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| **MINISTERS’ DEPUTIES** | Information documents | **CM/Inf(2022)13** | 17 May 2022 |

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| **Stocktaking of the Italian Presidencyof the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe(17 November 2021 – 20 May 2022)** |

**Introduction**

For the eighth time since its accession to the Council of Europe as a founding member in 1949, Italy was honoured to assume the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers on 17 November 2021. Italy took on this commitment with a strong sense of responsibility and full awareness of both the opportunities and challenges it would entail. With the clear purpose of promoting enhanced dialogue and co-operation and to reaffirm the principles and values that unite all member States within the Council of Europe, our Presidency has been inclusive and participatory, committed to a result-oriented approach and aimed at preserving the Organisation’s credibility and importance in the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

In pursuing this objective, the Italian Presidency has given great value to a constant and fruitful dialogue with the Secretary General and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly in order to ensure cohesion, convergence and full ownership of all three institutions in the decision-making process of the Council of Europe.

## In this spirit, participation at political level was ensured in all the sessions convened by the Parliamentary Assembly, with such commitment culminating in the attendance by the Italian President of the Republic at the second-part session of the Assembly on 25 to 28 April. The Italian Chair, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Luigi Di Maio, attended the meeting of the Bureau and Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly that took place in Rome on 25 and 26 November, as well as the second-part session of the Assembly. The first-part session which was held from 24 to 28 January and the extraordinary session on the consequences of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine of 14 and 15 March were attended by the Italian Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Benedetto Della Vedova.

Fully embracing the vision that place the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the very root of European common values, the Italian Presidency deemed important to promote the goal of strengthening further the awareness of the member States’ citizens on the values and work of the Council of Europe.

In this respect, within the Strategic Framework of the Secretary General and the decision to adopt a four-year programming period, we strove and succeeded in having a biannual budget approved, a very important step to better define the strategic direction of the Organisation, even in the face of a dramatic and unexpected crisis such as the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

In accordance with this strategic agenda, the action of the Italian Presidency has revolved around three main themes, which have been further articulated in different sub-sections. These themes reflect the fields that Italy considered more urgent to tackle, in an effort to protect the core values of the Council of Europe, to promote dialogue and inclusivity and to apply the lessons learned during the pandemic. The pillars of Italian actions have been:

1. **Recommitting to our shared principles and values;**
2. **Enhancing women’s empowerment and the rights of children and adolescents, promoting youth policies while fighting discrimination;**
3. **Building a people-centered future.**

The initiatives and events that have been organised in the framework of each theme-driven sections are described in the relevant paragraphs of this document.

**Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and other conflicts and crises in Europe**

The course of the Presidency was strongly affected by the need to address the dramatic events that led, for the first time in the history of the Organisation, to the decision of the Committee of Ministers on the cessation of the membership of one member State: the Russian Federation. A decision that was made inevitable by the illegal and unjustifiable aggression committed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

Due to the exceptional nature of the events, a brief recapitulation of the main measures that had to be taken, in line with the Organisation’s Statute, is provided as follows.

On 24 February 2022, the Ministers’ Deputies adopted a series of decisions, condemning in the strongest terms the armed attack on Ukraine by the Russian Federation in violation of international law and expressing their support to Ukraine.

On 25 February 2022, considering the serious violation by the Russian Federation of its obligations under Article 3 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, and following an exchange of views with the Parliamentary Assembly in the Joint Committee, the Deputies agreed to suspend the Russian Federation from its rights of representation in the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 8 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and agreed that this suspension should take immediate effect in respect of the rights of representation in the Committee of Ministers and in the Parliamentary Assembly.

This was followed, on 2 March 2022, by the adoption of Resolution [CM/Res(2022)1](https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?reference=cm/res(2022)1) on legal and financial consequences of the suspension of the Russian Federation from its rights of representation in the Council of Europe.

On 8 March 2022, the Chair of the Committee of Ministers, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe jointly called on the Russian Federation to implement the interim measures indicated by the European Court of Human Rights on 1 and 4 March 2022, to guarantee to all persons under its jurisdiction the rights and freedoms enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights and to stop its aggression, return to the path of diplomacy and fully recommit to European values.

