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COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM (CDCT)

7th Plenary Meeting

Palais, Room 2 / Videoconference, 22 - 24 November 2021

(Hybrid meeting)

Abridged Report and List of Decisions

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The Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) at its 7th Plenary meeting held on 22-24 November 2021, in a hybrid format, chaired by Ms Ileana VIȘOIU (Romania) decided to:

1. Opening of the meeting

Take note of the opening remarks by Director Jan KLEIJSEN (Information Society – Action against Crime, Council of Europe) who began his remarks by expressing his condolences to countries where terrorist attacks have recently occurred, notably in the United Kingdom and Norway. He then welcomed the participants to the Plenary, both online and in-person, and expressed his hope that further meetings will take place in an in-person format. Mr KLEIJSEN also congratulated the CDCT on the completion of its work on the Recommendation on measures aimed at protecting children against radicalisation for the purpose of terrorism, which was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on the 20 October 2021, and noted that the Recommendation on the use of information collected in conflict zones as evidence in criminal proceedings for terrorism offences is still pending before the Committee of Ministers and is expected to be adopted by the end of the year. He continued by informing the CDCT about the Octopus Conference that took place on 16-18 November 2021 and of the adoption of the [Second Additional Protocol to the Cybercrime Convention](#) (Budapest Convention) on enhanced co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence, which covers several areas of relevance to the CDCT.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Adopt the agenda, with a re-ordering of two items, namely item 11 Financing of Terrorism and item 15 Definition of Terrorism, respectively.

3. Communication by the Chair, the Delegations and the Secretariat

Take note of the information provided by its Chair, Ms VIȘOIU, notably her recent participation in events relating to her function as Chair of the CDCT, including a Conference co-organised by the Council of Europe and Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation on the "Role of the Prosecutor's Office in Protection of Individual Rights and Public Interest in light of Requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights", held in Saint-Petersburg from 7-8 July 2021, and an event organised on radicalisation and deradicalisation in the Western Balkans organised within the framework of the Slovenian Presidency of the European Union on 7 October.

Take note of the outcomes of the last CDCT Bureau meeting (4-5 October 2021) as they relate to the items to be discussed at the Plenary.

Take note of the information provided by the delegation from Austria regarding the new Terrorist Combatting Acts (27 July 2021), which includes a range of new anti-terrorism measures and which partly entered into force on 1 September 2021, with the rest to enter into force on 1 January 2022.

Welcome the information provided by the delegation from Finland, which announced that the Government of Finland is preparing a bill to submit to Parliament for the ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 217).

Take note of the information provided by Mr Carlo CHIAROMONTE, Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and Secretary to the CDCT, namely that:

- I. Since the last Plenary, the Netherlands ratified the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 217), which entered into force for the Netherlands on 1 October 2021;
- II. The Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196) has 42 ratifications and 6 signatures, and the Protocol now has 24 ratifications and 18 signatures;
- III. The Terms of Reference of the CDCT are expected to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers this week with minor adjustments concerning deliverables no. 11 and 12.

4. Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy: Completed, ongoing and future activities of the CDCT

Examine the state of implementation of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2018 – 2022), and discuss the possible options for implementing remaining activities of the current Strategy.

Adopt the following way forward for the remaining Strategy items:

- I. To merge activity 1.1 on preventing and countering terrorist public provocation, propaganda, radicalisation, recruitment and training and activity 1.2 on preventing and countering terrorist public provocation, propaganda, radicalisation, recruitment and training on the internet;
- II. To implement activity 2.2 on the gathering of e-evidence in terrorism related cases;
- III. Discontinue activity 2.4 on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, extradition and the use of joint investigative teams in relation to terrorism.

5. Preparing the next Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Discuss the preparation of the new Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2023-2027) on the basis of the document prepared by the Secretariat.

Instruct the Secretariat to initiate the Working Group on drafting the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2023-2027), to be composed of members of the Bureau plus interested member states, as well as other interested participants in accordance with Paragraph 7(b) of Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Call on delegations to express their interest in participating in the Working Group by contacting the Secretariat.

6. Identification of emerging terrorist threats (Activity 3.4 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Chair of the Working Group, Ms Ileana VIȘOIU, regarding the progress made on the development of the draft report on Emerging Terrorist Threats in Europe which reflects recent developments in the terrorist *modus operandi*, structures, and tactics used, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in this area. Since the last Plenary meeting was held, the Working Group met in July and October 2021. Both meetings were dedicated to examining the draft text and revising or complementing it pursuant to information provided by Working Group experts and

in light of developments that emerged after the production of the preliminary draft report. The next meeting will take place in January 2022 when the draft report is expected to be finalised.

7. Risk assessment of individuals indicted or convicted for terrorist offences (Activity 3.2 of the Strategy)

Welcome the information provided by the Chair of the Working Group on risk assessment of individuals indicted or convicted for terrorist offences (CDCT-RA), Mr Thomas GREGOIRE, who presented on the overall drafting process of both the draft Recommendation and its accompanying Explanatory Memorandum. Mr GREGOIRE also provided information about the 3rd and final meeting of the Working Group held on 22-23 September 2021.

Congratulate and thank Mr GREGOIRE for the excellent and timely outcomes of the Working Group.

