

## COMMITTEE ON BIOETHICS (DH-BIO)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods

**Type of committee:** Subordinate body

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019**

<b>Pillar/Sector/Programme</b>
<p><b>Pillar:</b> Human Rights</p> <p><b>Sector:</b> Promoting Human Rights and Dignity</p> <p><b>Programme:</b> Bioethics</p>
<b>Main tasks</b>
<p>Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the DH-BIO shall carry out the tasks assigned to the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI) by the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine.</p> <p>Under the supervision of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), the DH-BIO will conduct intergovernmental work on the protection of human rights in the field of biomedicine assigned to it by the Committee of Ministers. The DH-BIO will in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) conduct regular re-examinations foreseen in the Convention and its Additional Protocols;</li><li>(ii) develop further the principles laid down in the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, as appropriate, also in the light of the relevant case-law of the ECHR;</li><li>(iii) contribute to raising awareness and facilitating the implementation of these principles;</li><li>(iv) assess ethical and legal challenges raised by developments in the biomedical field;</li><li>(iv) co-operate with the European Union and relevant intergovernmental bodies, in particular with a view to promoting consistency between the normative texts;</li><li>(v) in accordance with decisions <a href="#">CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2</a> of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which it has been given responsibility and report back to the Committee of Ministers.</li></ul>
<b>Specific tasks</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) A draft Additional Protocol on the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorders with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment is finalised.</li><li>(ii) On the basis of the results of the international conference organised on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oviedo Convention, a draft Strategic Action Plan on human rights and technologies is finalised.</li><li>(iii) A training course on essential principles for the protection of human rights in the biomedical field intended for legal and health professionals is launched in the framework of the HELP programme.</li><li>(iv) A round table is organised, in co-operation with the Consultative Committee of the Convention for the protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data (T-PD), on the challenges for human rights raised by developments in the field of genetics, including for children's rights.</li><li>(v) Subject to the results of the international conference organised on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oviedo Convention, draft guidelines for the promotion of public debate on human rights challenges raised by developments in science and technologies are developed.</li></ul>
<b>Composition</b>
<p><b>Members:</b></p> <p>Governments of the member States are invited to designate one or more representatives of the highest possible rank, with appropriate expertise in the various aspects of bioethics, including in relation to emerging technologies, and able to consider these from a human rights perspective.</p>

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each member State (two in the case of the State whose representative has been elected Chair).

Each member of the committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

In accordance with decisions [CM/Del/Dec\(2013\)1168/10.2](#) of the Committee of Ministers, in cases where there is no convention-based body including all the Parties, non-member States are invited to take part, with a right to vote, in the committee meetings pertaining to the conventions to which they are Parties.

#### **Participants:**

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (T-PD), Committee (Partial Agreement) on Transplantation of Organs and Tissues (CD-P-TO) and Committee (Partial Agreement) on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS);<sup>[7]</sup>
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union;
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- Other international organisations: European Science Foundation (ESF), OECD, UNESCO and WHO.

#### **Observers:**

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- Australia, Israel;
- the Conference of European Churches (KEK);
- other non-governmental organisations, including professional organisations, which could be invited by the DH-BIO to attend specific meetings of the DH-BIO in accordance with [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#).

#### **Working methods**

##### **Meetings :**

48 members, 2 meetings in 2018, 4 days

48 members, 2 meetings in 2019, 4 days

##### **Bureau :**

7 members, 2 meetings in 2018, 2 days

7 members, 2 meetings in 2019, 2 days

The Chair or Vice-Chair of DH-BIO may be invited to attend the meetings of the CDDH and its Bureau in order to inform on progress with its work.

The Committee will also appoint a Gender Equality Rapporteur from amongst its members.

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

**BUDGETARY INFORMATION\*****2018**

Meetings per year	Number of days	Members	Plenary €	Bureau €	Subordinate structures / Working groups	Secretariat (A, B)
2	4	48	133 100	21 000	-	1 A; 1 B

**2019**

Meetings per year	Number of days	Members	Plenary €	Bureau €	Subordinate structures / Working groups	Secretariat (A, B)
2	4	48	133 100	21 000	-	1 A; 1 B

\*The costs presented above take into consideration the per diem, travel, interpretation, translation and document printing. Costs calculated on the basis of the per diem and recharged services costs at their 2018 level.