

134th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Luxembourg, 13-14 May 2025)

Report on follow-up to the Reykjavík Declaration – Implementation of the Reykjavík Declaration – Two years after (May 2024 to May 2025)

At the time of the 134th Ministerial Session to be held in Luxembourg on 13-14 May 2025, two years will have passed since the Reykjavík Summit. The Ministers' Deputies have prepared this report containing an overview of the Organisation's achievements since the 133rd Ministerial Session, notably in the intergovernmental sector. Further information on the actions of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Commissioner for Human Rights and other Council of Europe bodies can be found on their respective websites.

United for Ukraine and accountability

1. More than three years after the start of the full-scale war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the Council of Europe remains steadfast in its support to Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. The Organisation fully supports achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace consistent with international law. The Register of Damage for Ukraine became operational in April 2024. Over the past year, it has opened the claims submission process for several categories of damage, including loss of life and missing family members, torture, sexual violence, deprivation of liberty and forced labour, involuntary internal displacement, as well as damage or destruction of homes and other types of property. Tens of thousands of claims have already been submitted and the Register's Board is advancing with the issuing of its decisions on the recording of the claims, with an estimated six to eight million claims expected – and potentially up to 10 million.
2. Work continues on the establishment of a Claims Commission – the second of three intended components of a comprehensive compensation mechanism for Ukraine. If the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee, which also includes non-Council of Europe delegations, reaches a consensus on the establishment of the Claims Commission on the basis of an Open Council of Europe Convention, terms of reference of an Ad hoc Committee on the Establishment of a Claims Commission for Ukraine (CAHEC) could be adopted during the summer 2025.
3. A major step towards holding the political and military leaders of the Russian Federation accountable for their war of aggression against Ukraine was taken in March 2025 when the Core Group finalised at technical level the draft legal instruments required to establish a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the framework of the Council of Europe. If agreed at political level,⁴ the Council of Europe will be in charge of the procedure for adoption of these instruments, which include the

¹ Hungary's support for this document should be understood in conjunction with its national reservation to the Reykjavík Declaration and in light of the fact that Hungary is not party to the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine as an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe.

² Türkiye reserves its right to interpret the Report adopted at the 134th Session of the Committee of Ministers in accordance with its national legislation and international agreements to which it is a party. Türkiye's stance on this Report should be understood in line with its reservations to the Reykjavík Declaration and should not be interpreted as assuming any commitments with regard to the international agreements and/or mechanisms to which it is not a party.

³ The position of the Republic of Armenia with regard to the Report shall be interpreted in conjunction with the Explanatory statement of the Republic of Armenia on the final outcome document of the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Reykjavík, Iceland, 16-17 May 2023) distributed under reference number DD(2023)181 on 11 May 2023.

⁴ Hungary has not taken part in the negotiations within the Core Group. Hungary is of the view that the perpetrators of the most serious international crimes should be held accountable and that the creation of any new accountability mechanism within the Council of Europe should be based on a unanimous decision of member States.

agreement between the government of Ukraine and the Council of Europe establishing the Special Tribunal, the Statute of such a Tribunal and an Enlarged Partial Agreement governing the modalities of support to such a Tribunal, its financing and other administrative aspects.

4. In February 2025, Thórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir (Iceland) was appointed Special Envoy of the Secretary General on the situation of children of Ukraine. The mandate of the Special Envoy focuses on raising awareness of the challenges faced by the children of Ukraine both in Ukraine and in other member States, of the Council of Europe's standards and initiatives to support them and on fostering international co-operation. Her first working visit to Ukraine took place in March 2025.

5. The Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine has continued its work as a multilateral platform to exchange information and foster discussions about policies affecting children of Ukraine residing in Council of Europe member States. It has addressed issues such as transnational procedures and guardianship, psychological support and trauma-informed care, the reform of the Ukrainian childcare protection system, access to education and understanding the risks of human trafficking of Ukrainian children, including for sexual and labour exploitation, as well as pre-conditions for the safe return of children of Ukraine from Council of Europe member States. It is recalled that the Council of Europe joined the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, which is addressing the issue of combatting the illegal transfer and deportation by Russia of Ukrainian children. The Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine was launched by the Parliamentary Assembly.