On 10 March 2022, the Deputies decided to consult the Parliamentary Assembly on potential further use of Article 8 of the Organisation’s Statute in response to the serious violations by the Russian Federation of its statutory obligations as a member State. They expressed their deep concern about the fate of the civilian victims of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and strongly urged the Russian Federation to implement the interim measures indicated by the European Court of Human Rights on 1 and 4 March 2022. The Deputies welcomed the willingness of member States to host or assist a large and increasing number of refugees seeking protection outside Ukraine and the support given by those States which opened their borders to refugees, as well as the initiatives taken by Council of Europe bodies and institutions, including the Council of Europe Development Bank and the Commissioner for Human Rights.

On 15 March 2022, the Italian Chair of the Committee of Ministers, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe made a joint statement following the Parliamentary Assembly’s unanimous opinion that the Russian Federation should no longer be a member State of the Organisation.

On 16 March 2022, the Deputies adopted Resolution [CM/Res(2022)2](https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?reference=cm/res(2022)2) on the cessation of the membership of the Russian Federation to the Council of Europe under Article 8 of the Statute. The Resolution refers, *inter alia*, to Opinion No. 300 of the Parliamentary Assembly, unanimously adopted on 15 March 2022, which considered that the Russian Federation could no longer be a member State of the Organisation. Through the Resolution, the Committee of Ministers decided, in the context of the procedure launched under Article 8 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, that the Russian Federation ceased to be a member of the Council of Europe as from 16 March 2022.

On 23 March 2022, the Deputies adopted Resolution [CM/Res(2022)3](https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?reference=cm/res(2022)3) on legal and financial consequences of the cessation of membership of the Russian Federation in the Council of Europe. This Resolution stipulates, *inter alia* (paragraph 7), that the Russian Federation shall cease to be a High Contracting Party to the European Convention on Human Rights on 16 September 2022. The Committee of Ministers will continue to supervise the execution of the judgments and the friendly settlements concerned and the Russian Federation is required to implement them.

While reacting to the dramatic situation in Ukraine, the Committee of Ministers has recognised that there are threats to security and stability in other parts of the continent, including in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region / South Ossetia.

On 4 May 2022, the Committee of Ministers reiterated the unequivocal support of the Council of Europe member States for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders

1. **Recommitting to our shared principles and values**

Italy has prioritised the revitalisation of the principles and values at the core of the Council of Europe, supporting co-operation within the member States and beyond, by addressing a number of crucial domains: health, human and social rights, culture, sport and intercultural dialogue.

1. **Health:** The impact of the pandemic on our national health systems has been an opportunity to move towards a more resilient and inclusive healthcare system.

This subject was discussed at the“Conference on Social Resilience and Health Equity: a human right prospective for better resilience and preparedness”, held in Rome on 22 February 2022, and opened by the Italian Minister for Health, Roberto Speranza and by the Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Benedetto Della Vedova. The event was aimed at raising awareness on the importance of human rights protection during public health crises and on how to support member States in being more resilient and prepared in such crises, identifying needs to be addressed for the protection of vulnerable groups, including persons having difficulties in accessing healthcare.

1. **Social rights** are a key aspect of the European construction and of Europe's founding principles, albeit with due regard for national traditions. Italy has contributed to the Council’s efforts to strengthen the Social Charter by simplifying its monitoring procedures and fostering a more regular dialogue with governments.
2. **Cultural heritage** is an outstanding tool to support dialogue and social inclusion, through which a democratic and pluralist European identity can be further developed, improving also the quality of life of our communities. In this context, the Italian Presidency has prioritised the protection and promotion of culture in the agenda of the Council of Europe, convening, for the first time since 2013, a Ministerial Conference of the Council of Europe’s Ministers of Culture. The advocacy of culture as an agent for dialogue and democracy was also pursed by the Italian Presidency by highlighting the contribution provided by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes on fostering exchanges and dialogue between the countries and peoples who host and give life to the routes.

On 24 November 2021, the exhibition “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Italy: a European heritage”, was unveiled in the presence of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The Exhibition displays images and references to the 29 routes that run through Italy, centuries-old itineraries that connect cultures, languages, histories and traditions, thus fostering pan-European identity.

