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| **MINISTERS’ DEPUTIES** | CM Documents | **CM(2024)OJ-final** | 21 May 2024 |

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| **133rd Session of the Committee of Ministers****(Strasbourg, 16-17 May 2024)****I. Programme****II. Agenda****III. Annotated agenda** |

**I. Programme**

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| **Thursday 16 May 2024** |
| 5 - 7.00 p.m. | Commemorative Ceremony of the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe, including input from the Youth event “Confidence in tomorrow” (14-16 May) *(Opéra national du Rhin)* |
| 8.00 p.m. | Working dinner, hosted by the President of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General *(Pavillon Joséphine, room Napoléon)* |
| **Friday 17 May 2024** *(Palais de l’Europe)* |
| 8.30-9.00 a.m. | Arrival of Heads of Delegation/delegations and official welcome by the President of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General |
| 9.15 a.m. | Official photo for all Heads of Delegation |
| 9.30 a.m. | Opening of the formal Session*Transfer of the presidency from Liechtenstein to Lithuania*  |
| 1.15 p.m. | Luncheon hosted by the outgoing President of the Committee of Ministers |

**II. Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. United around our values
	1. Council of Europe response to the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine
	2. Implementation of the Reykjavík Declaration
3. Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union
4. Draft Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of law and its draft Explanatory Report
5. Other business
6. Transfer of the presidency between Liechtenstein and Lithuania

- Report by the Liechtenstein Presidency

- Priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency

1. Date and place of the next Session

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**Informal working sessions:**

Working dinner on 16 May 2024: “The resilience of the European project in times of multiple threats”

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Ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe, 16 May 2024

**III. Annotated agenda**

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| **General comments***The decisions under items 2, 3 and 4 of the agenda are to be adopted without debate.**Given the time constraints, the President will invite heads of delegations to address items 2 to 4 at the same time during the debate.* *Regarding the list of speakers, priority will be given to Ministers and their speaking time will be limited to three minutes. Besides the two official languages, interpretation will be provided in German and Italian, and passive interpretation in Spanish.**Member States may present their national positions in writing on the topics which are on the agenda. These position papers will be included in the records of the Session. They will have to reach the Secretariat beforehand in one of the official languages, i.e. French or English.* |

**Item 1 of the agenda Adoption of the agenda**

Following the opening of the Session by the President of the Committee of Ministers, Ministers will be invited to examine the draft agenda of the 133rd Session with a view to its adoption and to the simultaneous adoption without debate of the decisions under items 2 to 4 of the agenda as they appear below. Under this item, Ministers will also be invited to inform the President if they wish to raise any question under item 5 “Other business”, which should have been notified beforehand.

**Item 2 of the agenda United around our values**

**a. Council of Europe response to the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine**

**b. Implementation of the Reykjavík Declaration**

The President will open the discussion under the overall item *United around our values*. It is noted that the Ministers’ Deputies have prepared a report on the implementation of the Reykjavik Declaration (document [CM(2024)75](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2024)75" \o "[1494/1.6] 133rd Session of the Committee of Ministers (Strasbourg, 16-17 May 2024) – Preparation - Draft Report on follow-up to the Reykjavík Declaration – \“Reykjavík – one year on\”)).

The Secretary General will thereafter present an introductory statement referring in particular to her annual report “Our Rights, Our Future” ([SG/Inf(2024)1](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=SG/Inf(2024)1" \o "Speaking Notes of the Secretary General to the 1485th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies (10 January 2024))) (6 minutes).

The floor will then be opened to delegations.

Under item 2, the President will present a Declaration on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe which is contained in document [CM(2024)74-final](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2024)74-final" \o "133rd Session of the Committee of Ministers (Strasbourg, 16-17 May 2024) – Declaration by the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe).

Under sub-item 2.a, the Ministers are invited to adopt a set of specific decisions prepared by their Deputies to help Ukraine counter the continuing full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation and to emphasise the overriding importance that the Organisation attaches to supporting Ukraine for as long as is takes.

