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| **133rd Session of the Committee of Ministers (Strasbourg, 16-17 May 2024)****4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Reykjavík, Iceland, 16-17 May 2023) – Follow-up** **Council of Europe’s relations with other international organisations** |

1. **Introduction**

The Council of Europe (CoE) has relations with around 100 international organisations/international bodies. Most of these relations have been formalised through a co-operation document.[[1]](#footnote-1) Moreover, the CoE maintains *ad hoc* contacts and relations with some international organisations active in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law (see below).

In light of the **unprecedented challenges** facing Europe and **multilateralism**, the contribution of the Organisation to the international order and global governance, in its European and external dimensions – has become more important than ever. As concerns multilateralism and the CoE’s relations with other international organisations, in May 2023, Heads of State and Government, in the Reykjavik Declaration, considered that (emphasis added):

“Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine has forced us to re-evaluate how we can best respond to the challenges facing us within Europe’s multilateral architecture and the international rules-based order. We therefore commit to strengthening the role of the CoE in the evolving European multilateral architecture and in global governance **by enhancing its external dimension […]**.

The **European Union** is the main institutional partner of the CoE in political, legal, and financial terms. We underscore the importance of joint programmes between the European Union and the CoE as a key expression of this strategic partnership and mutual commitment to promoting common values. We welcome the unanimous provisional agreement on the revised draft accession instruments as an important accomplishment in the process of accession of the European Union to the Convention, and we express our commitment to its timely adoption. This will set the relations between the CoE and the European Union on a new path of reinforced co-operation. We call for more political dialogue with **other international organisations**, including **the UN and the OSCE**, to **strengthen the partnership** between these organisations and the CoE.

We believe that further synergies are possible, notably when it comes to the implementation of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and underscore the need to avoid duplication of work and possibly competing standards.” […][[2]](#footnote-2)

The Reykjavik Declaration has reiterated the prominence of the CoE strategic partnership with the EU,[[3]](#footnote-3) and called, *inter alia,* for more political dialogue with **other international organisations**, including the UN and the OSCE. In practice, it has given a **new impetus** and facilitated an enhanced **strategic approach** to the CoE’s relations with other international organisations.

The reporting period, as from May 2023, has remained shaped by **deep challenges**, first and foremost, but not exclusively, by the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and its far‑reaching consequences. The dialogue with other international organisations has therefore addressed in priority these challenges and relevant issues covered by the **Reykjavík Declaration**, in particular the support to **Ukraine and accountability** for crimes committed by the Russian Federation. In this context, **outreach efforts** have focused on the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (hereinafter “Register of Damage” or “Register”), as well as on the promotion of CoE values and conventions open to non-member States (“open Conventions”), beyond the European continent.

Relations with other international organisations have developed unevenly, on the basis of existing
co-operation modalities that differ from one Organisation to the other and subject to respective memberships and mandates.

Against this background, it is proposed to present below the **highlights of the high-level dialogue** held after the Reykjavík Summit, in particular with the UN and the OSCE, **current evolving co-operation modalities**, examples of the **outreach** to other international organisations,[[4]](#footnote-4) and finally proposals as to the **way forward**.

It should also be stressed that the **CoE Liaison Offices**[[5]](#footnote-5)with the EU in Brussels, with the UN in Geneva (and Vienna[[6]](#footnote-6)) and the OSCE in Vienna and Warsaw**[[7]](#footnote-7)** have continued to play a **key role** in reinforcing the dynamics of co-operation and its visibility. Liaison Offices have also played an increasing role in the global outreach and the promotion of CoE instruments (see examples below).

**2. Relations with the United Nations (UN)**

 ***Current co-operation modalities***

Co-operation between the CoE and the UN started with the “[Agreement between the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the United Nations](http://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168059acd8)”, signed on 15 December 1951. This agreement was updated on 19 November 1971 through the “[Arrangement on Co-operation and Liaison between the Secretariats of the United Nations and the Council of Europe](http://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168059acd9)”. The CoE also concluded agreements/arrangements and works closely with a number of UN bodies and specialised agencies (see [list of agreements](https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/bi-or-multilateral-agreements).[[8]](#footnote-8)) On 17 October 1989, the **General Assembly** of the UN adopted a Resolution, proposed by a number of CoE member states, granting **observer status** to the CoE (A/RES/44/6). Consequently, the CoE is invited to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly of the UN and its six main committees.