6. The Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" 2023-2026 continues to enable the Council of Europe to provide consistent, comprehensive and flexible support to Ukraine. Its focus has been broadened to assist Ukraine's reform agenda with a European perspective, following the opening of EU accession negotiations on 14 December 2023. The total estimated budget of the Action Plan has increased from an initial €50 million to €65 million in order to create the conditions for effective recovery and reconstruction and to prepare the country for membership of the EU.

7. Council of Europe Development Bank continues to mobilise resources to support Ukraine's recovery and long-term development. Five projects have been financed with a total value of €553 million since Ukraine's accession in June 2023 involving emergency response measures, including support for displaced persons, healthcare services, infrastructure rehabilitation and micro-enterprises. A number of HELP courses have been developed directly related to the war context: International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Temporary Protection in the European Union and Deportation of Children during Armed Conflict.

8. The Committee of Ministers remained seized with the issue of Russian nationals in the Secretariat. In April, the Secretary General provided updated information on the situation.

United around our values

System of the European Convention on Human Rights

9. The Reykjavík Declaration's unwavering recommitment to the Convention system has translated into increased funding for the European Court of Human Rights and the Department for the Execution of Judgments (DEJ) in the 2024-2025 budget. The Committee of Ministers adopted a Declaration on the protection of judges of the Court from threats and reprisals and on the recognition of their service. The Execution Co-ordinators' Network was launched with a view to strengthening national capacity to execute the Court's judgments and is supported through a co-operation project. Synergies were reinforced between the DEJ and co-operation programmes, monitoring and advisory bodies, other relevant Council of Europe departments or bodies, as well as civil society and National Human Rights Institutions. This entails reinforced co-operation with the Registry of the Court, through the "Dialogue Project". Building on the Reykjavík Declaration's emphasis on the principle of subsidiarity, through a project jointly implemented by the Registry and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law the reach of the Court's Knowledge-Sharing platform (ECHR-KS) was further promoted and expanded to include three non-official languages: Romanian, Turkish, and Ukrainian in collaboration with the relevant national authorities. The principle of subsidiarity was also promoted through the organisation of the international conference "Better enforcement of national judicial decisions: a human rights and rule of law requirement" on 17 March 2025. The Commissioner for Human Rights plays an important role in monitoring compliance with the Convention and the Court's judgments including through country work and communications to the Committee of Ministers. In spite of these mechanisms and consistent efforts, there is still room for improvement in the execution of the Court's judgments by member States.

10. The process of EU accession to the Convention remains among the highest political priorities and is of central importance for the coherence of the European human rights protection system.

Death penalty

11. Actions to counter pro-death penalty narratives and contribute to global abolition have continued, including a series of workshops entitled “Death is not Justice – youth advocacy and awareness-raising for the abolition of the death penalty”. A network of young ambassadors is being set up to fight for abolition across Europe and the world. An event on “Strengthening multilateral efforts to curb trade in torture and death penalty goods” followed up Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)2 on measures against the trade in goods used for the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, with the participation of the Parliamentary Assembly’s General Rapporteur on the Abolition of the Death Penalty. The Observatory on History Teaching in Europe is examining how the abolition of the death penalty is taught in Europe. Other initiatives will be launched in the lead up to the World Congress against the death penalty in 2026.

12. The Ministers’ Deputies held further thematic discussions on this topic, one of which specifically addressed the situation in Belarus, the only country on the European continent that still applies this punishment.

Social rights and social justice

13. The high-level Conference on the European Social Charter took place on 3-4 July 2024 in Vilnius, under the aegis of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. It brought together an important number of ministers and other high officials and resulted in additional commitments by Andorra, Iceland, Ireland, and the Republic of Moldova. The participants adopted the Vilnius Declaration, underlining the importance of having a robust and responsive social rights framework across Europe and reaffirming their collective duty to promote respect for, and the protection and continuing development of social rights. It encourages member States who have not yet done so to consider ratifying the revised European Social Charter to continually review the possibilities of accepting additional commitments, including the collective complaints procedure. The next conference will take place in Chişinău (Republic of Moldova) on the 30th anniversary of the revised Charter.

