

## 134<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Ministers (Luxembourg, 14 May 2025)

### 3. Implementation of the Reykjavík Declaration – follow up decisions

#### a. Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union

Reference document  
CM(2025)102-final, CM(2025)102-addfinal

#### *Decisions*

##### The Committee of Ministers

1. highlighted the steady impact of the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Reykjavík on the value-based strategic partnership with the European Union, which continues to intensify and deepen through co-operation and political dialogue, including at the highest level. Joint efforts to support Ukraine have increased with the EU becoming “Participant” to the Register of Damage, which represents a further testament to the EU’s strong support for the establishment of a compensation mechanism, as well as through co-operation towards setting up a future Claims Commission; emphasised the excellent co-operation in the Core Group towards the setting up of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine consisting of an agreement between Ukraine and the Council of Europe, a Statute of such a Tribunal, and an Enlarged Partial Agreement;
2. underscored the leading role of the Council of Europe in strengthening democratic security, notably through international standard-setting in respect of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, including social rights, in Europe and stressed the EU’s importance as the main institutional and strategic partner, including in the multilateral context, to protecting common values and promoting regional peace, stability and prosperity, and encouraged further opportunities to enhance the complementarity of the two organisations;
3. recalled that accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights will enhance coherence in human rights protection in Europe; in this connection, welcomed the continuous judicial dialogue between the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the EU; took note with satisfaction of the EU’s continued commitment to the process of accession to the European Convention on Human Rights and encouraged the EU to continue it by referring the revised draft accession agreement to the Court of Justice of the EU for opinion in view of the adoption of the revised accession instruments;
4. welcomed the signature of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law by the European Commission on behalf of the EU as a way of reinforcing a human-centric and rights-based approach to AI; encouraged EU participation in or accession to Council of Europe conventions and bodies, as appropriate, to further strengthen coherence and complementarity, while recognising that participation by the EU in Council of Europe convention bodies will require an assessment to ascertain if amendments to the rules of procedures, which preserve equitable voting rights, are needed;
5. highlighted the Council of Europe’s important contribution to the EU Rule of Law Cycle, which underscores the leading role of the Council of Europe in the subject matter, and encouraged further complementarity as regards efforts to enhance democratic security;

6. in the context of EU enlargement, reiterated the key benchmarking role of the Council of Europe in standard-setting in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Europe, based on the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding; and reaffirmed the Council of Europe's readiness, through its relevant instruments, to provide the EU with valuable support to enhance preparedness of candidate countries and potential candidates for EU accession in matters related to the rule of law, democracy and human rights;
7. took note with satisfaction of the EU's contribution to raise the global impact of Council of Europe's standards by promoting accession of non-European States to the most relevant Council of Europe legal instruments, including as regards efforts to support Ukraine and accountability;
8. acknowledged the important and continuous role played by the co-operation within the framework of EU-CoE Joint Programmes in 2025, which remains one of the pillars of the strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the EU, to strengthening human rights, democracy and rule of law in Europe and its neighbouring regions (South Mediterranean and Central Asia) and in particular in the reconstruction process for Ukraine.