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| **MINISTERS’ DEPUTIES** | Information documents | **CM/Inf(2021)20** | 16 November 2021[[1]](#footnote-1) |

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| **Stocktaking of the Hungarian Presidencyof the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe(21 May – 17 November 2021)** |

**Introduction**

Hungary took over the Presidency of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers on 21 May 2021 at the meeting of the Committee of Ministers in Hamburg, Germany for the second time since becoming a member of the Council of Europe on 6 November 1990.

Twenty-two years after the adoption of the “Budapest Declaration for a Greater Europe without dividing lines” at the 104th Session of the Committee of Ministers on 7 May 1999, Hungary continues to believe that “the Council of Europe is the pre-eminent political institution capable of bringing together, on an equal footing and in permanent structures, all the countries of Greater Europe”. In this spirit, and building on the results of the successful preceding chairmanships, Hungary intended to further promote and strengthen human rights, democratic values and the rule of law, while working in close co-operation with all Council of Europe institutions and bodies, in particular the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

Hungary established the following **five topics as priorities** of its Presidency: 1) promoting the effective protection of national minorities, 2) interreligious dialogue, 3) “next generation”: children’s rights, youth participation and Roma[[2]](#footnote-2), 4) technological and 5) environmental challenges.

As a result of the improved pandemic situation in France and the Council of Europe, the extent of physical presence in the buildings of the Council and meetings was increased gradually during the Hungarian Presidency. The meetings of the Deputies and their rapporteur groups were held in hybrid format (1+1) with the strict maintenance of health precautions. As part of this gradual approach, the Plexiglas protective screens in the Committee of Ministers’ meeting room were removed by the end of the Hungarian Presidency.

The gradual easing of the restrictions made it possible for the Hungarian Presidency to underpin its priorities with diverse **cultural programmes** through music, cinema, design, theatre, photography and fashion among others. In close co-operation with the city of Strasbourg, the Hungarian Presidency organised the “Concert of the Virtuosos” in Pavillon Josephine, the outdoor photo exhibition of nature photographer Bence Máté at Place du Chateau, the Hungarian Film Festival/Feminine Perspective in Cinéma Odyssée, the fashion show of designer Erika Kovács, and the closing event with the National Folk Ensemble in the Palais de la Musique et des Congrès, just to highlight a few (see the detailed list in annex).

**Activities within the Presidency priorities:**

1. **Promoting the effective protection of national minorities**

The promotion of effective protection of national minorities was defined as the first priority of the Hungarian Presidency programme. During the Presidency, four conferences were organised in Strasbourg and Budapest with the participation of high-ranking officials of the Council of Europe, other international organisations (UN, OSCE), Hungarian authorities and experts focusing on national minority issues. The Hungarian Presidency’s intention was to keep this issue on the agenda of the European institutions and to identify the appropriate means by which we can promote the future protection of national minority identity. In this respect, the Hungarian Presidency welcomed that Portugal signed the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages on 7 September 2021.

On 29 June, **a high-level conference titled “Council of Europe norms and standards on national minority rights: Results and challenges”** was organised by the Hungarian Presidency together with the Council of Europe in Strasbourg with the aim of assessing the achievements to date and identifying remaining challenges in the field of minority rights protection in Europe. In the framework of three panel discussions, speakers addressed the functioning of the Council of Europe’s protection mechanisms for national minorities from various angles and took stock of the reform processes launched by the Croatian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers in 2018. The conference was opened by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Hungarian Minister, Head of the Prime Minister’s Office of Hungary. Further speakers included the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, representative of the European Court of Human Rights, members of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Chairs of the monitoring committees of the Framework Convention and the Language Charter, chairs of relevant Committee of Ministers rapporteur groups, as well as representatives of Council of Europe member States.

On 7 September, the Hungarian Presidency hosted a conference in the European Youth Centre Budapest titled “**The role of NGOs and research institutes in promoting Council of Europe norms and standards on national minority rights**”. The conference was opened by the State Secretary responsible for Security Policy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and by the Head of the Anti-Discrimination Department of the Council of Europe. Representatives of governments and national minority associations and NGOs from Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Russian Federation and Slovenia participated at the event. Two panels focused on the role of research institutes and NGOs in protecting national minority rights and the results achieved by these actors in this field. A third panel introduced the **Study on political participation of national minority youth in member States** prepared by the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI). The study includes good practices from Council of Europe member States and recommendations to bolster the realisation of the political rights of national minority youth. Civil society organisations contributed to the study, according to which national minority youth, defined as people aged between 13 and 30, face multiple challenges in political participation at various levels. As young people may not be taken seriously, they may distrust public institutions. Moreover, youth organisations may not have enough access to funding or other important resources. It is recommended in the study to carry on the relevant intergovernmental work of the Council of Europe in this field in order to address related challenges.