14. The strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the EU on social rights was strengthened by enhanced dialogue and a joint event in December 2024. The relevance of the European Social Charter was reaffirmed by the EU in its Conclusions on EU Priorities for Co-operation with the Council of Europe (2025-2026), and by the European Commission, 25 EU member States, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the majority of European social partners and civil society in the La Hulpe Declaration. Another joint event will be organised in June 2025 with the European Economic and Social Committee.

Rights of the child and education

15. Several actions have been put in place to implement the Council of Europe Education Strategy 2024-2030 and the Resolutions adopted by the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education in 2023. Deliverables are being prepared, including a Recommendation to address the matter of valuing the qualifications and linguistic competences of refugees in Europe.

16. The Berlin Conference in October 2024 launched the European Space for Citizenship Education, promoting a European vision of shared democratic values and principles through education. Progress has also been accomplished in the creation of a Centre on Preventing and Countering Education Fraud through a dedicated programme. The European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025 was launched in January 2025, and will end with a conference in November 2025 in Ljubljana (Slovenia). This initiative aims to equip people of all ages with the knowledge and skills to navigate the digital world responsibly and effectively, addressing issues such as misinformation, online hate speech, and digital violence, while embracing the opportunities for inclusion and civic participation that technology offers. In addition, the Council of Europe Development Bank aims to increase the social impact of its education projects through additional investments.

17. In April 2025, under the Luxembourg Presidency, the Mid-Term Review Conference of the fourth Strategy for the Rights of the Child served as a platform to reflect on the progress made under the Strategy, to identify remaining challenges and new trends, and to provide a renewed impetus for action to uphold and advance children's rights.

Democracy

18. The Council of Europe programmes and bodies aiming at strengthening confidence in public institutions, and at ensuring the safety, security and integrity of society (notably the Venice Commission, GRECO, MONEYVAL and CPT), as well as anchoring democratic values in European societies (Education, Youth, Culture) at the national, regional and local levels, are instrumental in supporting member States to implement the Reykjavík Principles for Democracy. Parameters to facilitate the application and implementation of its ten principles, as well as other relevant Council of Europe standards in the field of democracy, are being developed at the intergovernmental level.

19. The Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers organised the conference "No Culture – No Democracy" on 12 December 2024, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention. It reiterated the crucial role of culture, including freedom of artistic expression, in promoting fundamental rights and addressing democratic backsliding in present times of multiple crises and war. Organised under the Luxembourg Presidency from 19 to 21 March 2025, the international Conference "Youth and Democracy in the Digital Age" sought to develop concrete solutions for the challenges and opportunities related to youth political participation in the digital age.

20. An overall process that will result in an ambitious New Democratic Pact for Europe was launched by the Secretary General in close co-ordination with the Committee of Ministers.

Civil society

21. The Roadmap on civil society engagement with the Council of Europe 2024-2027 led to a series of priority measures contained in the first implementation plan presented to the Committee of Ministers in January 2025, including the preparation of a Guidance note on civil society participation in the intergovernmental work of the Council of Europe and relevant stakeholders were invited to use it in all Council of Europe structures. The action of the Commissioner for Human Rights continues to support human rights defenders. A high-level conference in March 2025 gathered National Human Rights Institutions and Ombudsperson Institutions. It confirmed their essential role in protecting and promoting our fundamental values, and the necessity for the Council of Europe to reinforce its co-operation with them. Participants called for the organisation of such conferences on a regular basis.

22. The Contact Group on co-operation with representatives of Belarusian democratic forces and civil society remains a strong political priority for the Council of Europe. It meets regularly to agree on activities aiming at raising awareness of human rights standards, promoting the abolition of the death penalty and strengthening political dialogue, including on aspects related to political prisoners. Exchanges of views are also held with representatives of Belarusian democratic forces, including their leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya. An agreement has been signed between the Council of Europe and Lithuania on the establishment of a Council of Europe Information Point for Belarusian people in Vilnius (Lithuania).

