

Newsletter| N° 6: January - June 2025

LEGAL CO-OPERATION (CDCJ, CCJE, CCPE) IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2026

## IN CONVERSATION WITH...

### ...THE NEW CHAIR OF THE CDCJ

Signe Öhman (Sweden) was elected Chair of the CDCJ at the plenary meeting of November 2025. Having freshly started her first term of office on 1 January 2026, we have asked her a few questions.



*Signe Öhman (Ministry of Justice of Sweden), Chair of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)*

### **What do you think makes the CDCJ stand out?**

*The CDCJ is a long-standing intergovernmental committee of the Council of Europe which was set up more than 60 years ago. Six decades later and after more than 150 legal instruments, the CDCJ is still going strong! It has recently prepared the first international legally binding instrument offering protection to lawyers against increasing interference with their work and personal attacks. The Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer, or Luxembourg Convention, was opened for signature in May 2025 and already more than 30 countries have signed it - an unprecedented level in such a short period. We need to keep momentum, hoping for a swift entry into force as it will not only make the rights of the convention effective but also allow states worldwide to join. It may be the jewel in the crown, but the CDCJ is active in many other areas. It recently joined forces with the Steering Committee on the Rights of the Child (CDENF) in preparing two practical recommendations on the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings and care proceedings. It also commissioned and published a Study on climate change litigation as a contribution to the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment. It has also just adopted a thematic report focusing on the career and training of judges as a follow-up to the Council of Europe Plan of Action on an impartial and independent judiciary, known as the Sofia Action Plan. As you can see with these few examples, the remit of the CDCJ is strikingly broad which, I believe, makes it both a challenge and a strength.*

### **What is on the committee's agenda for the coming year?**

*The CDCJ will continue working on the rights of donor conceived persons to have access to their origins. It is a highly topical issue in today's societies but means reconciling sometimes very diverging interests. In parallel, it will continue updating a recommendation on children and nationality with a view to avoiding statelessness amongst children, which can prevent them from enjoying basic human rights such as the rights to education or health. It is worth underlining that it has recently published a Compendium of promising practices on children's access to nationality. With both, the CDCJ makes it possible for the Council of Europe to contribute as a solution seeker to the Global Alliance to End Statelessness launched by UNHCR in 2024. It is also a very exciting period because the CDCJ has started a dynamic process to identify the topics it will be dealing with in its next terms of reference for 2028-2031. There is no lack of urgent topics for the Committee, which demonstrates its continued relevance of the Committee in taking up the challenge to respond to our societies' evolving needs using as compass the Council of Europe's three pillars: the Rule of Law, Human Rights and Democracy.*

## **LEGAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES**



### **Protection of Lawyers**

On 13 May 2026, the CDCJ marked the the1st anniversary of the opening for signature of the [Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer](#) in Luxembourg. To date, 34 member states have already signed the Luxembourg Convention.

=> [Click here for the dedicated webpage on the Lawyers Convention](#)

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### **Access of donor-conceived persons to their origins**

The [Committee of Experts on Access to Origins \(CJ-OR\)](#) held its 3rd meeting (24-26 March 2026) and made progress on the drafting of a Committee of Ministers recommendation on the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins, also taking into account other interests at stake.

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### Stateless children

At its 5th meeting (23-24 February 2026) the [Limited Working group of the CDCJ on migration \(CDCJ-MIG\)](#) continued its work on the revision of [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2009\)13](#) on the nationality of children. [The Compendium of promising practises on access to nationality for stateless children](#), also prepared by the CDCJ-MIG and adopted by the CDCJ, was published in February 2026.

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### Strengthening judicial independence and impartiality

At its 106th plenary meeting, the CDCJ adopted, as a follow-up to the Council of Europe Plan of Action on Strengthening the Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary (Sofia Action Plan), a [thematic review report focusing on the career and training of judges](#). It gives an overview of the situation across member states, identifying progress and challenges.

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# ABOUT JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS



## **CCJE - Opinion on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the context of the judicial process**

The [Consultative Council of European Judges \(CCJE\)](#) is devoting its 29th Opinion to the use of AI in the judicial process. Its Working Group held two meetings to advance the drafting of this opinion which will be adopted by the CCJE at its upcoming plenary meeting (23-25 November 2026).

It is also preparing a thematic study on courts and environmental litigation, also for adoption at the next plenary meeting of the CCJE.

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## **CCPE - Opinion on providing efficient support and safeguards for prosecutors to enable an effective prosecution service**

The [Consultative Council of European Prosecutors \(CCPE\)](#) is dedicating its 21st Opinion to the necessary support and safeguards for prosecutors for the purpose of an efficient prosecution service. Its Working Group met twice and made progress on the draft opinion, which will be adopted by the CCPE during its next plenary meeting (15-16 October 2026).

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## **Tribute to Antonio Vercher Noguera**

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Antonio Vercher Noguera (Spain). He presided over the CCPE three times, once as late as last year, always with a combination of great efficiency and openness. His contribution to the work of the CCPE through the years has been truly invaluable, and he will be sorely missed by his colleagues of the CCPE and the secretariat alike ([link to CCPE news](#)).

## **RECENT EVENTS**

[Side-Event on Preventing Child Statelessness, 61st UN Human Rights Council, 2 March 2026](#)

# PUBLICATIONS

## Compendium of promising practices on access to nationality for stateless children



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## Study on national climate litigation



Prepared by Dr Isara Selzer and Ms Catherine Higham,  
Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment  
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), under  
the supervision of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)



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Guide for practitioners



Practical guide on the mechanism of the European convention on information on foreign law (ETS No. 62) and its additional protocol (ETS No. 97)



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