On 5 October, **a conference dedicated to the presentation of best practices in the field of national minority rights was organised in Budapest**, with the objective of discussing the contribution of
well-functioning institutions to the promotion of national minority rights. It also provided a forum for examining the influence of good practices on the regulation of national minority rights.

On 19 October, **the high-level closing conference of the priority area entitled “National minority identities in diverse societies: European perspectives” took place in Strasbourg** with the participation of the Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the UN Special rapporteur on minority issues, and several other key stakeholders. The conference was an opportunity to share experience and ideas, proposals and visions regarding the future of protecting the rights of national minorities. The series of conferences was closed by issuing the Strasbourg Declaration of the Hungarian Presidency encompassing the necessity of further intergovernmental work in this field and defining the potential future course of action.

1. **Interreligious dialogue**

The Council of Europe was founded in the aftermath of the Second World War and the Holocaust in order to promote the common values of peace, justice, international co-operation and human rights. Interfaith dialogue formed an important part of the yearly calendar of the Committee of Ministers for many years and was addressed in several recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Combating antisemitism, racism and all kinds of discrimination is also a key mission of the Council of Europe today. The Hungarian Presidency intended to use the opportunity afforded by the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers to give new impetus to the deliberations regarding discrimination based on religion or belief.

On 23 September, **the Hungarian Presidency organised an informal meeting of the Deputies on “Combating and preventing antisemitism in Europe: challenges and perspectives” in co-operation with the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Antisemitic, Anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes** with the participation of the Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism, as well as the Chief Rabbi of Moscow and President of the Conference of European Rabbis. A broad consensus emerged among participants that strategies to combat antisemitism should be based on a holistic approach including prevention, security, education, passing on remembrance in the digital age and fostering Jewish life in Europe. In this respect, the Hungarian Presidency welcomed that on 14 September 2021, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) published the updated General Policy Recommendation No. 9. on preventing and combating antisemitism. Furthermore, in its decision, the Committee of Ministers reaffirmed its strong condemnation of all forms of antisemitism, neo-Nazism and any other form of racism, racial discrimination and intolerance.

On 28 September, during the 2021 fourth part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, an **online Expert Panel Discussion on Interreligious Dialogue** was opened by Mr Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, with the participation of relevant international NGOs and the involvement of the Hungary Helps Program. The event highlighted relations between humanitarian aid and religious freedom and the way humanitarian aid can help religious communities in general, and persecuted Christians in particular. During the conference, the Strasbourg Statement on Interfaith Co-operation and Peaceful Coexistence entitled “Together for the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief and Human Dignity” was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and it is open for all interested parties to join.

On 13-15 October, **a symposium entitled “Pillars of Modern Age Europe – Coexistence of Religious Communities” was organised in Debrecen** (Hungary). It examined the complex issue of religious pluralism with regard to inter-culturalism. By looking for an intersection between religions existing side-by-side, the conference focused on shared values and common responsibilities, as well as moral challenges of the 21st century. The closing remarks were delivered by the Secretary General’s Special Representative on Antisemitic, Anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes.

1. **“Next generation”: children’s rights, youth participation and Roma; social dimension**

The global crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic and social impact has disrupted nearly all aspects of life for all groups in society. The lives of children and families were increasingly forced into cyberspace, thus creating challenges for youth and families in general. As the Hungarian Government places special emphasis on the protection of youth and families, this field was of particular importance to the Hungarian Presidency.

Bearing this in mind, the Hungarian Presidency hosted a series of events highlighting the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on children and young people with a special focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as Roma. Special attention was dedicated to the European Social Charter celebrating its 60th anniversary during the Hungarian Presidency.