Since 2000 (every second year since 2004), the UN General Assembly adopts a **Resolution on co-operation between the UN and the CoE**. These Resolutions demonstrate that co-operation between the UN and the CoE is well established in a large number of areas.[[9]](#footnote-9) The open-ended **variety of fields** allows for a dynamic and flexible response to the needs of co-operation in a given time.

The mutual interest in co-operation is reflected in **increased pace of regular dialogue/consultations**, at both political and technical levels, following multiple tracks and various bodies and areas.[[10]](#footnote-10) In the field of human rights, examples include regular addresses by the CoE Secretary General at the High-Level sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC), and annual exchanges of views on the UN human rights related issues in the Ministers’ Deputies (with participation of experts from the capital) ,which have, over the past years encompassed also the exchange with the Presidents of the HRC, (see the part on dialogue held after the Reykjavik Summit, below), as well as dialogue with the **UN Commission on the Status of Women** and consultations regarding the CoE’s contribution to the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**. In addition, the CoE works closely with a **large number of other UN bodies/agencies**, including UNHCR,[[11]](#footnote-11) OHCHR,[[12]](#footnote-12) UNICEF,[[13]](#footnote-13) OCHA,[[14]](#footnote-14) UNDP,[[15]](#footnote-15) UNECE[[16]](#footnote-16) as well as with specialised agencies such as UNESCO,[[17]](#footnote-17) WHO[[18]](#footnote-18) and the World Bank. **High-level dialogue of the Secretariat representatives** in New York and Geneva has also developed recently (see below).

Furthermore, the CoE is regularly invited to attend the **workshops** on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights.[[19]](#footnote-19) Regular co-ordination at the technical level also includes (but is not restricted to) exchanges of views and **working visits** (e.g. the Europe and Central Asia Division of the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations - DPPA/DPO), exchanges of best practices and co-ordination of programmes.

The UN is a major partner for the CoE and an ideal platform for **global outreach**. Co-operation is based on the universality of shared values. Due to its global nature, both in thematic and geographical terms, the UN constitutes an “across the board” partner for the CoE. This feature has been further strengthened in the context of ***Agenda 2030 - Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs)*,*** which frames and guides the
co-operation. With its global and overarching political approach, the UN Agenda 2030 has been highly relevant for the CoE, which has, from the outset, been **contributing to the process** which led to the adoption of Agenda 2030. While recognising that the main responsibility for the **implementation** of Agenda 2030 lies with member states, the CoE’s role as an international organisation is to **assist member states** and facilitate their contribution to SDGs’ implementation. In particular, the CoE, through its instruments, can contribute to the national implementation reporting by member states, and several member states have referred to their work in the CoE in their national reporting. For that purpose, the CoE created a [**website**](https://www.coe.int/en/web/un-agenda-2030/home)**[[20]](#footnote-20)** - which is regularly updated - to assist member states in drawing on the Organisation’s work in the preparation of the national reviews to illustrate that their membership of the CoE also contributes to their national implementation of Agenda 2030. The CoE is also regularly represented at relevant UN events, including the Regional Forum of the UNECE Region and the High-Level Political Forum.

It should be noted that the CoE permanent presence in the Geneva Delegation to the UN (CoE Liaison Office) was re-established in October 2023. The **CoE Liaison Offices** to the UN in Geneva and Vienna play a key role in reinforcing the dynamics of co-operation between the CoE and the UN and its visibility. They also contribute to the visibility of the Organisation, including through regular presence in relevant meetings. In addition, the Office in Geneva ensures the participation of CoE delegations in relevant Geneva human rights fora. To note, the Liaison Office also actively contributes to promoting the visibility of CoE instruments (conventions open to non-CoE member states and partial agreements, including the Register), both through formal and informal events.[[21]](#footnote-21) **Contribution to the outreach is expected to increase**.

The importance of the interface offered by the presence at the CoE of the **UNHCR** Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg should also be stressed.

***Dialogue***

The **Reykjavik Summit**, in which a high-level official of the UN Secretariat participated,[[22]](#footnote-22) was followed by an **intense series of high-level** meetings, aiming at reinforcing synergies and further strengthening
co-operation. These meetings provided opportunities to highlight the CoE’s support for Ukraine, in particular the establishment of the Register and, in general, to underline the added value of the CoE´s convention system and promote CoE instruments, bodies and mechanisms.

