received by the Russian Federation on 25 February 2021 and agreed that the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee would, consider these suggestions and discuss them with the Russian Federation to possibly agree on a joint compromise to submit to the Committee at its 32nd plenary meeting in June.

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

2.2.1. Follow-up to 10 Recommendations of the special report (urgent monitoring round)

- State of affairs concerning additional clarifications requested to finalise the assessment of compliance with each of the 10 Recommendations by the 41 Parties covered by the special report

16. Noted that, many Parties submitted to the Secretariat 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.

17. Noted that the compilation of such information submitted with respect to each recommendation in the shared space of the Lanzarote Committee did not contain all the information that was reflected in the compilation country by country and thus asked the Secretariat to verify and up-date accordingly.

18. Was informed that the Secretariat will submit an updated analysis of such information in due time to allow the Committee to take decisions concerning compliance with these recommendations during its next meetings in 2021.

3. Exchange of information, experiences and good practices

3.1. *State of affairs concerning a possible compilation of relevant Council of Europe standards for a comprehensive human rights-based framework for the use of automated technology to detect online child sexual abuse and exploitation material (see para 20, list of decisions, 30th meeting)*

19. Was informed by Ms MORENO, Head of the Council of Europe Children's Rights and Sports Values Department, of the state of progress on the Committee's request for a compilation of relevant Council of Europe standards to support Parties in this area, and noted with enthusiasm the two inter-secretariat meetings which were already held for the preparation of such material, and the availability of Mr SICILIANOS, former President of the European Court of Human Rights, to be the lead expert on this work.

20. Took note of the planned timeline for the completion of this work by independent consultants, aiming at a finalisation of the compilation of standards by the end of May 2021.

21. Was informed by Ms SINCLAIR WILSON (United Kingdom) of her authorities' commitment to finding solutions to allow for the continued use of technology to protect children against online sexual exploitation and abuse and its readiness to help any joint efforts in this regard.

22. Took also note of the availability expressed by Mr KLANČNIK (EUROPOL) to provide support as regards the law enforcement perspective.

23. Was informed by Ms BUCHOWSKA (Regional Coordinator for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, ECPAT International) of the "Project Beacon", an EU wide campaign on children's rights to protection and privacy in the digital environment.

3.2. *Up-date on focused questionnaires on legal age for sexual activities and statute of limitations for sexual offences against children and consideration of possible capacity building events on the issues raised in the questionnaires*

24. Noted that 25 Parties had already provided their replies to the questionnaires on legal age for sexual activities and statute of limitations for sexual offences against children, and welcomed the keen interest of Parties to share information on the issues addressed by these two questionnaires. In this regard:

- agreed that Parties that had not yet done so could still submit their replies to the Secretariat (Lanzarote.committee@coe.int) by **30 April 2021**.
- agreed to promptly share the replies given by Parties to both questionnaires in the shared space of the Lanzarote Committee. As discussions on new legislation on either of these two topics are currently underway in some of the Parties, decided that the replies would be published on the Council of Europe website at a later stage for consultation of the general public.

25. Was informed by Mrs. Baroness MASSEY that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) is organising a parliamentary survey to gain an overview of the current standards in Council of Europe Member States on the age of legal consent, the statute of limitations for sexual offences against children and on the social responsibility and accountability of businesses and media in preventing the over-sexualisation of children. Noted that an analysis of these replies would be ready by June 2021. Given the similarities of the topics addressed by PACE's survey and its questionnaires, welcomed the possibility of further collaboration with the Parliamentary Assembly on these issues.

26. Welcomed the suggestion of holding capacity-building events on one or both of these issues in the near future, in order to exchange information on key developments in practice and legislation. In this context also agreed to possibly allow non-Parties to the Convention to also share their national developments.

27. To this end, proposed that the above activities be organised in cooperation with one or more of its members, participants or observers, and asked them to submit any suggestions on the content of the possible event(s) to the Secretariat (lanzarote.committee@coe.int).

28. Specified that the above activities were not intended to lead to the adoption of recommendations on the implementation of the Convention to be addressed to Parties neither were they aimed at suggesting any amendments to the Lanzarote Convention.

