

Strasbourg, 23 May 2025

PC-RAC(2025)10

# **COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON CRIMINAL ASSET RECOVERY (PC-RAC)**

**5TH MEETING**

**21-23 MAY 2025**

**PALAIS DE L'EUROPE, ROOM 7**

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## **Abridged meeting report**

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Document prepared by the Secretariat

Directorate General I - Human Rights and Rule of Law

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At its fifth meeting (Strasbourg, France, from 21 to 23 May 2025), held in conformity with its terms of reference as adopted by the Committee of Ministers, and chaired by Mr Cornel-Virgiliu Calinescu (Chair of PC-RAC, Romania), the Committee of Experts on Criminal Asset Recovery (hereinafter referred as “the PC-RAC” or “the Committee”):

<b>Agenda Item 1.</b>	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>
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Took note of the opening remarks of Mr Cornel-Virgiliu Calinescu, Chair of the Committee;

<b>Agenda Item 2.</b>	<b>Adoption of the Agenda and Order of business, and 4th Meeting Report</b>
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Adopted the agenda of the meeting;

Adopted the report of the 4th meeting of the Committee;

<b>Agenda item 3.</b>	<b>Information by the President and Secretariat</b>
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Took note of the information provided by the Chair on recent developments, particularly his participation in the Bureau meeting of the Council of Europe’s European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) on 28-29 April 2025, and the 87<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC) on 13-15 May 2025. The Committee was also informed on upcoming events of relevance, notably the meetings where the Chair and Secretariat will present the work of the PC-RAC and the working versions of the draft Additional Protocol and the draft Explanatory Report. These include the 87<sup>th</sup> CDPC on 17-19 June 2025, the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CETS 198 on 4-5 November 2025, the 88<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting of the PC-OC on 4-6 November 2025, and the 88<sup>th</sup> Plenary of the CDPC on 25-27 November 2025;

Informed the Committee on the change of representatives of Malta and Montenegro, as well as an additional member from Ukraine;

Invited Germany, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Lithuania to consider appointing their representatives before the next meeting;

Noted that Switzerland has announced a temporary decision to refrain from appointing a representative;

<b>Agenda item 4.</b>	<b>Reading of the Second Draft of the Additional Protocol supplementing 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) and elements for the Explanatory Report</b>
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Welcomed the written contributions on the Second Draft of the Additional Protocol supplementing CETS No. 198 (hereinafter referred to as “Second Draft”) and elements for the Explanatory Report from Armenia, the European Union, Georgia, Norway, PC-OC, the United Kingdom, San Marino, and invited them to intervene when relevant provisions are discussed;

Invited delegations which have not provided written contributions to intervene and share their comments and drafting proposals during discussions;

Agreed that elements for the Explanatory Report will not be discussed in its entirety, due to time constraints during the meeting, and invited delegations to send additional written comments, if they have any, on the Explanatory Report for the Secretariat to revise and provide the draft of the Explanatory Report to the Additional Protocol supplementing the CETS No. 198 for examination at the Committee's next meeting;

Completed a reading of the preamble and articles of the Second Draft, and discussed the clarifications and amendments considered necessary to reach an agreement on the draft provisions;

Decided to delete Article 3 of the Second draft and instructed the PC-RAC Secretariat to revise the draft text of other provisions on the basis of the outcomes of the discussions, and in light of the oral and written drafting proposals that received support;

Instructed the PC-RAC Secretariat to circulate a list of questions and drafting proposals concerning articles that were subject to extended negotiations, including Articles 5, 8, 19, 23 and 24, for written comments within a short deadline, with a view to finalizing the Third Draft and circulate it in advance of the sixth meeting of the Committee;

<b>Agenda item 5.</b>	<b>Information exchange on developments of relevance to the work of the PC-RAC</b>
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Took note that no issues were raised under item 5;

<b>Agenda item 6.</b>	<b>Any other business</b>
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Took note that the mandate of the Chair and Vice-Chair will expire on 31 May 2025 and further noted that the Secretariat will initiate, by 31 May 2025, the procedure for their election by written procedure;

Designated the current Chair, Mr Cornel Virgiliu Calinescu, to present the work and progress of the PC-RAC, as well as the working version of the draft Additional Protocol, at the next CDPC Plenary meeting to be held from 17 to 19 June 2025;

Decided to hold the next meeting of the Committee in the first week of October, and to extend its duration to 5 days;

<b>Agenda item 7.</b>	<b>Adoption of the abridged meeting report and close of the meeting</b>
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Adopted the abridged meeting report at the end of the meeting.