In particular, the **Secretary General** participated in the high-level event “**Human Rights 75**” in Geneva in December 2023, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, where she delivered a pledge in the plenary. She also exchanged views with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Türk, as well as with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Grandi. In addition, the **Deputy Secretary General** carried out consultations with several high-level UN officials in Geneva (in July 2023) and New York (December 2023), including with UN Deputy Secretary-General and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group Mohammed, UN Assistant Secretary-General Jenča and UNDP Under-Secretary-General Xu, with a view to strengthening relations and complementarity between the two organisations.

Moreover, the CoE Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees (SRSG) represented the Organisation in Geneva, at the **Global Refugee Forum** which took place on
13-15 December, where she also announced pledges and expressed the CoE’s commitment to continue contributing towards the objectives set out in the Global Compact on Refugees. As one of the members of the Nansen Award Selection Committee, the SRSG also attended the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award ceremony.

To note also, on 8 February 2024, the President of the Human Rights Council addressed the **Ministers’ Deputies** on the occasion of the annual exchange of views on the UN (Human Rights questions) with the participation of experts from capitals.[[23]](#footnote-23)

As reflected in the last biennial Resolution on co-operation between the UN and the CoE, adopted on 26 April 2023,[[24]](#footnote-24) the unprecedented challenges facing Europe following the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the subsequent decision on the cessation of the membership of the Russian Federation to the CoE have led to increased dialogue and contacts on a number of **new areas** of co-operation.

It should be also recalled that the Reykjavik Declaration stressed the need to make every effort to ensure the execution of the Court’s judgments by the Russian Federation, including through the development of synergies with other international organisations, such as the UN. In that context, the CoE has worked with the relevant UN bodies concerning the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) with respect to the Russian Federation,[[25]](#footnote-25) given that Russia is subject to UN monitoring procedures.[[26]](#footnote-26)

The current intensity of dialogue should be pursued and **further synergies** with the UN should be explored, **building upon these already evolving modalities** (see below Part 5. Conclusions -The way forward).

**3. Relations with the OSCE**

***Current co-operation modalities***

Co-operation with the OSCE has been formalised through the Joint Statement and the Declaration on
Co-operation between the CoE and the OSCE of 2005[[27]](#footnote-27) – representing the most important political guidelines for relations between the two organisations. Co-operation with the **Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights** (ODIHR) has also been formalised through two exchanges of letters (2015 and 2019 respectively). Co-operation with the OSCE is extensive in a number of policy areas and extends to OSCE institutions: ODIHR, the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) and OSCE field presence.

There are three **main forms** of co-operation between the two organisations[[28]](#footnote-28) - high political - and senior official-level contacts; joint activities carried out, in particular in policy areas covered by the CoE/OSCE Co-ordination Group; and co-operation in the field.

- As regards high level **institutional dialogue**, the priorities of the OSCE Chairmanships are regularly presented to the CoE Ministers’ Deputies, as are the priorities of CoE Chairmanships to the OSCE Permanent Council. Regular meetings of both Secretaries General take place. In addition, the CoE Secretary General participates in meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council, as the OSCE Secretary General does in the Deputies. The OSCE Secretary General is regularly invited to attend the meetings of the Committee of Ministers at Ministerial Level.

-The CoE/OSCE **Co-ordination Group** discusses co-operation in four agreed priority areas - the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities; the promotion of tolerance and
non-discrimination; the fight against terrorism; and the fight against trafficking in human beings. These areas largely correspond with the mandates of the three OSCE institutions: the ODIHR, the HCNM and the RFoM. It should be stressed, however, that practical ways have been found to cover other topics (see below). To recall, the CoE/OSCE Coordination Group meeting held in Vienna on 3 November 2023 was dedicated to the fight against the trafficking of human beings and the fight against terrorism. Meetings of the Co-ordination Group are a valued occasion to promote CoE values and instruments in the four specially-selected policy areas.

-Given the centrality of the **field presence** for the OSCE, many such operations actively co-operate with the CoE in the respective countries, exchange information on a wide range of topics and organise joint activities, such as in the justice sector and in the field of freedom of media and expression.