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| *“The Committee of Ministers*1. *reiterated its condemnation in the strongest possible terms of the ongoing full-scale war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and of all alleged serious violations of international law arising out of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide against Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war, and**all forms of conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based crimes;*
2. *reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders and reiterated its steadfast support for Ukraine and solidarity with its people, as reflected in the assistance provided by the Council of Europe through the Action Plan “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” 2023-2026;*
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| *3. welcomed the setting up of the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the agreement on the “Riga Principles” at the informal meeting of Ministers of Justice on 11 September 2023 guiding the work of the Register, the establishment of an office in Kyiv, and the recent launch of the claims submission process at the Ministerial Conference on “Restoring Justice for Ukraine” in The Hague on 2 April 2024 and strongly encouraged further efforts to promote additional States joining the Register;**4. reiterated that the Register is intended to constitute the first component of a comprehensive international compensation mechanism and committed to continue working, in co-operation with Ukraine and relevant international organisations and bodies, towards the establishment of such a mechanism, which may include a claims commission and a compensation fund;**5. noted with satisfaction the progress made within the Core Group towards the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the crime of aggression, underscoring the international efforts to hold the political and military leadership of the Russian Federation accountable for its war of aggression against Ukraine, and emphasised that its Deputies have recently authorised the Secretary General to prepare any necessary documents to contribute to the consultations within the Core Group on a possible draft Agreement between the Council of Europe and the Government of Ukraine on the Establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, including its Statute, and on a possible draft enlarged partial agreement governing the modalities of support to such a Tribunal, its financing and other administrative matters;**6. welcomed the efforts of the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine established in November 2023 to facilitate dialogue and co-ordinate actions among member States, the European Union and relevant international organisations regarding policies for Ukrainian children residing in Council of Europe member States, as well as its recommendations to the Ukrainian authorities on reform of the child protection and care system;**7. strongly condemned the forced placement of Ukrainian children under custody or for adoption by Russian citizens, and other violations of their dignity and rights; called for the active participation of international organisations in the Russian Federation and Belarus in identifying and assisting in the safe return of any forcibly transferred or unlawfully deported Ukrainian children; in this context, expressed its strong support for the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, acknowledged the participation of 32 Council of Europe member States in it, and invited its Deputies to ensure that the Council of Europe co-operates with the Coalition, including through any relevant existing or future structures focusing on the situation and return of Ukrainian children deported and forcibly transferred by the Russian Federation;**8. condemned the attempts of the Russian Federation to prosecute judges and prosecutors of the International Criminal Court (ICC) involved in the issuing of arrest warrants for Russian nationals in the context of the situation in Ukraine, including against Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, considering that any such retaliatory action constitutes a flagrant interference with judicial independence and the mandate of the ICC, as well as any other groundless attempts to prosecute officials of Council of Europe member States;**9. welcomed the decision of the Swiss Federal Council to host a high-level conference on peace in Ukraine in June 2024 and commended the efforts of the Swiss authorities in this regard.”* |

Under sub-item 2.b, the Ministers are invited to adopt a number of decisions prepared by their Deputies with a view to ensuring the continued implementation of the Reykjavík Declaration adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government.