The contribution of the regional and local communities to the goals of the Council of Europe was at the centre of the 41st session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, held in Strasbourg on 22 to

24 March 2022, with the participation of the Italian Minister for Regional Affairs, Maria Stella Gelmini.

The Conference of Ministers of Culture “Creating Europe: creativity and cultural heritage as strategic resources for a diversified and democratic Europe” was held in Strasbourg on 1 April 2022, jointly organised by the Council of Europe and the Italian Ministry of Culture. Its objective was to discuss how the legal framework created by the Conventions of the Council of Europe on Culture, Heritage and Landscape could support society in addressing the challenges of our time and how the cultural landscape can guarantee the protection of cultural diversity and freedom of expression in the digital environment and how it can enlarge democratic participation. The event was opened by the Secretary General, Marija Pejčinović Burić, and by the Italian Minister of Culture, Dario Franceschini. The Ministries invited the Council of Europe to work on guidelines to integrate the existing standards in the field of culture, creativity and defence of the cultural heritage by taking into account the latest technological developments, especially in the field of artificial intelligence. Furthermore, an invitation was made for the adoption of a recommendation on the role of culture as an asset to deal with global challenges and for a pan-European juridical instrument to codify the rules of co-production of TV shows and a public financial instrument to support such projects. On this occasion, Minister Franceschini launched the appeal “Call for Ukraine” to support the Ukrainian cultural sector.

On 11 April 2022, a launch conference for the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) was held in Venice, under the Italian Presidency, and in the framework of the National Conference for the promotion of the European Label of Governance Excellence”, with the presence of the Italian Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Benedetto Della Vedova.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies hosted the meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly Culture Committee that was held in Rome on 9 May. The agenda of the session focused on the right of the people to access culture and knowledge as a pre-condition for ensuring democratic citizenship and full participation in community life and policy making. The session was also attended by the Italian Minister for Culture, Dario Franceschini, and the Italian Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Benedetto Della Vedova.

1. **Sport** is also a key tool for dialogue, insofar and whether it is fairly and honestly governed.

On 6 and 7 December 2021, the Italian Department for Sport, represented by the Undersecretary of State for Sport, Valentina Vezzali and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) co-hosted a Conference on Integrity in Sport, in Rome, in order to take stock of policy work carried out in three main areas: preparation of integrity guidelines; combating the manipulation of sports competition (Macolin Convention) and ensuring good governance in sport.

On 20 January an informal Committee of Ministers was convened to make an assessment of the implementation of the Council of Europe’s “*acquis”* on the protection of human rights, rule of law and democracy in the field of sport and sport’s governance. The meeting was attended and the relevant discussion supported by representatives of the Secretariat, the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Court for Human Rights.

1. **Intercultural and interreligious dialogue** is pivotal not only to encourage an effective neighborhood policy and improve the Council of Europe’s global reach, but also to promote mutual knowledge among communities.

On the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on 27 January 2022, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Italy joined the international community in remembrance of the victims of the Shoah. As Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Italy reiterated its commitment to fighting all forms of discrimination and intolerance, among which anti-Semitism.

On 2 May 2022, in the framework of the Italian Presidency, an international conference took place in Strasbourg on the subject of “Interreligious dialogue on religion and peace, religion and human rights”. On that occasion, the “Strasbourg Principles” were presented, a set of fundamental principles for Inter-religious dialogue, which will form the basis for future work of the Organisation in this field.

1. **Enhancing women’s empowerment and the rights of children and adolescents, promoting youth policies while fighting discrimination.**

The second line of action of the Italian Presidency addressed the issue of the protection of the vulnerable categories who have been most affected by the pandemic, mainly among them women, youth and children. By advocating their rights and promoting their public engagement, Italy has acknowledged the crucial role that their participation and involvement in the economic and social recovery process can play in ensuring the latter sustainability and inclusiveness.

During lockdowns and restricted movement measures, cases of domestic violence and gender abuse have risen dramatically, while the participation of women in the labour market declined more rapidly than that of men. This is why **the protection and promotion of women's fundamental rights** must be at the heart of our joint efforts. Women's participation in the labour market, family support services and the promotion of leadership roles for women in the economy and society must be priority themes in recovery programme, which must be devised with the full involvement of women in the decision-making process. It is also essential to continue to work on **reconciling professional and private life** to ensure that women are not obliged to choose between family and work, giving up, in many cases, their own financial independence.

1. The protection and promotion of **women’s fundamental rights** has ranked high in the set of priorities of the Italian Presidency, as testified by the significant amount of relevant conferences and activities that were organised and implemented during the semester.

On 25 November 2021, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Italian Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, Elena Bonetti, participated in the High-level Segment of the Gender Equality Commission. The meeting focused on violence against women and domestic violence in the framework of the Istanbul Convention, the most advanced international instrument in this field. On that occasion, a strong call was made to the need to act on the direct link between Women’s empowerment and the prevention of violence against women, including "economic violence” in the paradigm of the international advocacy on this theme. A joint statement was issued to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Istanbul Convention.