The **CoE Liaison Offices in Vienna and Warsaw** facilitate the co-operation between the two organisations and contribute to the visibility of the Organisation, including through regular presence in meetings, not least of which the OSCE Ministerial and Permanent Councils. The Vienna and Warsaw Liaison Offices ensure the participation of CoE delegations in regular meetings of the **OSCE Human Dimension**, for example at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, 2-13 October 2023 - a platform for promotion of CoE standards and activities. On the margins of the Conference, the CoE organised a side event on the right to access State-held information, which focused on the CoE standards. Regular outreach to **OSCE ODIHR** is also carried out through the CoE Office in Warsaw.[[29]](#footnote-29)

***Dialogue***

The participation of leaders of the OSCE institutions at the 4th **CoE Summit** (16-17 May 2023), namely Secretary General Helga Schmid and Chairman-in-Office Osmani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, illustrated the mutual commitment to upholding multilateralism and **strengthening** the partnership. Renewing a previous practice, an extended high-level meeting bringing together both Secretary Generals and both Chairmanships (Chair and Chairman-in-Office) was also held in the Summit’s margins (“**high-level 2+2 meeting**”).

When representing the CoE at the **30th OSCE Ministerial Council** held in Skopje on 30 November-1 December 2023, the Deputy Secretary General reaffirmed in particular the CoE’s unwavering support to Ukraine in the face of the Russian aggression and commitment to ensure comprehensive accountability.[[30]](#footnote-30) At their meeting on that occasion, the Deputy Secretary General and the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Minister for Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia Osmani agreed on the importance to build upon the close partnership between the CoE and OSCE at the highest political level, and to continue efforts to ensure complementarity and coordination between the two Organisations.

In addition, on 12 December 2023, the **GR-EXT** held an exchange of views with Ambassador Igor Djundev, Permanent Representative of North Macedonia to the OSCE (at the time North Macedonia held the OSCE Chairmanship) on Co-operation between the CoE and the OSCE.[[31]](#footnote-31) Ambassador Djundev expressed his appreciation for the **long-standing co-operation** and **excellent exchanges** between the CoE and the OSCE. He stressed that the two organisations are natural partners, sharing the same values and mission, complementing and reinforcing each other’s work. This exchange was an occasion to take stock of recent developments and raise proposals for enhanced co-operation. In that respect, Ambassador Djundev suggested, inter alia, closer contact on the highest political level. He also expressed the hope that the relationship could be further developed through a flexible and pragmatic approach and suggested, inter alia, exploring the possibilities of restoring the previous practice of “Tripartite meetings” between the UN, the OSCE and the CoE.

The need for continued active participation of CoE delegations in **OSCE Human Dimension meetings**, including at higher-level, has also been mentioned on other occasions.

To note also, the CoE Secretary General had a meeting with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities on 7 June 2023 in Strasbourg on the occasion of the official launch of the joint web resource “Collection of CoE and OSCE National Minority Standards”.

The dynamics of dialogue should be pursued and **further synergies** should be explored, **building upon these already evolving modalities/practices** (see below Part 5. Conclusions -The way forward).

**4. Examples of dialogue and outreach with other international organisations**

As indicated above, the CoE has developed formalised and non-formalised co-operation with a number of other international organisations.

High level dialogue and outreach have been recently developed with the **Organization of American States** (OAS), through a 2011 Memorandum of Understanding and sectoral agreements. The Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General had meetings with Secretary General Luis Almagro respectively in New York in September and in Washington in December 2023, which provided opportunities to discuss in particular the CoE Register of Damage, preparation of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and the “Reykjavik Principles for Democracy”. The exchanges also highlighted the active role of each organisation in promoting the instruments of the other. The OAS Secretary General also expressed interest in participating in the CoE World Forum for Democracy.

As another example, dialogue and co-operation have further developed with the **International Organisation of La Francophonie** (OIF). The co-operation has been formalised by a 2009 Joint Declaration and a multi-annual Co-operation Programme, which is discussed at the GR-EXT with the OIF. The last exchange held by the GR-EXT on 5 October 2023 to discuss the Progress review report on the Implementation of the co-operation programme (2020-2023)[[32]](#footnote-32) provided an overview of the co-operation between the two Organisations and initiatives to support French-speaking. It also confirmed, inter alia, the role of the OIF in promoting CoE instruments to non-member states of the CoE, especially through the OIF Group of French Speaking Ambassadors. On 18 October 2023, the Ministers’ Deputies decided to extend the current programme by one year and instructed the Secretariat “to explore the possibility of co-operation on advocacy in favour of the abolition of the death penalty, as a first step, within the framework of the ad hoc interventions envisaged in the co-operation programme.”[[33]](#footnote-33) (see below-The way forward).