23. With respect to Russian civil society, contacts are being pursued with those civil society members abroad and in Russia who respect the principles and values of the Council of Europe, including full respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, despite facing an increasingly intensifying climate of fear and growing repression by the Russian authorities. Recent and ongoing co-operation includes regular exchanges of views at Deputy and rapporteur group levels with representatives of Russian civil society and bilateral meetings on the execution of the Court's judgments to facilitate submissions under Rule 9 of the Rules of the Committee of Ministers for the supervision of the execution of judgments.

Rule of law

24. The Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer was adopted in March 2025 and opened for signature at the Ministerial Session in Luxembourg in May 2025. The draft Amending Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and the draft Third Additional Protocol to the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters were finalised and should be adopted before summer 2025. The draft 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 198), aimed at strengthening international co-operation on asset recovery, is expected to be finalised in 2025.

25. The Venice Commission has initiated an update of its 2016 Rule of Law Checklist which is the reference for rule of law standards across Europe, in order to reflect contemporary challenges to the rule of law, such as the impact of artificial intelligence, new technologies and disinformation. Other bodies such as Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE), Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE), GRECO and MONEYVAL have pursued their work towards strengthening the rule of law and the independence and the efficiency of the judiciary.

United to meet current and future challenges

Standards in the digital area/AI

26. The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (Vilnius Convention) was opened for signature in September 2024 and has been signed by 14 States and the European Union. To follow up, a legally non-binding Methodology for the Risk and Impact Assessment of AI Systems from the point of view of Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law (HUDERIA) was developed.

27. Reports on artificial intelligence applications in healthcare and on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence were completed. Guidelines were adopted complementing Council of Europe standards in the field of culture, creativity and heritage, taking into account the latest technological developments, such as artificial intelligence. A report on “The Metaverse and its Impact on Human Rights, Rule of Law, and Democracy” was published in 2024, providing policymakers with tools to navigate virtual realities. A report on the risks and harms associated with online gaming and gambling and a policy paper on strategies and regulatory options aimed at reducing such risks and harms were prepared.

28. Draft legal instruments are being prepared on equality and artificial intelligence; on criminal liability related to the use of artificial intelligence; on the implications of generative artificial intelligence for freedom of expression; online safety and empowerment of content creators and users; and on teaching and learning about artificial intelligence. Several co-operation projects offer a wide range of support measures to States in their digital transformation in line with human rights and rule of law standards.

Migrants/Smuggling of migrants

29. The report on the need for and feasibility of a possible new Council of Europe instrument on fighting the smuggling of migrants was completed and the Committee of Ministers agreed to establish an expert committee to prepare a recommendation in this field, focusing also on the protection of smuggled migrants, who may also be victims of aggravated instances of migrant smuggling, and to assist with the implementation of the Council of Europe Action Plan on Fostering International Co-operation and Investigative Strategies in Fighting the Smuggling of Migrants. The 2nd International Conference on the Smuggling of Migrants was organised in September 2024, followed by the annual meeting of the Council of Europe Network of Prosecutors on the Smuggling of Migrants. A Guide for practitioners on the administrative detention of migrants and asylum seekers was published. Co-operation projects aimed at enhancing migrant protection continued, with a specific focus on addressing the vulnerabilities of migrants.

Freedom of expression and safety of journalists

30. The “Vilnius Dialogue” Conference on “Fostering the Culture of Public Debate in Europe: Implementing requirements of Article 10 of the ECHR; Strengthening judicial capacity to protect freedom of expression and counter SLAPPs”, held on 24 October 2024 in Vilnius (Lithuania), discussed current issues affecting freedom of expression in Europe. The second European Anti-SLAPP Conference was held on 14 November 2024 to address preliminary steps in the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)2 on countering the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs), support for targets and victims and the role of civil society organisations. In the context of the Council of Europe Campaign for the safety of journalists “Journalists Matter”, 41 national focal points have been designated and several States have formed national committees and enacted national action plans to achieve its goals. The introduction of systemic alerts to the Platform for the Safety of Journalists was launched in October 2024. In April 2025, the

second annual thematic conference of the Council of Europe's "Journalists Matter" campaign was followed by the third meeting of the campaign's national focal points.