On 7-8 October, a **high-level conference “Rights, opportunities and well-being of children and young people in the digital age**” was organised in Budapest/online with the participation of the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The conference paid special attention to the changes, dangers and opportunities that have emerged as a result of the specific measures introduced to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. It especially focused on the day-to-day activities and challenges of digital education and online learning, the assertion of children's and students' rights, the well-being of children and young people (physical, intellectual and mental health), family values and the situation of families, disadvantaged groups, as well as societal groups lagging behind. The event contributed to summarising the results of the five-year impact of the Council of Europe’s Strategy on the Rights of Children (2016-2021) on digital environment.

The protection and promotion of Roma rights, one of the Council of Europe’s priorities, is guided by the Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025). Key priorities of the document include combating discrimination, antigypsyism, hate speech and hate crimes against Roma, as well as supporting access to high-quality and inclusive education and training. On 2 August, the Hungarian Presidency made a statement on the occasion of the **European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day**. Promoting social inclusion and opportunities for the Roma people are among the priorities of the Hungarian Presidency.

On 22-24 September, **the Hungarian Presidency organised a Conference on Roma inclusion titled “From early childhood to profession” in Budapest,** which was an opportunity to review progress, take stock of achievements and challenges, and share information and good practices on Roma-related activities of the Council of Europe, the European Union and their member States. The conference was opened by the Director General of Democracy of the Council of Europe, and the State Secretary for Administration, Ministry of Interior of Hungary. The conference focused on the years from early childhood to employment or occupation, which include service provision in the areas of health care, housing, pre-school, primary, secondary, and higher education as well as vocational training and employment. The 4th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (**ADI-ROM**) on 27-29 October was organised in Hungary, including a field visit.

The Hungarian Presidency supports the work of the Pompidou Group, the Council of Europe’s drug policy platform, and welcomed the adoption of its **revised statute** on 16 June, and the **Declaration to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Pompidou Group**. On 28 October, a high-level celebration took place at the Pompidou Centre in Paris with the participation of Mr Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. The event provided the opportunity to demonstrate the strong support for the work of the Pompidou Group as the international benchmark for human rights in drug policies. The Hungarian Presidency also welcomed that Ukraine will join the partial agreement as its 42nd member State in January 2022.

This year also marked the 60th anniversary of the 1961 **European Social Charter**, which was celebrated on 18 October **by a high-level panel in Strasbourg.** An opening statement was provided by the State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary on behalf of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, together with other high-level representatives of the Council of Europe. On 13 October, the Ministers’ Deputies adopted a Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the occasion of the **60th anniversary of the adoption of the European Social Charter**.

In the context of the 60th anniversary, the Committee of Ministers at its 131st Session in Hamburg on 21 May 2021, also “stressed the importance of the Charter in guaranteeing social rights across the continent; took note of the recent report of the Secretary General “Improving the implementation of social rights – reinforcing the European Social Charter system” as well as the continuing intergovernmental work on this issue and invited its Deputies to take these into account in the ongoing consideration on the Social Charter system and report on progress in time for the Ministerial Session in May 2022”. Subsequently, an **exchange of views took place on 22 September 2021**, where the Deputies considered proposals from the Secretariat for possible steps, which could be taken to improve the implementation of social rights and reinforce the European Social Charter system. On 7 October 2021, in light of the decisions taken at the [131stSession](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Del/Dec(2021)131/2a)  of the Committee of Ministers and the Deputies’ follow-up decisions, and in particular recalling the devastating social and economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on social rights in many member States, **the Deputies agreed to set up an ad hoc working party on improving the European Social Charter system** (GT‑CHARTE) with the mandate of making proposals to the Ministerial Session in May 2022 and examining longer-term substantive and procedural issues. The
GT-CHARTE began its work during the Hungarian Presidency and held its first meeting on 4 November.

The 25-years old **European Youth Centre Budapest (EYCB)** is a practical result and symbol of the support of the Hungarian authorities to the youth policies of the Council of Europe. The centre restarted its activities in a physical format in the summer of 2021 and also served as a venue for many events during the Hungarian Presidency. It was also visited by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe during her official visit to Hungary on 5 October. In the framework of its priorities, the Hungarian Presidency supported the **Enter! training course** on access to social rights for young people held in the EYCB from 7 to 14 September.