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| *“The Committee of Ministers welcomed the annual report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe “Our Rights, Our Future” (**[SG(2024)1](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=SG(2024)1" \o "secretary-general-report-2024)). It endorsed the Report “Reykjavík – one year on”, as it appears in document* *[CM(2024)75](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2024)75" \o "[1494/1.6] 133rd Session of the Committee of Ministers (Strasbourg, 16-17 May 2024) – Preparation - Draft Report on follow-up to the Reykjavík Declaration – \“Reykjavík – one year on\”), and, with a view to the continued implementation of the Reykjavík Declaration, adopted the following decisions:***United around our values***Support for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of member States**10. in addition to its decisions adopted with respect to the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the Committee of Ministers took note of the position of national delegations and of the work conducted by the Council of Europe with respect to other conflicts and crises in Europe. The Committee of Ministers recalled the set of decisions adopted in relation to the conflict in Georgia at the 1498th meeting of the Deputies (**[CM/Del/Dec(2024)1498/2.1](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Del/Dec(2024)1498/2.1" \o "The Council of Europe and the conflict in Georgia)) and took note of the 29th consolidated report of the Secretary General on the conflict in Georgia (October 2023-March 2024) (**[SG/Inf(2024)13](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=SG/Inf(2024)13" \o "Consolidated report on the conflict in Georgia (October 2023 - March 2024))), as well as statements of member States on this matter;**11. concerning the normalisation of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, expressed full support to the peace process based on the principles of mutual recognition of territorial integrity, respect of sovereignty, the inviolability of borders, and non-use of force, and welcomed the process of border delimitation based on the Alma Ata 1991 Declaration;**System of the European Convention on Human Rights**12. welcomed the steps taken to implement its commitment to the Convention system, renewed at the Reykjavík Summit, including through increased budget and financial contributions, and by enhancing means to facilitate the exchange of expertise and experience among member States, reinforcing institutional dialogue and political dialogue on the execution of judgments through the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities with their respective national interlocutors, and developing the tools available in the supervision of the execution of judgments with clear, predictable and gradual steps, in order to support member States’ full compliance with their obligations stemming from the Convention in accordance with the need for a co-operative and inclusive approach, based on dialogue;**13. recalled the need identified at the Reykjavík Summit to make every effort to ensure the execution of the Court’s judgments by the Russian Federation which remains bound under international law to implement them; highlighted the initiatives adopted to this effect, including the development of synergies with the United Nations and increased engagement with Russian civil society in regard to the execution of the Court’s judgments;**14. reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to resolving the systemic and structural human rights problems identified by the Court and to ensuring effective domestic capacity to achieve the full, effective and prompt execution of its judgments; strongly encouraged the Deputies to pursue their efforts, including through ensuring that the Court is financially sustainable and through continuing to develop a more co-operative, inclusive and political approach based on dialogue to sustain the steps taken by all member States to meet their unconditional obligation to abide by the final judgments of the Court in any case to which they are parties; and underlined the importance of the principle of subsidiarity and the margin of appreciation for the implementation of the Convention at the national level by the High Contracting Parties, reinforced by the entry into force of Protocol No. 15;**Democracy**15.* *welcomed the creation of the Steering Committee for Democracy (CDDEM) and invited the newly established Committee to steer the intergovernmental response to counter democratic backsliding, including through the implementation of the Reykjavík Principles for Democracy, the strengthening of civil society space, enhanced co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly, especially its General Rapporteur on Democracy, and with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, and its contribution to the World Forum for Democracy;* |

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| *16. invited the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to contribute, in line with their respective mandates, to the implementation and promotion of the Reykjavík Principles for Democracy;**Death penalty**17. reaffirmed its unequivocal opposition to the death penalty, including any reintroduction of it, in all places and in all circumstances and, welcoming the Deputies’ and the Parliamentary Assembly’s regular exchanges on the abolition of capital punishment, invited its Deputies to make their exchanges more visible and to strengthen initiatives to counter pro-death penalty narratives in Europe and contribute to global abolition;**Social rights and social justice**18. underlining the importance of the European Social Charter and its monitoring procedures for the protection of social and economic rights of citizens across Europe, welcomed the organisation of a High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter under the auspices of the incoming Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, and encouraged member States as appropriate to consider accepting new provisions on that occasion, and for those who have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Additional Protocol providing for a system of collective complaints and/or ratifying the revised European Social Charter;**Rights of the child and education* *19. welcomed the resolutions adopted by the 26th Session of the Council of Europe's Standing Conference of Ministers of Education, including on the Council of Europe Education Strategy 2030 and reaffirmed the crucial role of education in promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law;**Culture**20. recalled, in this year of the 70th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention, the importance it attaches to promoting mutual understanding between the peoples of Europe, through the involvement of children and young people and the promotion of cultural and sporting events aimed at developing reciprocal appreciation of our cultural diversity and our cultural heritage;**Civil society**21. welcomed the on-going work on the implementation of the Secretary General’s roadmap on the Council of Europe’s engagement with civil society (*[SG/Inf(2024)28](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=SG/Inf(2024)28)*) and invited its Deputies to support and contribute to the Organisation’s efforts with a view to formulating and implementing a policy of meaningful engagement with civil society in a short, medium and long term perspective;**22. invited its Deputies to continue supporting the work of the Contact Group on co-operation with Belarusian democratic forces and civil society, and reiterated the need to find ways to enhance co-operation with Russian and Belarusian human rights defenders, democratic forces, free media and independent civil society who are fully committed to the Organisation’s values, principles and goals, and welcomed the initiatives undertaken in this respect by the Parliamentary Assembly;**Rule of law**23. welcoming the reinforcement of the Venice Commission, its new follow-up opinions related to core areas of legislative reforms, and its more frequent exchanges with the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress, invited it to update its Rule of Law Checklist as the reference for rule of law standards across Europe;**24. called for the rapid finalisation of the draft Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer, taking into account consultation feedback, to strengthen the resilience of our national justice systems;**25. called also for the swift completion of the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS No. 198) addressing criminal asset recovery;* |