3.3. Exchange of views with Ms Mama Fatima SINGHATEH, UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children

29. Was informed by Ms SINGHATEH (UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children) on the priorities of her mandate and the findings of her recent report on the impact of coronavirus disease on the different manifestations of the sale and sexual exploitation of children.

30. Following a rich exchange of views, welcomed the opportunity to strengthen its cooperation with Ms SINGHATEH and to this end:

- invited her to follow the future plenary meetings of the Committee as a participant;
- discussed the possibility of collaborating more closely to raise awareness of the Lanzarote Convention benchmarks worldwide, as a first step in the process of possible future accessions to the Lanzarote Convention more globally;
- agreed to entrust its Bureau to respond to the UN SR's [call for input](#) on her next thematic report (deadline 10 May 2021).

31. Warmly thanked Ms SINGHATEH for her insightful presentation and agreed that her Secretariat and its Secretariat would discuss viable options to join forces.

3.4. Presentation of the new UK strategy on Tackling Child Sexual Abuse

32. Heard a presentation from Ms SINCLAIR WILSON on the new UK Strategy on Tackling Child Sexual Abuse

33. Underlined the importance of cross-governmental cooperation as well as cooperation between state actors, the industry, and civil society organisations, as well as within public agencies for the fight against child sexual exploitation and abuse.

34. Welcomed the use of both terms “victim” and “survivor” within the UK Strategy.

3.5. Presentation of relevant Tech Coalition initiatives

35. Heard a presentation by Mr LITTON (Executive Director of the [Technology Coalition](#)) on the Voluntary Principles and associated guide for tech companies considering supporting the Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual

Exploitation Abuse, the “Project Protect: A plan to combat online child sexual abuse”, and the Tech Coalition Safe Online Research Fund.

36. Discussed the current technologies available for the detection of child sexual abuse material online and grooming text, and the need for cooperation between State authorities and the private sector on this issue.

37. Recalled the need to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse whilst respecting the right to privacy and other human rights, and the complexity of this issue in relation to the automatic detection of child sexual abuse material online, in particular the detection of “grooming” conversations.

38. Noted the opportunity for a member of the Lanzarote Committee to participate in the Technology Coalition’s upcoming workshop on “Self-Generated Indecent Imagery Featuring Youth: Working Together for Maximum Impact” on 28-29 April 2021.

3.6. *Debriefings by Lanzarote Committee members having participated in meetings of Council of Europe bodies on the Lanzarote Committee’s behalf and/or information on the preparation of the next Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child*

39. Was informed by Ms JENSDÓTTIR (Council of Europe Coordinator on the rights of the child, Head of the Children’s Rights Division) on the preparation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child and welcomed the possibility of commenting on the first draft of the Strategy. In this regard agreed that:

- Mr NIKOLAIDIS (representative of the Lanzarote Committee in the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child - CDENF) would already contribute orally during the next plenary meeting of the CDENF in April 2021;
- the Bureau of the Committee would then prepare written comments with the support of Mr NIKOLAIDIS, to be discussed in the 32nd plenary meeting and submitted during the summer.

3.7. *Information about the 7th edition of the European Day on the protection of Children against Sexual exploitation and Sexual Abuse (18 November)*

40. Was informed by Ms JENSDOTTIR that the focus of the European Day will be on the protection of children in the circle of trust to raise awareness on the Lanzarote Committee’s 1st monitoring round’s findings (key recommendations and promising practices).

41. Noted that the Secretariat will present more details about the forthcoming European Day during the Committee’s 32nd meeting in June.

42. Heard a presentation by Mr HOUBRON (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) about the initiatives taken by PACE in the context of the 6th edition of the European Day and its commitment to actively take part in the next edition.

3.8. Exchange of information on any other relevant initiative

43. Was informed by Mrs DE CRAIM of her participation as a member of the Belgian delegation in the [14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#), which was held from 7 to 12 March 2021 in Kyoto, Japan with the theme of “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”.