1. **Technological challenges**

At its 131st Session on 21 May, the Committee of Ministers stressed the Council of Europe’s important standard-setting work on protecting human rights in the digital age and acknowledged that digital development and artificial intelligence bring significant benefits to societies and their citizens but also pose many new challenges. As a result of the pandemic, families and youth have become more dependent on IT infrastructure, and as a result, more susceptible to threats in cyberspace. We must also face the ambivalent nature of artificial intelligence and challenges associated with the role of big tech companies, whose operations are often unregulated and uncontrolled in certain segments. Thus, the Hungarian Presidency attached great importance to the issue of technological challenges.

At the conference of the Ministers of Justice on "European Justice Facing the Challenges of Digital Technology" held under the auspices of the French Presidency in October 2019 in Strasbourg, the French Minister of Justice initiated that the Council of Europe’s Ministers of Justice meet every two years as a forum to examine issues relating to the impact of digital technology on access to justice and judicial proceedings. Acting upon this initiative, on 5 October, the **Hungarian Presidency co-organised, together with the Council of Europe, a conference of Ministers of Justice** as a landmark event to promote substantive dialogue among member States. The Ministers had the opportunity of discussing further challenges and achievements related to the digitalization of justice, in particular the Convention-compliant use of electronic tools and artificial intelligence in judicial proceedings. The agenda of the conference was built on the diverse work of the Council of Europe in the field of justice, information society, algorithms and artificial intelligence. A set of conclusions were issued at the end of the conference on behalf of the Hungarian Presidency.

Linked to the ministerial conference, a **high-level experts’ Roundtable on New Means of Communication for International Co-operation in Criminal Matters** was organised on 4 October. Participants agreed that an informal platform should be set up and invited future Presidencies to organise

IT Roundtable discussions on an annual basis providing a forum for continuous and in-depth exchange of views on regulatory and IT best practices that could help overcome technical compatibility problems and facilitate the widespread use of new communications means in the area of international judicial
co-operation.

On 12 May, the Deputies agreed to transmit the **draft Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime** on enhanced co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence and its draft Explanatory Report to the Parliamentary Assembly. They also invited the latter to offer its opinion on the draft Protocol. In view of the Parliamentary Assembly’s opinion, the Deputies’ Rapporteur Group on legal co-operation (GR-J) at its meeting on 12 October, decided to transmit the draft Second Additional Protocol and its Explanatory Report to the Deputies for adoption of the relevant decisions at their 1417bis meeting on 17 November without further debate.

On 16-18 November, the **Octopus Conference** took place providing an opportunity for cybercrime experts from the public and private sectors as well as international and non-governmental organisations from all over the world to share their experience. A **special online celebratory event with high-level interventions was organised on 16 November on the occasion of the**[**20th anniversary of the Budapest Convention**](https://www.coe.int/fr/web/cybercrime/20th-anniversary-budapest-convention)**and the adoption of the** [**Second additional Protocol on enhanced co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence**](https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/t-cy-drafting-group).

The Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers has been committed to facilitating important discussions on the **safe exploitation of the full potential of artificial intelligence** (AI). In collaboration with the Council of Europe, the Presidency organised an online high-level multi-stakeholder conference on 26 October focusing on the theme of current and future challenges of co-ordinated policies on AI regulation. With the intention of contributing to the improvement of AI policymaking at global, regional and national levels, the conference aimed at showcasing various governance models and demonstrating the interplay between national policies, the relevant work of the Council of Europe and other key international organisations active in this field. The event provided an opportunity to engage in a multi-stakeholder and inclusive dialogue based on scientific argumentation on current initiatives in the field of AI regulation. The conference also aimed at demonstrating the relevance and usefulness of these initiatives for national public policies. At the end of the conference, a set of conclusions was published on behalf of the Hungarian Presidency.

On 30 September and 1 October in Budapest, an **Eurimages Conference** was organised under the auspices of the Hungarian Presidency on “**Preserving independent production, diversity and pluralism in TV series in Europe**”. The aim was to explore the need for new mechanisms of pan-European public financial support for drama series and a new legal framework to facilitate international co‑productions. The event was a response to the revolutionary technological changes in the audio-visual industry, namely the rising significance of streaming platforms (most of them non-European). Participants explored if it was possible to replicate the successful framework that has worked under the auspices of the Council of Europe for the cinema industry. The conference was the starting point of a long road ahead known as the **Budapest Drama Series Process**.