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| *26. underlined the Council of Europe’s important work in combatting terrorism, in particular through the implementation of the 24 actions envisaged under its counter-terrorism strategy;**27. in pursuit of a relentless fight against corruption and organised crime, invited the Pompidou Group to prepare policy guidelines in the area of combating organised crime relating to drug-trafficking, based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights;***United to meet current and future challenges***Human rights in the digital era* *28. having adopted today the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, recalled its global ambition and invited its Deputies to promote wide signature and ratification by member and non-member States, as well as to continue to ensure the Council of Europe’s leading role in developing human rights standards in the digital era and safeguarding its core values through further such work in relevant sectors;**Challenges of migration, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants* *29. with a view to meeting the increasing challenges of migration and the necessity to fight against trafficking and smuggling of migrants and to intensify efforts to foster and improve international co-operation in this regard, while continuing to protect the victims of trafficking and respect the human rights of migrants and refugees, taking into account the relevant legal frameworks, as well as supporting frontline States, within the existing Council of Europe frameworks, noted with satisfaction that work has started on the preparation of a report assessing the need for and feasibility of a possible instrument on the smuggling of migrants and welcomed the ongoing work under the Action Plan on fostering international co-operation and investigative strategies in fighting the smuggling of migrants;* *Protection of journalists**30. reaffirming the Council of Europe’s prominent role in international standard-setting on freedom of expression and related issues, strongly encouraged member States to implement its Recommendation* *[CM/Rec(2024)2](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Rec(2024)2" \o "Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on countering the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 5 April 2024 at the 1494th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)) on strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs);**31. reaffirmed the importance of the Council of Europe’s work on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists, including that of the Platform created for this purpose, as part of our collective effort for the safety of journalists and other media actors; welcomed the Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists, “Journalists matter” launched in October 2023 in Riga (Latvia), and invited member States to fully support it and to take appropriate action at the national level to safeguard journalists’ right to report the news freely and without fear;**Addressing mis- and disinformation**32. welcomed the Council of Europe engagement in addressing mis- and disinformation and the adoption of a Guidance Note on countering the spread of online mis- and disinformation through fact-checking and platform design solutions in a human rights compliant manner, and encouraged member States to implement it;**Anti-discrimination, diversity and inclusion**33. welcomed the follow-up given to reinforcing work towards inclusive societies through new instruments on combating hate crime and on ensuring equality of Roma and Traveller women and girls, as well as the Council of Europe’s enhanced capacity to protect and promote the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and regional or minority languages and to address discrimination on any ground, including sexual orientation and gender identity, and reaffirmed the importance of strengthening work to achieve equal rights and opportunities as well as dignity for all, recognising the importance of using an intersectional approach in the work of the Council of Europe;* |