44. Noted in particular that the [Kyoto Declaration](#) called on its signatories to take more effective measures to prevent and end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, including child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online and offline, by criminalizing such acts, supporting victims and fostering international cooperation to combat these crimes.

45. Welcomed the suggestion of including presentations of this Congress concerning sexual offences against children in its shared space.

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 (OCSEA) @ Europe Project

46. Was updated by Ms BUREL (Children’s Rights Division) on the progress made in the Council of Europe “End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe (EndOCSEA@Europe)” Project, in particular with regards to the finalisation of its pilot module for law enforcement, judges and prosecutors to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA) in light of the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions. The pilot module will be launched in a regional event on 3-4 June 2021 (TBC) with the support of its pilot and focus countries which contributed to its development and testing.

47. Was informed of the forthcoming publication in June of the updated version of the 'Baseline Mapping Report on Member state responses to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse' which will include new information in light of the impact of the pandemic on OCSEA and the expert's recommendations for improvements.

48. Noted that Parties were encouraged to continue to send replies to the questionnaire which was sent in February 2021 to the members to collect information on national standards and practices to address OCSEA. This information will be compiled in a report and should support the inclusion of practical examples in the training module notably.

49. Welcomed with interest the cooperation activities presented by Ms LICHTNER (Cybercrime Division) to promote the Lanzarote Convention standards in non-Council of Europe States in the context of the Octopus project.

50. Was informed that Wikis country profiles on OCSEA were being prepared for 10 non-European countries on the basis of the pilot Wiki prepared for Ukraine with the support of the EndOCSEA@Europe project. Also noted that this served as a basis to prepare the Wikis for Armenia and Azerbaijan.

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

51. Was updated by Ms GASPARYAN (Children's Rights Division) on progress in the Council of Europe cooperation projects with Slovenia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

52. Welcomed, in particular, the unanimous adoption of the Barnahus Law in Slovenia, a first law of its kind in Europe aiming to comprehensively regulate the establishment and functioning of the Barnahus model in the country.

5. Procedural matters

5.1. *Exchange of views on the sharing of Committee members, observers and participants contacts*

53. Agreed that members, participants and observers wishing to share their emails in the Committee's restricted shared space should inform the Secretariat (lanzarote.committee@coe.int).

6. Any other business

- Resuming the Committee's reflection on ensuring the effectiveness of the Lanzarote Convention's monitoring procedure

54. Was informed by Mrs DE CRAIM that in 2018/2019 the Committee held exchanges of views on the modus operandi of a series other Council of Europe monitoring bodies (both governmental and independent) to consider possible ways and means to maintain its monitoring work effective. The Committee had also evoked the idea of exploring any steps that might to be taken for the possible establishment, in the long term, of a Group of independent experts to complement the current intergovernmental monitoring mechanism. In 2020 reflection on these issues was put on hold to face other challenges.

55. Took note that an Ad-Hoc Working Party on Monitoring (GT-MON) focusing on the efficiency of Council of Europe monitoring had been established in the Committee of Ministers and was informed that GT-MON would finalise its work by reporting back to the Deputies before 30 April 2021. In this context, agreed to ensure that the outcomes of this work would be taken into account in its own reflection.

56. Decided to resume its reflection on ensuring the effectiveness of the Lanzarote Convention's monitoring procedure in a step by step approach and agreed on the following line of action:

- The Bureau will possibly meet in the course of April to finalise the working paper it had already considered in 2020 on possible changes to be implemented in the short/medium term. Mr NIKOLAIDIS (Greece) will be associated to this meeting, having been involved in previous work on the above working paper.
 - The working paper should include clear guidance to Parties as to points for reflection and decision during the Committee’s June meeting.
 - Only points not requiring changes to the Rules of Procedure will be on the agenda of the June meeting for decision, other points will be for discussion and decision at a later stage.
 - Reflection on possible reforms in the long term will resume later.
57. Noted that its next plenary meetings are scheduled to take place on:
- 28-30 June 2021 (KUDO platform,)
 - 29 November - 3 December 2021 (format to be confirmed).
58. Noted also that additional meetings might be scheduled if need be.
59. Adopted this list of decisions of the meeting.