1. **Environmental challenges**

Following its predecessors, and in co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly, the Hungarian Presidency aimed to promote the relationship between human rights and environmental protection and strengthen the Council of Europe’s work in this field. Hungary is committed to finding solutions for creating economic growth that also allows us to preserve our environment. Hungary has been among the few countries in the past decades who were able to simultaneously reduce their emissions and maintain steady economic growth at the same time. Hence, focusing also on environmental challenges was an obvious choice for the Hungarian Presidency.

A **high-level panel and interactive debate entitled “The environment and human rights: the right to a safe, healthy and sustainable environment**”, as well as a full day of debates on this topic formed the centrepiece of the **2021 fourth part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly**. As part of the first ever visit of a Hungarian President of the Republic to the Council of Europe, President János Áder participated at the high-level panel discussion on the environment.

Seven reports were adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly covering the Council of Europe’s action to anchor a “right to a healthy environment”, and how tackling climate change will require more participatory democracy, changes in criminal and civil liability, as well as a greater reliance on the rule of law. Other reports looked at combating inequalities in ensuring the right to a safe, healthy and clean environment, climate and migration, and how research policies can promote environmental protection. As a follow-up to the adopted reports, the Ministers’ Deputies instructed the relevant structures of the Council of Europe to examine the recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly, including the **need for and the** **feasibility of a further instrument or instruments in the context of the ongoing work on human rights and the environment**.

The Hungarian Presidency also attached great importance to the existing tools of the Council of Europe regarding the protection of the environment. On 26 and 27 May, under the auspices of the Hungarian Presidency, the Council of Europe organised the **11th (online) Conference on the European Landscape Convention**. On 21 October, a national symposium on the implementation of the Convention in Hungary was organised in the European Youth Centre Budapest on the occasion of the International Landscape Day. The Hungarian Presidency actively supported the ongoing work in the Council of Europe aimed at the stabilisation of the financial situation of the **Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.**

On 8-10 November, the 9th edition of the **World Forum for Democracy** focused on the application of the democratic principles to the environment under the motto “Can democracy save the environment?” where among others, Ms Judit Varga, Minister of Justice of Hungary, participated.

**Other activities during the Hungarian Presidency:**

The declared intention of the Hungarian Presidency was to support the daily work of the Organisation, focusing on a wide variety of important topics on the agenda and taking forward the work of previous Presidencies.

On 2 June, the Deputies held an exchange of views with Ms Marceline Naudi, President of the **Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)**.

On 3 June, the Deputies held an exchange of views with Ms Elżbieta Franków-Jaśkiewicz, Chair of the **Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL).** They took note of MONEYVAL’s annual report for 2020, which concludes that there is a serious need to improve the effectiveness of States’ action against money laundering and terrorist financing.

At that same meeting, the Deputies, in their composition restricted to the representatives of the member States of the **European Support Fund for the Co-production and Distribution of Creative Cinematographic and audiovisual Works “Eurimages”**, invited Canada to become a full member of Eurimages.

They also welcomed the Resolutions adopted by the **16th Conference of Council of Europe Ministers responsible for Sport** (Athens, Greece, 5 November 2020, 7 December 2020, 15 January 2021 and 11 February 2021) and took note of the Secretary General’s report on the Conference. They invited the **Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)** to present to the Committee of Ministers a report on the situation of human rights in sport assessing progress on the implementation of Resolution No. 2 adopted by the conference and acknowledged the importance of developing sport policies at national, European and international level to maximise the benefits that sport brings to society, in particular in the fields of health, inclusion and education, and promoting human rights and the rule of law in and through sport.

On 16 June, the Deputies adopted the follow-up decision to the 131st Session of the Committee of Ministers (Hamburg (videoconference), 21 May 2021), **agreeing to discontinue their ongoing country-specific, post-accession monitoring procedures** in accordance with paragraphs 7 to 13 of the report on Council of Europe monitoring – strengthening cohesion and synergies ([CM(2021)50-final](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2021)50-final" \o "[131st Session] Report on Council of Europe monitoring – strengthening cohesion and synergies)).

On 16 June, the Deputies held an exchange of views with Ms Dunja Mijatović, **Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.**

On 16 June, the Committee of Ministers adopted Guidelines on online dispute resolution mechanisms in civil and administrative court proceedings.