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| *34. recalling the Council of Europe’s leading role in fighting all forms of discrimination, including those based on religion and belief, invited member States to take into consideration tools developed by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), especially its General Policy Recommendations No. 5 on Preventing and Combating anti-Muslim racism and discrimination and No. 9 on Preventing and Combatting antisemitism;**Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention**35. recalling the pioneering role of the Council of Europe in the fields of gender equality and preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, invited member States to actively contribute to the implementation of the new Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 and to make wide use of the Guidelines on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women;**36. welcomed the EU’s accession to and Latvia’s ratification of the Istanbul Convention and encouraged action to promote further ratifications by member and non-member States;***United in our vision for the Council of Europe – The Europe we want***The Council of Europe and the environment**37. welcomed the strengthening of work related to human rights and the environment across the Council of Europe and encouraged in particular the completion as soon as possible of a study on the need for and feasibility of a further instrument or instruments in the field of human rights and the environment and of the draft Council of Europe Convention on Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law;**38. with a view to implementing the Reykjavík process, invited its Deputies to set up an ad hoc intergovernmental multidisciplinary group to prepare a Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment and a related action plan;**39. strongly encouraged member States to implement its Recommendation* *[CM/Rec(2022)20](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Rec(2022)20" \o "Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on human rights and the protection of the environment (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 27 September 2022 at the 1444th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)) on human rights and the protection of the environment and invited its Deputies to continue working on the implementation of Annex V to the Reykjavík Declaration;**Youth participation**40. welcomed the holding of the youth event “Confidence in tomorrow” in the framework of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe and of the 133rd Ministerial Session, and pledged to follow-up on its recommendations as appropriate within a renewed and strengthened relation between the Council of Europe and young people as part of the implementation of the Reykjavík Declaration;**41. welcomed the adoption by the Joint Council on Youth of elements for a reference framework for a “youth perspective” in the Council of Europe and endorsed the preparation of this reference framework with a view to its implementation across the Organisation, as appropriate;* *42. welcomed the decision of the Maltese authorities to organise the 10th Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth next year, aimed at reinvigorating the Council of Europe’s youth dimension and at modernising the European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life;**Programme, budget and reform**43. recalled the increase in real terms of resources for the Programme and Budget 2024-2025 including for the strengthening of the co-operation dimension; in this context also welcomed the Secretary General’s progress report on administrative reform measures (**[CM(2024)53](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2024)53" \o "[1496/11.1] Progress report on administrative reform measures)), including work on sustainable development and reducing the carbon footprint within the Council of Europe, and reiterated the critical importance of continuing the reform process for a modern and flexible Council of Europe to achieve its objectives;* |

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| *44. emphasised the necessity to continue budgetary and programmatic prioritisation, including by the allocation or reallocation of resources according to a thorough evaluation of activities, and identifying areas for reprioritisation, to ensure the Organisation is delivering the outcomes of the Reykjavík Summit and responding appropriately to the evolving context; to this end, encouraged a focus on strengthening the work on topics of priority that Heads of State and Government committed to tackle in Reykjavík, including current and emerging challenges, where the Council of Europe has competitive advantage and/or unique legal instruments and expertise, while sunsetting or downsizing, as appropriate, other activities which are of less priority or deemed to have achieved their goal and could risk unnecessary duplication with the work of other international organisations;**Transparency**45. welcomed the work in progress to evaluate possible avenues for improving the transparency of the activities of the Committee of Ministers and its documentation, in line with the Secretary General’s commitment to continue the reform process to achieve greater transparency, efficiency and effectiveness;**46. in this context, invited its Deputies to prepare a Council of Europe Transparency Framework which will serve as a guiding document, outlining its commitment to transparency and accountability;**The Council of Europe’s external dimension* *47. reiterated the importance of the reinforcement of the Council of Europe’s external dimension, in particular through political dialogue, including at the highest level, and co-operation with the EU, the UN, the OSCE and other international organisations, as well as the strengthening of relations with observer States and non-member States which share our values;**48. welcomed the growing number of accessions by non-European States to the Council of Europe’s enlarged partial agreements and open conventions and encouraged further efforts in promoting them, especially within the Council of Europe neighbourhood policy;**Summits of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe**49. agreed to consider holding Summits of Heads of State and Government with greater regularity.”* |

**Item 3 of the agenda Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union**

The Ministers’ Deputies have prepared a report on co-operation between the two organisations, which appears in document [CM(2024)33-final](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2024)33-final" \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). They also prepred the following draft decisions for adoption by the Ministers.