On International Women’s Day, on 8 March 2022, the Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Minister Luigi Di Maio, made a statement reaffirming Italy’s firm commitment to protecting women’s rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment, and to combating all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence. The Minister also expressed solidarity with women everywhere in the world who have forcefully voiced their opposition to the unjustified military aggression against Ukraine.

On 15 March 2022, in the margins of the 66th Commission on the Status of Women, the online conference "STEM education as a stepping-stone towards gender transformative climate change policies" was

co-organised by the Council of Europe and the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers – represented by the Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, Elena Bonetti – and co-sponsored by Austria, the United Kingdom and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The Conference raised the issue of gender-awareness and gender balance approach in science, research and innovation.

On 12 April 2022, a High-Level Conference of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers entitled “Work-life balance as a leverage for women's empowerment and promoting gender equality” was held in Rome. The Conference, co-organised by the Italian Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Council of Europe, hosted a debate on measures for balancing private and professional life and on the prevention of gender discrimination. It was focused on exploring ways in which family responsibilities can be better shared and gender equality improved. Chaired by the Italian Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, Elena Bonetti, the event was attended also by the Italian Minister for Labour and Social Policies, Andrea Orlando, and other representatives of the Council of Europe member States at ministerial level.

On 17 and 18 May 2022, the meeting of the Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group took place in Rome, with a special segment on "rape drugs" and sexual violence against women.

1. Promoting and protecting **the rights of children and adolescents** is a fundamental pillar of the international human rights system and a key priority of Italy´s foreign policy. Building upon its priorities in this domain, the Italian Presidency has worked to increase the level of protection of minors in the pan-European and international framework, also promoting the crucial role of education as the main vehicle to foster participation and engagement of young people in the public debate on peace, human rights, rule of law and democracy.

On 21 March 2022, the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers supported the Council of Europe’s Youth Sector in the organisation of an event to launch the campaign “Democracy Here | Democracy Now”, aimed at strengthening democracy through youth participation.

On 23rd March 2022, also in the framework of the Italian Presidency, a project on “School Re-Generation” was launched, with the purpose of discussing ways to regenerate the education function of the schools, with a focus on the tenets of sustainable and environmental conscious development. The Italian Presidency was represented by the Italian Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Benedetto Della Vedova.

On 30 March 2022, Italy’s National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty and the Office of the Special Representative on Migration and Refugees of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, co-organised an event on “Age assessment of unaccompanied migrant children: promoting a human rights and multidisciplinary approach”.

On 7 April 2022, the new Council of Europe strategy on the rights of children and adolescents for the years 2022-2027 – “Children’s Rights in Action: from continuous implementation to joint innovation” – was officially launched at the high-level Conference in Rome: “Beyond the horizon: a new era of the rights of the child”. The Strategy outlines the goals and priorities of the Council of Europe and its member States to protect the rights of the child and make these rights a reality for all children, through six priority areas. The Conference and launching ceremony was inaugurated by the Italian Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, Elena Bonetti, the Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić and the Italian Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Benedetto Della Vedova.

On 10-14 April 2022, the Italian Government and the Education and Youth sectors of the Council of Europe, in co-operation with Amnesty International, the City of Turin, the National Youth Council of Italy and the European Youth Forum, organised in Turin the Youth Forum on "Education for human rights and democratic citizenship of the Council of Europe in the post-pandemic”. The event was focused on the five-yearly review of the implementation of the Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, through the recognition of the essential role of the Council of Europe in the promotion of its core values. A video message of the Italian Minster for Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Luigi Di Maio, was delivered at the opening of the conference.

On 22 April 2022, the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union co-organised an online round table on the Lanzarote Convention, highlighting the pan-European reach of the conventional instrument in the protection of children against exploitation and sexual abuse.

1. The traditional Italian commitment to fight all forms of discrimination has been translated into a clear priority of its Presidency.

On 15 to 18 March 2022, Italy hosted in Rome the 5th meeting of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI). On 17 March 2022, in the framework of the CDADI meeting, a high-level event focused on the promotion of equality, fight against discrimination and the protection of vulnerable groups was inaugurated by the Italian Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Benedetto Della Vedova. As a follow-up to the conference, the CDADI adopted a recommendation on multilevel policies and governance for intercultural integration. On 18 March 2022, the LGBT focal points meeting also took place also in Rome.

1. **Building a people-centred future**

The Italian Presidency has engaged in revitalising the founding principles of the Council of Europe with a forward-looking attitude, based upon a focus on building a people-centred future, in which technologies and science are put at the service of people’s needs in full respect of their dignity and inalienable rights.