In addition, contacts have been developed with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) through meetings with representatives in Brussels in September 2023 and through a study visit of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on 4-6 October 2023. It was agreed to further develop contacts (see below).

As further examples, ad hoc dialogue with the **League of Arab States** and the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation** (OIC)[[34]](#footnote-34) have continued, notably through the visit of the OIC Ambassador in Brussels to the CoE in December 2023.[[35]](#footnote-35)

**5. Conclusions - The way forward**

* 1. ***Relations with the EU,[[36]](#footnote-36) UN and the OSCE***

The present document has highlighted the **effective impetus** given to the CoE’s relations/dialogue with other international organisations, in particular the UN - both in New York and Geneva, and the OSCE. In terms of institutional co-operation modalities, the possibility of re-establishing “**Tripartite meetings” between the UN, the OSCE and the CoE** should be explored with relevant partners. This would represent an additional opportunity to hold strategic discussion and exchange on the most important challenges of specific interest to the three organisations. The CoE could play a leading role in this respect.

The **Liaison Offices** have strengthened their role in reinforcing the dynamics of co-operation, its visibility and the CoE outreach where relevant. The role of CoE Liaison Offices as platforms for the promotion of CoE instruments could be further developed as relevant.

In addition, specific steps are proposed below.

***Relations with the UN***

Strategic dialogue and relations with the UN system have reached a **new intensity**. Permanent presence in the Geneva Office was re-established. The Liaison Office in Geneva is instrumental in the further strengthening of the relations in Geneva and has showed its key role in outreach efforts towards
non-European states to promote CoE instruments, in particular the Register.

Ongoing efforts to enhance co-operation and develop more strategic **dialogue** between the CoE and the UN should continue at all levels, technical and political.

In addition, on the basis of the 2013 Joint Declaration on the reinforcement of co-operation between the CoE Secretariat and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, it is proposed to hold ***ad hoc*** **CoE/OHCHR inter-secretariat consultation meetings** (in Strasbourg and Geneva alternately) on specific human rights issues of common interest to increase synergies between the two organisations.

Concerning the achievement of the **SDGs,** the CoE is committed to enhance its contribution. In view of the current challenges to multilateralism, the CoE leadership has expressed its readiness to contribute to the preparation of the UN **Summit of the Future**, which will take place in September 2024, in particular through its contribution to the implementation of the SDGs, on the European continent and beyond. Finally, member States should be encouraged to systematically refer to the CoE’s benchmarking role in the framework of SDG implementation.

Also, on the basis of the Resolutions of the UN General Assembly on co-operation between the UN and the CoE, “continuing close liaison and fruitful co-operation between UN missions and the CoE offices **in the field**” should be further encouraged.

Possible exchange/secondment of **staff** could be also explored, subject to available resources.

***Relations with the OSCE***

There has been a long-standing, excellent co-operation with the OSCE. The institutional and political dialogues have recently been enhanced, notably with the “2+2”/”extended” meeting.

It is also proposed to continue the recently renewed practice of **2+2”/”extended” meetings** and to seek synergies between the programmes and priorities of the chairmanships of the two Organisations when relevant. Such meetings could take place twice a year, possibly on the margins of the respective CoE and OSCE Ministerial meetings or, alternatively, on the margins of other important events in the multilateral framework (such as UNGA General Debate week etc.).

As concerns the CoE/OSCE **Co-ordination Group** and working modalities, the recent **pragmatic** approach should be pursued in order to broaden the topics of discussion through informal ways and means (e.g. linking topical issues such as migration to the trafficking in human beings and possibly through informal exchanges). Revisiting **modalities** could also include: exploring a stronger symmetry in the participation, notably with regard to the focal points, which would lead to a change in the appointment of the focal points on the CoE side (Secretariat representatives instead of the Chairs of rapporteur groups), thus matching the focal points on the OSCE side.

The former practice of holding CoE/OSCE **Senior Officials’ Meetings** could also be explored.

More generally, it is proposed to keep a **pragmatic** approach, which could include more regular **informal exchanges** on current issues of common interest and strengthening co-operation between the **field** missions.

Active participation of CoE delegations in **OSCE Human Dimension meetings**, including at higher-level, should be continued. High level visits of **ODIHR** representatives to Strasbourg should also be encouraged.