Inclusive societies/discrimination

31. The first ever "No Hate Speech Week" was organised in June 2024 to discuss recent legal and policy developments and innovative practices, and to facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges between national and local authorities, civil society and academia. The second Co-ordination meeting on combatting anti-Muslim hatred and racism, co-organised by the European Commission and the Council of Europe, was held in Brussels on 13-14 March 2025. An informal exchange of views between Ministers' Deputies and Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism was held on 14 November 2024. The *Opre Roma! Month* was launched in April 2025 to promote the history, culture and language of the Roma.

32. Among the actions to be completed in 2025 in this field are the following: a draft Recommendation on the equality of rights of intersex persons; a Guidance document on strategies for inclusion; a comprehensive review of the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity; a self-assessment tool of multi-level governance of migrants' intercultural inclusion; and a study on recurrent problematic areas in the field of regional or national minority language protection and identification of good practices in member States. The protection of persons belonging to national minorities was strengthened through the allocation of additional resources to the relevant monitoring mechanisms. In June 2025, a Council of Europe Strategy for Roma and Traveller inclusion 2026-2030 should be adopted.

Gender equality/Istanbul Convention

33. On 24 May 2024, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention (1 August 2014), a conference was organised to address the numerous and multifaceted challenges to gender equality and to renew the political commitment of the member States, as expressed at the highest level in Reykjavík. The Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Human Rights held an informal exchange with civil society on "Promoting ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention", to mark this anniversary. Work is ongoing on a draft Recommendation on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls and on a methodology together with positive narratives to deflect anti-gender rhetoric. A practical guide for public authorities to facilitate the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)17 on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls is about to be adopted. Numerous capacity building and co-operation projects contribute towards making gender equality and the empowerment of women a reality in the member and non-member States. A side event on international and regional treaties "Bringing everyone on board: strengthening action against violence, against women and girls through co-operation" was organised in October 2024 at the Human Rights Council. In March 2025, a side event on "Threats and Opportunities of Digital Technologies: Women in the Public Eye" was organised on the margins of the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. A HELP online course on Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming was published in 2024.

United in our vision for the Council of Europe – The Europe we want

The Council of Europe and the environment

34. The Committee of Ministers will adopt the draft Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law at its Ministerial Session in May 2025. The study on the need for and feasibility of a further instrument or instruments in the field of human rights and the environment was completed and transmitted to the Committee of Ministers.

35. The Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment, set up in July 2024, prepared a draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment and a related Action Plan. It conducted hearings with representatives of international organisations, civil society, youth and children before finalising the Strategy, which will be adopted by the Committee of Ministers at its Ministerial Session in May 2025. The Strategy is intended for Council of Europe institutions and bodies. It focuses on areas where the Council of Europe has a comparative advantage and/or unique legal instruments and expertise, ensuring an inclusive consultation process, and leveraging synergies with partners and stakeholders with a view to providing added value. The Strategy encourages the Committee of Ministers to consider setting up a transversal and multidisciplinary intergovernmental committee on the environment in line with the Reykjavík Declaration.

Youth participation

36. The development of the Council of Europe Reference Framework on the integration of a Youth Perspective will strengthen the key role of youth in decision-making across the Organisation. It builds upon four elements articulating the youth perspective - *Think with young people, Learn from and with young people, Participate with young people, and Act with and for young people* – and is expected to be endorsed at the 10th Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth on 8-9 October 2025, in Valletta (Malta). Significant steps to integrate a youth perspective have already been taken by different Council of Europe bodies, such as the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress and intergovernmental committees. Moreover, in the framework of the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe and under the Presidency of Liechtenstein, the youth event “Confidence in tomorrow”, seeking to further renew and strengthen the close relationship between the mission of the Council of Europe and young people, was successfully implemented.