On 21-24 June, the third part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe took place, with the participation of Mr Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, among others.

On 30 June, the Deputies held an exchange of views with Ms Maria Daniella Marouda, Chair of the **European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)**.

On 1-2 July, in the framework of its priorities, the Hungarian Presidency sponsored online the Annual Conference of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (**HELP Network Conference**).

On 7 July, the Deputies held an exchange of views with Ambassador Drahoslav Štefánek, **Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees**, following his fact-finding mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (24 to 30 January 2021).

On 7 July, the Deputies took note with satisfaction of the progress review report on the implementation of the neighbourhood co-operation priorities for 2019 to 2021 with **Kazakhstan**.

On 8 September, the Deputies held an exchange of views with Ms Claire Bazy Malaurie, Vice President of the **Venice Commission**, following her presentation of the Commission’s 2020 Annual Report of Activities.

On 8 September, the Deputies, in their composition restricted to the representatives of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia,[[3]](#footnote-3) approved, in principle, the long-term investment strategy of the **European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and HealthCare (EDQM)** and the proposed use of the EDQM’s reserve to ensure the long-term sustainability of its activities and for the possible extension of the current EDQM building and creation of a third one.

On 9-10 September, a **conference on cross-border co-operation** took place **in Budapest** with the aim of promoting the Council of Europe instruments in the area of cross-border co-operation and presenting best practices from several member States. A set of conclusions was adopted at the end of the conference.

On 22 September, the Deputies adopted a Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the publication and dissemination of the European Convention on Human Rights, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and other relevant texts.

On 22 September, the Deputies **adopted new streamlined Council of Europe Staff Regulations** to come into force on 1 July 2022 as part of the implementation of the Organisation’s People Strategy.

At the same meeting, the Deputies **agreed to renew**, until 31 December 2025, **the terms of reference of the Council of Europe offices and its liaison offices** as defined in Resolution [CM/Res(2010)5](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Res(2010)5" \o "Resolution on the status of Council of Europe Offices (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 7 July 2010 at the 1090th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)) on the status of Council of Europe offices.

On 23 September, the Rapporteur Group on Programme, Budget and Administration (GR-PBA) started examining the draft **Programme and Budget for 2022-2025** on the basis of the decisions adopted by the Ministers in Hamburg last May introducing the first four-year Programme while maintaining the current biennial budget cycle. The GR-PBA is currently examining the draft, with a view to its adoption by the Deputies at their 1418th (Budget) meeting on 22-24 November 2021.

On 27-30 September, the fourth part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe took place with the participation of Mr Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, among others.

On 7 October, the Ministers’ Deputies held their six-monthly review of the situation with regard to the **abolition of the** **death penalty**.

On 7 October, the Deputies held an exchange of views with Ms Dunja Mijatović, **Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights**.

At the same meeting, the Deputies held an exchange of views with Mr Rik Daems, **President of the Parliamentary Assembly** on the results of the fourth part session of the Parliamentary Assembly 2021.

On 13 October, the Ministers’ Deputies adopted a recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the **Revised European Sports Charter**.

At the same meeting, the Deputies held exchanges with Mr Robert Spano, **President of the European Court of Human Rights** and also with Pierre Moscovici, the **External Auditor** of the Council of Europe, First President of the Cour des Comptes, Supreme Audit Institution of France.

At the same meeting, the Deputies had a short exchange of views with Mr Andreas Kiefer, **Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**.

On 15 October, the **Council of Europe/OSCE Co-ordination Group**, established to strengthen synergies with the OSCE in agreed priority areas, met online. A joint report on progress in co-operation in the fight against terrorism and the fight against trafficking in human beings was discussed.

On 20 October, the Ministers’ Deputies adopted a Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers regarding the assessment, management and reintegration of persons accused or convicted of a sexual offence.

On 20 October, the Ministers’ Deputies adopted a Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on measures aimed at protecting children against radicalisation for the purposes of terrorism.

At the same meeting, the Deputies held exchanges of views with Karine Lukas, **President of the** **European Committee of Social Rights**, and Mr Sergei Glagolev, **Chair of the Committee of the Parties** to the Council of Europe Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health (**Medicrime Convention**) on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

On 26-28 October, the **Congress** of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe held its **41st Session** where an exchange of views was organised with Mr Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of Hungary, on behalf of the Hungarian Presidency.