1. The Council of Europe has always been at the forefront as a strong advocate of the promotion of **a safe use of the internet,** and the Italian Presidency has taken over this challenge by prioritising the issue in its agenda.

On 28 January 2022, on the occasion of the [Data Protection Day](https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/data-protection-day), which commemorates the opening for signature of the Council of Europe Data Protection Convention on 28 January 1981, the Italian Presidency hosted in Strasbourg a conference to discuss the potential of its modernised version, “[Convention 108+](https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/-/modernisation-of-convention-108)” as a global privacy standard. On that occasion, a [Declaration](https://www.coe.int/en/web/presidency/-/data-privacy-day-28-january-2022)was adopted, where the need for outstanding Parties to ratify the Amending Protocol to the Convention was stressed.

On 12 May 2022, the 2nd Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime was opened for signature at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, within the framework of an international conference on enhanced co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence, jointly organised by the Council of Europe and the Italian Presidency. The event was attended by the Italian Minister of Justice, Marta Cartabia.

1. Building on the work done by previous chairmanships, the Italian Presidency considered of strategic importance to continue addressing the issue of the impact of the design, use and development of the artificial intelligence (AI) on the Council of Europe standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

On 4 April 2022, a high-level conference on the impact of artificial intelligence on human rights, democracy and the rule of law was held in Rome, co-organised by the Italian Presidency and the Council of Europe . The Conference – opened by the Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Benedetto Della Vedova,– was followed by the inaugural meeting of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) of the Council of Europe, who has been mandated by the Committee of Ministers to elaborate an appropriate legal instrument on the development, design, and application of artificial intelligence, based on the Council of Europe’s standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and conducive to innovation.

1. The pandemic has confirmed **the importance of science and research** as a reliable source of data to guide decision-making processes in support of democratic governments actions and policies. The Italian Presidency has included in its agenda the promotion of the goal of **strengthening democracy through science.** An event on “Citizens and Science as a tool to strengthen democracy was held on 6April 2022 in Rome, with the participation of the Italian Minister for University and Research, Maria Cristina Messa, and of the Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Benedetto Della Vedova.
2. In line with the goal of enhancing the "people-centred” vision of the future of the community of the Council of Europe, the Italian Presidency has set among its priorities the need to reaffirm the function of punishment both as a moment of rehabilitation of the offender and of restoration for the victim. It has also supported the importance of the rule of law and of the independence of the judiciary as the basis for an effective democracy and for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

On 13 and 14 December 2021, the Italian Presidency organised a Conference of the Ministers of Justice on the theme “Crime and Criminal Justice – The Role of Restorative Justice in Europe” in Venice. The Conference, which was chaired by the Italian Minister for Justice, Marta Cartabia and attended by 40 national delegations, hosted a discussion on how to advance the debate on restorative justice in criminal matters within the Council of Europe, with the aim of the full and widespread implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)8. As an important deliverable of the Conference, the Venice Declaration was signed, a joint document that stimulates policies aimed at a wider dissemination of restorative justice, access to which “should be an objective of the national authorities”, as the Declaration reads.

On 17 and 18 March 2022, in the framework of the Italian Presidency, the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) organised, in collaboration with the University of Pisa, a joint meeting between its Working Groups on Quality of Justice (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL) and on Cyberjustice and Artificial Intelligence (CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST).

On 21 and 22 March 2022, an International Round Table co-organised by the Venice Commission and the University of Rome La Sapienza, on “Shaping judicial councils to meet contemporary challenges” was held in Rome, with the participation of the Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Benedetto Della Vedova.

On 5 and 6 May 2022, the European Conference of the Prosecutors of the Council of Europe, "Prosecutors between independence and accountability”, took place in Palermo. The Conference, jointly organised by the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation and the Italian Ministry of Justice, in co-operation with the Council of Europe, focused on the Public Prosecutor’s independence and accountability in the context of protecting individual rights, on common challenges with respect to the protection of human rights and on judicial co-operation in the investigation of transnational crimes, including in particular the offences against the environment and those committed by means of the information technology. The final session of the Conference took place in Ucciardone prison’s Aula Bunker, with the commemoration of judges Giovanni Falcone, Francesca Morvillo and Paolo Borsellino, at the presence of the President of the Republic Sergio Mattarella, the Interior Minister Luciana Lamorgese, Minister of Justice Marta Cartabia, the Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Benedetto Della Vedova and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić.