***5.2. Relations with other partners – examples***

Relations with **other international organisations**, in particular with the OAS and OIF, have been strengthened and the level of institutional co-operation has been raised. Possible broadening of the areas of such co-operation, including the **outreach** in specific and targeted areas, such as the promotion of the participation in the Register, should be further discussed and actively pursued. Other international organisations can provide, as relevant, platform for CoE’s outreach towards non-European states.

In that respect, dialogue and co-operation with the **Organization of American States** should be pursued and strengthened, in particular further promotion of the Register. The Secretary General of the OAS will be invited to the World Forum for Democracy as discussed at high-level.

Regarding co-operation with the **International Organisation of La Francophonie**, dialogue should continue, in particular through the GR-EXT, on the implementation of the current co-operation programme (2020-2024) and its forthcoming update. In this perspective, an event is planned in Strasbourg in March 2024 with the OIF in order to review the present co-operation and to examine possible further areas of co-operation.

It is also proposed to explore possible development of co-operation with other international organisations with which co-operation has not been formalised. For example, as concerns co-operation with the **ASEAN**, it is proposed to pursue contacts with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and to explore priority topics for possible co-operation with ASEAN, in view of exploring a more formalised form of co-operation if and when appropriate.

Contacts could also be established or renewed, when and where relevant, with others (i.e. the League of Arab States,[[37]](#footnote-37) African Union[[38]](#footnote-38)), inter alia, with a view to exploring ways of promoting CoE values and relevant instruments.