37. In line with the commitment to protect human rights in the face of the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss, the Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)6 on young people and climate action, as the first international instrument to address this issue. It highlights the need to protect young people's rights, involve them in climate decision-making processes, and fight all forms of discrimination, with a special focus on climate justice.

Programme, Budget and administrative reform

38. The Programme and Budget 2024-2027 was adjusted for 2025 in response to evolving circumstances. This built on last year's agreement on the quadrennial Programme and Budget, through which the Reykjavík Declaration was translated into action and including, for the second year in a row, a real increase in resources above inflation for priority areas such as the Court, execution of judgments and co-operation activities in the field. Ongoing efforts to modernise the Organisation, improve its efficiency and contain costs allowed reinforcement of priority areas, such as countering democratic backsliding, supporting action in the field and strengthening the external dimension. The recognition of the importance of the co-operation sector was reflected in a significant contribution from the Ordinary Budget to Council of Europe Action Plans in member States. The People Strategy 2024-2027 includes a strong mobility component, including to and from the field offices and is accompanied by an Action Plan on boosting mobility and a Strategy on Decentralisation and Staff Mobility.

Transparency

39. The Co-ordinator on Information Policy (TC-INF) has carried out intensive work on transparency and its multifaceted dimensions, with a view to making proposals for improving the transparency of the Organisation, and in particular of the documentation of the Committee of Ministers. A Transparency Framework for the Council of Europe has been formulated for adoption at the 134th Ministerial Session, together with proposals for its implementation.

The Council of Europe's external dimension, including co-operation with the EU

40. The Council of Europe's external dimension and existing partnerships with other international Organisations have been intensified and new initiatives launched. The Council of Europe and the European Union are strategic partners, and their relations are constantly deepening. The relevance of the Council of Europe as a benchmark for promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law remains steady, as does its key role in the process of holding the Russian Federation accountable for its war of aggression against Ukraine and in the EU enlargement process. The invitation to the Council of Europe to participate in the European Political Community since 2024 is a recognition of the Organisation's role in fostering pan-European dialogue to reinforce democratic security.

41. With the aim of reinforcing co-operation with the UN and enhancing the visibility of the Council of Europe globally, the establishment of a Council of Europe Liaison Office with the United Nations in New York has been approved. An exchange on current and further co-operation between the Council of Europe and UNESCO in the field of education, culture and sport took place on 16 January 2025 in the Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment, highlighting the breadth of existing co-operation and outlining new avenues to enhance it. The annual exchange of views with the United Nations on human rights questions took place on 13 February 2025, including an exchange with the President of the Human Rights Council and a thematic discussion on “human rights and digital technologies”.

42. The Coordination Group between the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) continued to enhance and co-ordinate their respective actions. At its 39th meeting in October 2024, it reviewed progress achieved in two of the four areas of co-operation, fighting against terrorism and combating trafficking in human beings. At its 40th meeting in April 2025, the focus was on the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, and the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

43. Dialogue with the observer States which share a set of fundamental values and common principles with the Council of Europe has continued, with their active participation and engagement in various activities. Promoting accession of non-European States to the most relevant Council of Europe legal instruments contributed to their global impact and to the consolidation of the rule-based international order. The Register of Damage for Ukraine is one example of such a global vocation; its membership is open to both Council of Europe member and non-member States and 43 States (including Canada, Japan and the United States) and the European Union have joined the Register – 41 as participants and 3 as associate members.

44. The European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre), in the framework of its medium-term strategy 2024-2027, addressed youth in the Southern neighbourhood and in Sub-Saharan Africa, on issues such as the abolition of the death penalty, combating online racism and xenophobia, digital technologies including AI, and prevention of corruption.

45. The Council of Europe continued implementing its Neighbourhood Partnerships, thus contributing to the development of a common legal space based on the Council of Europe's values and instruments beyond Europe.