On 3 November, the Ministers’ Deputies engaged in a discussion with Mr Ramin Garagurbanli, President of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (**CEPEJ**) and Ms Alina Orosan, Chair of the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (**CAHDI**).

On 10 November, the Deputies held an exchange of views with Mr Joao Goulao, President of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and illicit Trafficking in Drugs (**Pompidou Group**) and with Ms Christel De Craim, Chairperson of the Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (**Lanzarote Committee**).

**Other accomplishments:**

Hungary made voluntary contributions of approximately 500,000 euros to support the work of the Council of Europe on the Hungarian Presidency’s priority areas.

During its Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, Hungary signed the Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (CETS No. 218), known as “Saint Denis” Convention (2 June), and the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (CETS No. 221), known as the Nicosia Convention (5 October).

Hungary decided to express its intention to join the Observatory on History teaching in Europe (HOPE) as an observer state and to re-join the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML).

On the occasion of its Presidency, Hungary offered a piece of art, the tapestry “European Universum” to the Council of Europe. This was presented to the Secretary General on 29 September during the 2021 fourth part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly by the President of the Republic of Hungary. Hungary also decided to restore the Revolutionary flag from 1956, a gift dating from the first Hungarian Chairmanship in 1999. The restored flag was returned to the Council of Europe in mid-November.

**Appendix**

**Activities organised by or under the auspices of the Hungarian Presidency**

**of the Committee of Ministers**

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| 26-27 | May | 11th Conference of the Landscape Convention | online |
| 2630  | May -June | Magical Hungary – nature photo exhibition | Palais de l’Europe and online |
| 27  | May | Bureau meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly | Budapest and online |
| 28 | May | Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly | Budapest and online |
| 2 | June | Opening piano concert of János Balázs | online  |
| 10-11 | June | Conference of Media Ministers: “Artificial intelligence – Intelligent politics: Challenges and opportunities for media and democracy” organised by the Council of Europe and the Republic of Cyprus | online |
| 11 | June | Digital P.E. class LIVE | online  |
| 219 | June – July | Exhibition on the architecture of the Hungarian Parliament Building (opening during the third part of the 2021 Session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly) | Palais de l’Europe |
| 29 | June | High-level conference: “Norms and standards of the Council of Europe related to the rights of national minorities: results and challenges” | Palais de l’Europe and online |
| 29 | June | Concert of flutist János Bálint accompanied by pianist József Balog | Palais de l’Europe |
| 1-2  | July | Annual Conference of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP Network Conference) | online |
| 8 | July | Tokaji wine dinner  | Kientzheim, Châteaude Confrérie Saint-Etienne |
| 17 | August | Concert of the Kodály Zoltán World Youth Orchestra | Debrecen/live stream |
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| 18 | August | Concert of the Kodály Zoltán World Youth Orchestra | Budapest Heroes Square/live stream |
| 19 14 | August - November  | Tracing our heritage – outdoor exhibition on European Cultural Routes in Hungary  | Szentendre |
| 7 | September | Conference: “National minority rights on the agenda of NGOs and research institutes” | Budapest, EYCB/hybrid |
| 7-14 | September | Enter! – Training course on access to social rights for young people | Budapest EYCB |
| 16-23 | September  | Outdoor exhibition of Cultural Routes and Innovation  | Budapest Heroes Square |