Examine and approve both draft texts revised pursuant to comments provided by the delegations and instruct the Secretariat to submit the draft Recommendation to the Committee of Ministers for final adoption. The Explanatory Memorandum is also to be transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for information.

8. Compilation of best practices with regards to deradicalisation, disengagement and social reintegration (Activity 3.1 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Chair of the Working Group on best practices with regards to deradicalisation, disengagement and social reintegration (CDCT-DDR), Mr Mario JANEČEK, on the outcomes of the first meeting of the Working Group held in October 2021. A draft Questionnaire aimed at collecting information on recent programmes and practices in the field of deradicalisation, disengagement and social reintegration was also examined by members of the Working Group and distributed on 29 October, with responses requested to be returned to the Secretariat by 2 February 2022. The next meeting of the CDCT-DDR Working Group is tentatively scheduled for March 2022.

9. International Conference on the roles of women and children in terrorism (Activity 3.5 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the progress made with the final preparations for the International Conference on the roles of women and children in terrorism, which will be held in a hybrid format on 15-16 December 2021.

Welcome the Secretariat's invitation to register to the Conference via the link provided, and note that connection details to the Conference will be sent to registered participants in advance of the opening of the event.

10. Law enforcement and emergency services responses during and in the immediate aftermath of terrorist attacks (Activity 3.6 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the activity for the Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Responses during and in the Immediate Aftermath of Terrorist Attacks (CDCT-EES), namely a Seminar, made of 3 sessions, tentatively scheduled for 2 March 2022.

Take note of the Secretariat's call for delegations to designate suitable professionals from their relevant national structures (security, law enforcement, healthcare, and first responders, etc.) to speak and participate in this Seminar.

11. Financing of Terrorism (Activity 1.5 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by Mr Ruslan KANTUR, the CDCT member in the Joint expert group MNV-CDCT-COP 198 tasked with reviewing the need for revising or updating the Council of Europe standards on terrorist financing. He informed the Plenary that the first meeting of the group of experts took place on 3 September 2021. He noted that the first draft report on this subject is expected to be delivered to the respective Committees in early 2022.

12. Bioterrorism

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat concerning the responses received pursuant to the Bioterrorism Questionnaire distributed on 26 May 2021, notably that 23 responses were received and that a preliminary analytical document has been produced based on the replies.

Encourage all other delegations to send responses to the questionnaire before 31 January 2022, in order to provide a more complete picture of bioterrorism-related issues.

Instruct the Secretariat to produce a more detailed analytical report on the replies to the questionnaire to be discussed during the next Bureau meeting.

13. Network of Contact Points for the exchange of information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism (Activity 3.3 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the Network of Contact Points for the exchange of information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism, namely that the Network is currently composed of 30 states and 1 international organisation, that all factsheets have been made available via the restricted website and that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for early 2022.

Encourage members who have not already done so to join the Network.

14. 24/7 Network of Contact Points on Foreign Terrorist Fighters

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the 24/7 Network of Contact Points on Foreign Terrorist Fighters, namely that there have been no developments since the last Plenary but that the Network has been tested and is currently fully functional.

15. Definition of Terrorism

Decide to continue the postponement of this activity until sanitary conditions allow in-person meetings.

Request that the Bureau discuss and consider the potential options to enable engagement on this item.

16. Country profiles on counter-terrorism capacity and information on measures taken at national level against terrorism

Consider the updated country profiles on counter-terrorism capacity as submitted by the delegations of France, Latvia, Switzerland and Turkey and authorise their publication on the website of the CDCT.

Invite all other member states to submit or update their country profiles on a regular basis.

17. Presentations by partner organisations

Hold an exchange of views with ASG Michèle CONINSX, Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UN CTED), who informed the Plenary of the recent developments and activities undertaken by CTED, notably with regards to the recent event held to mark the 20th Anniversary of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, newly published Global Surveys on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), as well as on contemporary challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hold an exchange of views with Mr Anton AREFIEV, Deputy Head of Department of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Anti-Terrorism Center (CIS ATC), who presented the main role and responsibilities of the CIS ATC in supporting its members and partners in organising counter-terrorism training exercises and providing operational support.

18. Elections

Elect Ms Päivi KAIRAMO (Finland) as Chair of the CDCT.

Elect Mr Nicola PIACENTE (Italy) as Vice-Chair of the CDCT.

Elect Mr Pascal-Hervé BOGDANSKI (Switzerland) as Member of the Bureau.

Elect Ms Ileana VIȘOIU (Romania) as Member of the Bureau.

Renew the mandates of the Members of the Bureau Mr Mario JANEČEK (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Mr Georgy MIKHNO (Russian Federation).

Thank Ms Ileana VIȘOIU for her excellent stewardship of the Committee over the last two years and commend her on the achievements made during her tenure, particularly with the challenges presented by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

19. Any other business

Take note that no issues were raised under this item.

20. Date and place of the 8th Plenary Meeting of the CDCT

Hold the 8th Plenary meeting of the CDCT from the 16 to 18 May 2022.

21. Adoption of the Abridged Report and List of Decisions

Examine and adopt the Abridged Report and List of Decisions taken.