1. Relations are guided by general co-operation agreements and/or various sectorial agreements with respective entities. See “[List of Agreements concluded by the Council of Europe with other international intergovernmental organisations or public international entities](https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/bi-or-multilateral-agreements)”. In that respect, the Committee of Ministers has defined **rules** governing the CoE’s relations with international organisations: on 16 January 2008, the Committee of Ministers’ Deputies “recalled that any formal step leading to the conclusion of memoranda of understanding with other organisations should be submitted to them beforehand”. On 20 October 2010, the Committee of Ministers further adopted Rule No. 1318 of 20 October 2010 on Guidelines for concluding agreements between the CoE and other international intergovernmental organisations or public international entities. See also “Reflection process on the CoE contribution to the international order and global governance, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Activity Report” [CM(2022)84-final](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2022)84-final" \o "[132nd Session] Reflection process on the Council of Europe contribution to the international order and global governance, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Activity Report ), 16 May 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Reykjavik Declaration. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The co-operation between the CoE and the EU is covered by a separate Summary Report - [CM(2024)33-prov](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2024)33-prov" \o "4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Reykjavík, Iceland, 16-17 May 2023) – Follow-up - Strengthening the role of the Council of Europe in the evolving European multilateral architecture and in global governance by enhancing its external dimension - Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union - Summary report). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The present report is not meant to be exhaustive. It provides examples and it does not cover relations developed by the CoE Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress. Also, in addition to the EU, the OSCE and the UN, a number of international organisations participate in the work of some of the CoE’s intergovernmental committees. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. See [Liaison Offices - External Relations (coe.int)](https://www.coe.int/en/web/der/liaison-offices). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The Liaison Office in Vienna is in charge of liaison with the [OSCE](http://www.osce.org/) and other international organisations, acting also as Permanent Delegation of the CoE to the [UN Office in Vienna](http://www.unvienna.org/), in particular [UNODC](http://www.unodc.org/). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The Liaison Office in Warsaw is in charge of liaison with [OSCE/ODHIR](http://www.osce.org/odihr), EU/Frontex, [Community of Democracies](http://www.community-democracies.org/)and other international organisations in Warsaw. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. For example the 2013 Joint Declaration on the reinforcement of co-operation between the CoE Secretariat and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *inter alia*, in the fields of the protection and promotion of human rights, specific areas such as the prevention of torture, the fight against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, the fight against terrorism, transnational organised crime, cybercrime, corruption and money laundering, the fight against trafficking in human beings and violence against women, the protection and promotion of the rights of children, the protection of persons belonging to national minorities, information society and Internet governance, as well as intercultural dialogue. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Such as, increasingly, migration and refugees, the fight against terrorism, democracy, crime and drugs, artificial intelligence, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. United Nations Children’s Fund [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. United Nations Development Programme. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. World Health Organization. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. These workshops are periodically organised by OHCHR every three years, as requested by successive resolutions of the Human Rights Council since 2007, which recognise the important role played by regional, subregional and interregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights. Additionally, OHCHR organises annual meetings among regional mechanism focal points for co-operation (including the CoE). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. [Home - Council of Europe Contribution to the United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals (coe.int)](https://www.coe.int/en/web/un-agenda-2030/home). [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. As an example, the Office facilitated a side-event in UN Geneva on “The Istanbul Convention in practice-Holistic care for victims of sexual violence” on 1 June 2023, organised by the Belgian Permanent Representation to the UN in Geneva and co-hosted by the Permanent Representation of Kazakhstan to the UN in Geneva and the CoE. The event was very well attended by a broad range of States, including non-European states. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Ms Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Ambassador Omar Zniber. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. PP9: “Recognizing also that the unprecedented challenges now facing Europe following the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and against Georgia prior to that, and the cessation of the membership of the Russian Federation in the CoE, call for strengthened co-operation between the UN and the CoE, notably in order to promptly restore and maintain peace and security based on respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of any State, ensure the observance of human rights and international humanitarian law during the hostilities, provide redress to victims and bring to justice all those responsible for the violations of international law.” [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. e.g. [CM/Inf/DH(2023)22](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Inf/DH(2023)22" \o "3rd Strategy paper regarding the means to ensure implementation of judgments of the Court with respect to the Russian Federation). [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. On 5-7 December 2023, the CM held a discussion on the execution of ECtHR judgments, including on modalities of co-operation with the UN in that respect. In addition, on 13 December 2023, the CM held an exchange of views with Ms Mariana Katzarova, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Russia. Dialogue is ongoing. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Approved at the joint meeting between the Committee of Ministers and the Permanent Council in Strasbourg on 18 April 2005 on the basis of simultaneous decisions taken in December 2004 by the Committee of Ministers - CM/865/01122004 - and the Permanent Council - No. 637. The adoption of this Declaration was announced by a Joint Statement signed by the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE on 17 May 2005 in Warsaw - hereinafter the “2004-2005 documents”. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. In addition, the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE (PACE) also enjoys institutional co-operation with ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE in the field of elections. The OSCE also participates in CoE intergovernmental and conventional work (it participates in a number of Steering Committees and ad hoc committees, as well as in Moneyval and Greco, and in committees established under CoE Conventions). [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. For example in this context, the Department for the Execution of Judgments participated in the OSCE ODIHR Annual Trial Monitoring Meeting in Skopje, which allowed to reach out to representatives from selected OSCE field operations and civil society organisations from across the OSCE region. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. See “[Deputy Secretary General at the 30th OSCE Ministerial Council in Skopje to reaffirm CoE’s unwavering support to Ukraine” - Portal (coe.int)](https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/deputy-secretary-general-at-the-30th-osce-ministerial-council-in-skopje-to-reaffirm-council-of-europe-s-unwavering-support-to-ukraine). [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Synopsis - Meeting of 12 December 2023 <https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=0900001680ade046> [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. [GR-EXT(2023)5](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=GR-EXT(2023)5" \o "Implementation of the Joint Declaration on the reinforcement of co-operation between the Council of Europe and the International Organisation of La Francophonie – Co-operation programme 2020-2023 - Progress review report (November 2020 – June 2023) - Document prepared by the Directorate of Programme Co-ordination ). [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the International Organisation of La Francophonie (IOF) - Implementation of the co-operation programme (2020-2023) – Progress review report <https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=0900001680ace40c> [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. According to **Guidelines** governing co-operation with the OIC and the League of Arab States expressed by the CoE CM,
co-operation should be based on CoE values (protection of human rights, rule of law, and democracy); it should be pursued in the framework of an informal specific project-level co-operation only; and the Ministers’ Deputies should be informed of the co-operation/projects envisaged. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. This visit took place in the context of her contacts with the Special Representative of the Secretary General on antisemitic, anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. See the separate report on CoE’s co-operation with the EU – [CM(2024)33-prov](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2024)33-prov" \o "4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Reykjavík, Iceland, 16-17 May 2023) – Follow-up - Strengthening the role of the Council of Europe in the evolving European multilateral architecture and in global governance by enhancing its external dimension - Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union - Summary report). [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. The Deputy Secretary General had a meeting with Mr Ben Aissa, Deputy Secretary General of the League of Arab Nations on
28 September 2022 in Strasbourg. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Contacts could also be envisaged in the context of the African Union draft protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Africa. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)