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| 16-17 | September | Conference on Cross-Border Co-operation | Budapest |
| 2220 | September – October | Cross-in-Fire exhibition: Christian Persecution in the Middle East  | Palais de l’Europe |
| 23 | September | Informal meeting of the Ministers' Deputies “Combating and preventing antisemitism in Europe: challenges and perspectives” | Palais de l’Europe |
| 22-24 | September | Conference on Roma inclusion: “From early childhood to profession” | Budapest |
| 24-25 | September | Celebration of European Day of Languages: concert of Kaláka and workshops | Ecole Européennede Strasbourg |
| 28 | September | Conference on Foster Care | Budapest EYCB/hybrid |
| 28 | September | Fourth part of the 2021 Session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly: side event expert panel discussion on interreligious dialogue | online |
| 29 | September | Concert of the Virtuosos (during the fourth part of the 2021 Session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly) | Pavillon Joséphine |
| 301 | September - October | Eurimages Conference: “Preserving independent production, diversity and pluralism in TV series in Europe” | Budapest EYCB/hybrid |
| 4 | October | Roundtable of legal IT experts of Member States in the criminal law field | Budapest EYCB/hybrid |
| 4-5 | October | Bureau Meeting of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe | Visegrád |
| 4-5 | October | Conference of Ministers of Justice on the digitalization of justice and the application of artificial intelligence for judicial purposes | Budapest and Gödöllő |
| 5 | October | Conference: “Best practices in the field of national minority rights” | Budapest/hybrid |
| 510 | October –November | Outdoor photo exhibition of nature photographer Bence Máté  | Place du Château |
| 6-8 | October | Budapest Talent Summit | Budapest |
| 7-8 | October | Conference: “Rights, opportunities and well-being of children and young people in the digital age” | Budapest EYCB/hybrid |
| 11-24 | October | Hungarian Film Festival – Feminine Perspective | Feature films: Cinéma Odyssée; Documentary films: Palais de l’Europe |
| 13-14 | October | Conference: “Slow” and eco-tourism in Europe” | online |
| 13-15 | October | Conference: “Pillars of modern age Europe – coexistence of religious communities” | Debrecen |
| 15 | October | An Evening with Karády – musical theatre piece  | Cinéma Odyssée |
| 17-24 | October | Training course for educators using Human Rights Education with children based on “Compasito” | Budapest EYCB |

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| 19  | October | Conference: “National minority identities in diverse societies: European Perspectives” | Palais de l’Europe and online |
| 19 | October | Concert of Strasbourg Philharmonique Orchestra | Salle de l’Aubette |
| 20 | October | CoE-EU HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE “Countering Cross-border crime: Human Rights Implications” | Palais de l’Europe and online |
| 21 | October | National symposium on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Hungary on the occasion of the International Landscape Day | Budapest EYCB |
| 2115 | October – November | Hungarian Design Weeks: exhibition and workshops | Lieu d’Europe |
| 25-29 | October | Exhibition on Veszprém-Balaton 2023 – European Capital of Culture | Palais de l’Europe |
| 2626 | October – November | Exhibition of the Hungarian National Library: excerpts from the 16th-19th century views on Hungarians  | Budapest |
| 26  | October | 2021 Artificial Intelligence Governance Conference | Budapest EYCB/hybrid |
| 26  | October | Fashion show of designer Erika Kovács | Palais de l’Europe |
| 27-29 | October | Seminar: “ReStart, ReNew, ReIntegrate – Opportunities for young people after coronavirus” | Budapest |
| 27-29 | October | 4th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) | Budapest EYCB/hybrid |
| 28 | October | 50th Anniversary of the Pompidou Group | Centre Pompidou, Paris |
| 29 | October | 18th European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies organised by the Venice Commission | online |
| 3 | November | The contribution of Agriculture 4.0 to the achievement of the agricultural goals of the European Green Deal | Budapest EYCB/hybrid |
| 4-5 | November | Conference: “National minorities in Hungary: protection and passing on of national minority values” | Budapest |
| 4-5 | November | Budapest Volunteer Summit | Budapest/hybrid |
| 8-10 | November | 9th World Forum for Democracy – “Can Democracy Save the Environment?” | Palais de l’Europe and online |
| 10 | November | Launch of the Awards Ceremony of the Best Practice programme for local authorities – EloGE | Budapest |
| 10 | November | Screening of the Hungarian film “On the quiet” in connection with the European Day on protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (18 November) | Palais de l’Europe |

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| 11 | November | Practices and experiences in the fight against discrimination in the Council of Europe member States | Budapest |
| 12 | November | The European Court of Human Rights and its case law in the application in Hungarian courts | Budapest |
| 16-18 | November | High-Level Conference on the 20th Anniversary of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime – Octopus Conference | online |
| 16 | November | Closing cultural event with the Hungarian National Folk Ensemble | Palais de la Musique et des Congrès, Strasbourg |
| 17 | November | Handover of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from Hungary to Italy | Palais de l’Europe |

1. This document has been classified restricted until examination by the Committee of Ministers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The term “Roma and Travellers” is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “*Gens du voyage*”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. This short description is only intended as an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. States concerned: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)