On 12 May 2022, after adoption by the Committee of Ministers on 17 November 2021, the Second Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe’s Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), aimed at strengthening co-operation and the disclosure of electronic evidence, was opened for signature at an international conference organised in Strasbourg by the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The Protocol was signed by 22 States, 17 member States and 5 non-member States. The Italian Minister for Justice, Marta Cartabia, put the first signature as Chairperson-in-exercise.

**Appendix**

**Chronology of the activities organised by the Italian Presidency**

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|  | **2021** |   |   |
| **17** | **November** | Strasbourg | Committee of Ministers - handover and beginning of the Italian Presidency, in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Mr Luigi Di Maio |
| **18** | **November** | online | Celebration of the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse |
| **25** | **November** | Strasbourg | Participation of the Minister for Equal Opportunities Ms Elena Bonetti in the High-level Segment of the Gender Equality Commission and celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women |
| **25-26** | **November** | Rome | Bureau and Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) |
| **6-7** | **December** | Rome | Conference on Integrity and Sport |
| **10**  | **December** | Rome | CIDU Human rights award |
| **13-14** | **December** | Venice | Conference of the Ministers of Justice on “Crime and Criminal Justice – The role of restorative justice in Europe” |
|  | **2022** |  |  |
| **24-28** | **January** | Strasbourg | First-Part Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) |
| **3** | **February** | Vienna | Presentation of Presidency's priorities to the OSCE Permanent Council |
| **22** | **February** | online | Conference on Social Resilience and Health Equity  |
| **23** | **February** | Rome | Award ceremony of the student’s contest “The Semester of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe”  |
| **15-18** | **March** | Rome | CDADI (Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion) plenary meeting, preceded by a high-level institutional segment |
| **15** | **March** | New York | Side Event on the occasion of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) of the United Nations |
| **16-18** | **March** | online/ Florence | Ethical justice course |
| **17-18** | **March** | Pisa  | Meeting on the "quality of justice" (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL) and "cyber justice" (CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST) of the Commission for the Efficiency of Justice of the Council of Europe |

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| **18** | **March** | Rome | LGBT focal points meeting |
| **21-22** | **March** | Rome | International Round Table “Shaping judicial councils to meet contemporary challenges” |
| **23** | **March** | Rome | “School ReGeneration" event on education for environmental sustainability at schools |
| **22-24** | **March** | Strasbourg | Participation in the 41st session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities by the Minister of Regional Affairs and Autonomy Maria Stella Gelmini |
| **28** | **March** | Rome | Event on "Business and human rights" |
| **30** | **March** | Rome | Event on a multidisciplinary approach for the age assessment of unaccompanied migrant children |
| **1** | **April** | Strasbourg | Ministerial Conference “Creating Europe: creativity and cultural heritage as strategic resources for a diversified and democratic Europe”  |
| **4-6** | **April** | Rome | High-level event on the impact of artificial intelligence on human rights and CAI (Committee on Artificial Intelligence) meeting |
| **6**  | **April** | Rome | Event “Citizens and science as a tool to strengthen democracy” |
| **7-8** | **April** | Rome | Launch conference of the new strategy on the rights of children and adolescents of the Council of Europe |
| **10-14** | **April** | Turin | Youth Forum "Education for human rights and democratic citizenship of the Council of Europe in the post-pandemic" |
| **11** | **April** | Venice | National Conference for the promotion of the ELoGE Project (European Label of Governance Excellence) Italy |
| **12** | **April** | Rome | High-level event on work-life balance in the perspective of women empowerment |
| **22**  | **April** | online | The Lanzarote Convention: a pan-European instrument to protect our children against exploitation and sexual abuse (co-organised with the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union) |
| **22** | **April** | Rome | *Lectio Magistralis* of the President of the European Court of Human Rights Robert Spano |
| **25-29** | **April** | Strasbourg | Second-Part Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) |
| **2** | **May** | Strasbourg | Interreligious dialogue on religion and peace, religion and human rights  |
| **5-6**  | **May** | Palermo | Meeting of the Prosecutors General of the Council of Europe "Prosecutors between independence and accountability" |
| **12-13** | **May** | Strasbourg | Octopus-format conference on cybercrime and opening for signature of the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention |
| **17-18** | **May** | Rome | Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group meeting with a special segment on "rape drugs" and sexual violence against women |
| **20**  | **May** | Turin  | Committee of Ministers at ministerial level |