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| *“The Committee of Ministers**1. welcomed the new impetus given by the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Reykjavík to the strategic partnership with the European Union, which led to an unprecedented intensity of co-operation and political dialogue, including at the highest level, focusing on support to Ukraine, notably through the establishment and operationalisation of the Register of Damage as well as ensuring accountability for the crimes committed in the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine;**2. underscored the leading role of the Council of Europe in international standard setting in respect of democracy, the rule of law and human rights;* |

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| *3. took note with satisfaction of the revised draft instruments for the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights, as unanimously provisionally agreed; noted the European Union’s intention to resolve the outstanding issue relating to acts in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy internally; reiterated the commitment to the timely adoption of the revised accession instruments; and recalled that accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights is of central importance for the coherence of the European human rights protection system;**4. welcomed the accession to and the subsequent entry into force in respect of the EU of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (“Istanbul Convention”), and further encouraged EU participation in or accession to Council of Europe conventions and bodies, as appropriate, as a way of achieving coherence and complementarity and promoting synergies; and recalled in this respect that appropriate voting arrangements must be found in the responsible treaty bodies;* *5. in the context of EU enlargement, bearing in mind the ongoing progress in the Western Balkans, as well as the developments of December 2023, in particular the opening of accession negotiations with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, and granting candidate status to Georgia, as well as the opening of accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2024, recalled the key benchmarking role of the Council of Europe in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Europe, based on the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding;**6. recalled the Council of Europe’s unique set of instruments to provide full support and to raise the level of preparedness of candidate countries and potential candidates for EU accession and reaffirmed the Council of Europe’s readiness to provide the EU with valuable input into matters related to the rule of law, democracy and human rights in EU member States and beyond;**7. welcomed the EU’s highly valuable role in promoting the accession of non-European States to the most relevant Council of Europe legal instruments;**8. underlined the importance of continued co-operation within the framework of EU-CoE Joint Programmes in 2024 as one of the pillars of the strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the EU and mutual commitment to promoting common values.”* |

**Item 4 of the agenda Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and**

 **Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law and its Explanatory Report**

The Ministers’ Deputies approved a draft Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law and its Explanatory Report, as they appear in documents [CM(2024)52](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2024)52) and [CM(2024)52-add](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2024)52-add) and agreed to transmit them to the Session for the Ministers to adopt the Framework Convention and take note of its Explanatory Report. In this context, the Deputies also took note with appreciation of Parliamentary Assembly Opinion No. 303 and invited the Ministers to take a decision on the opening for signature.

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| *“The Committee of Ministers*1. *adopted the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, as it appears in document* *[CM(2024)52-final](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2024)52-final" \o "Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) - Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law), and took note of its Explanatory Report, as it appears in document* *[CM(2024)52-addfinal](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2024)52-addfinal" \o "Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) - Framework Convention on artificial intelligence, human rights, democracy and the rule of law - Explanatory Report);*
2. *agreed to open the Framework Convention for signature in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 5 September 2024 on the occasion of the informal Conference of Ministers of Justice and invited member States and non-member States having participated in its drafting and the EU to consider signing it on this occasion, while recalling that the Framework Convention is also open for accession by other non-member States.”*
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**Item 5 of the agenda Other business**

Under this item, the Ministers may briefly raise other general or specific issues, which should be notified to the chairmanship beforehand.

**Item 6 of the agenda Transfer of the chairmanship between Liechtenstein and Lithuania**

Under this item, the outgoing Presidency of Liechtenstein will officially hand over its powers to the incoming Presidency of Lithuania.

**a. Report by the Presidency of Liechtenstein**

The President will present the results of the outgoing Presidency. A written report will be available for participants (document [CM/Inf(2024)8](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Inf(2024)8" \o "Stocktaking of the Liechtenstein Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (15 November 2023 – 17 May 2024))).

**b. Priorities of the Presidency of Lithuania**

The incoming President will present the priorities of the Presidency of Lithuania for the next six months. A written report will be available for participants (document [CM/Inf(2024)9](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Inf(2024)9" \o "Priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 May – 13 November 2024))).

**Item 7 of the agenda Date and place of the next Session**

Under this item, the Ministers will be invited to agree that:

- the 134th Session of the Committee of Ministers will be held in Luxembourg, Luxembourg, in 13‑14 May 2025;

- the handover of the Presidency from Lithuania to Luxembourg will take place on 13 November 2024.