

Strasbourg, 10 December 2025

PC-RAC(2025)29

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

7TH MEETING AND FINAL MEETING

8-10 DECEMBER 2025

PALAIS DE L'EUROPE, ROOM 7 AND ONLINE

Abridged meeting report

Document prepared by the Secretariat

Directorate General I - Human Rights and Rule of Law

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At its seventh meeting (Strasbourg, France, from 8 to 10 December 2025), held in conformity with its terms of reference as adopted by the Committee of Ministers, and chaired by Mr Cornel-Virgiliu Călinescu (Romania), the Committee of Experts on Criminal Asset Recovery (hereinafter referred to as “the PC-RAC” or “the Committee”):

Agenda Item 1.	Opening of the meeting
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Took note of the opening remarks of Mr Cornel-Virgiliu Călinescu, Chair of the Committee;

Agenda Item 2.	Adoption of the Agenda and Order of business, and 6th Meeting Report
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Adopted the agenda of the meeting;

Adopted the report of the 6th meeting of the Committee;

Agenda item 3.	Information by the Chair and Secretariat
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Took note of the information provided by the Chair on recent developments, particularly his participation in the Council of Europe’s European Committee on Crime Problems’s Bureau meeting on 22-23 October 2025, the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CETS 198 on 4-5 November 2025, and the 88th 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 4-6 November 2025. The Chair reported that he presented the agreed text of the Protocol at these meetings and received positive feedback without any further specific suggestions on the content of the Protocol;

Noted that Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Lithuania have not appointed their representatives;

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

Agenda item 4.	Information on the status of approval of the agreed text 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) including feedback from the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) and other relevant bodies
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Took note of the information provided by the Chair and the Secretariat regarding the status of approval of the draft Additional Protocol. Delegations were informed that, during its 88th plenary meeting (25–27 November 2025), the CDPC examined and approved the draft Additional Protocol as agreed by the PC-RAC, and decided to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers for adoption;

Took note that the CDPC acknowledged that the Explanatory Report had not yet been finalised and requested the PC-RAC to complete and fine-tune the text at its 7th meeting, including a discussion of comments submitted by two CDPC delegations. Should any major substantive changes be introduced, these will be communicated back to the CDPC for potential validation through a written procedure prior to its final transmission to the Committee of Ministers. If no such changes arise, the Explanatory Report will be submitted to the CDPC for information and transmission to the Committee of Ministers;

Took note of the generally positive feedback received from the CDPC, which commended the work of the PC-RAC and the progress achieved in developing such a comprehensive Protocol within a short period of time;

Agenda item 5.	Agreement on the draft Explanatory Report to 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) in view of approval by the CDPC
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Welcomed the written contributions on the second draft Explanatory Report from the European Union, Georgia, and the United Kingdom, as well as the additional comments and drafting proposals received during the meeting;

Welcomed the written contributions on the second draft Explanatory Report from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);

Invited delegations, both those that provided written contributions and those that have not, to intervene and share their comments and drafting proposals during discussions;

Considered all written contributions and interventions, including comments raised by two delegations during the CDPC plenary meeting, as instructed by the CDPC;

Completed a reading of the second draft Explanatory Report, and discussed and agreed the changes considered necessary to reach an agreement on the draft text;

Agreed on the draft text of the Explanatory Report to 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), as amended during this meeting;

Instructed the PC-RAC Secretariat to circulate to the Committee the agreed draft Explanatory Report and, considering that there were no major substantive changes, to communicate it to the CDPC for information, in view of its final transmission to the Committee of Ministers;

Agenda item 6.	Next steps
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Took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the next steps in the adoption process of the Additional Protocol, including the transmission by the CDPC to the Committee of Ministers for examination and adoption in the first half of 2026;

Agenda item 7.	Any other business
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Took note that no other issues were raised under item 7;

Agenda item 8.	Adoption of the abridged meeting report and close of the meeting
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Adopted the abridged meeting report at the end of the meeting.