



Priorities of the Monegasque Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (15 May – 10 November 2026)

For the first time since its accession on 5 October 2004, the Principality of Monaco is to hold the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. As a small State but one which is fully committed to championing European values, Monaco will continue to play its part in the work of the Organisation and preserving the foundations of our common European home, namely human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

Based on its conviction that securing these values is a nonstop process, the Principality intends to fulfil this responsibility thoroughly, steadfastly and in a spirit of dialogue. There can be no long-term compromises when our founding principles and commonly agreed rules are called into question. As a French-speaking country, it will also promote the Organisation's bilingual dimension.

Present-day crises in the fields of security, democracy, technology and the environment are undermining established equilibria, providing a potent reminder of the interdependence of our societies and the vital importance of multilateralism. In this context, the Council of Europe finds itself at a decisive turning point for the full achievement of its goals.

In the light of these new circumstances, the rule of law is the central foundation on which all action must be based. Repeated infringements of international law and a noticeable regression of democracy and human rights are putting the cohesion of our societies and the credibility of our institutions to the test. Ending the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and holding those who are guilty of the most serious violations to account are pressing imperatives.

United in its diversity and its joint aspiration for peace, development and the well-being of its population, Europe must continue to be a space in which law takes precedence over emotions and short-term interests. Our differences are our strength and respect for each individual guarantees solidarity between us all. This means we must pull together and renew our commitment to safeguarding this unique model while protecting Europe's independence from foreign influence.

The openness to the outside world and the solidarity which characterise the Principality will guide our work, helping us to achieve more impressive results collectively than we could individually.

The Monegasque Presidency will be based on a clear vision, focusing on the **effective protection of all European** citizens, supported by a credible and **efficient Organisation** capable of honouring its undertakings and working resolutely **to meet Europe's current and future challenges**.

I – Protecting everyone

Protecting European citizens, promoting inclusive societies and combating all forms of violence are still legal and moral obligations for all member States and will be among our main focuses.

As the Istanbul Convention marks its 15th anniversary, a firm and steadfast commitment must continue to be made to **combating violence against women** and promoting gender equality and tangible responses to the disproportionate challenges faced by women at all levels. The Monegasque Presidency will hold two thematic debates on these issues, one within the Committee of Parties to the Istanbul Convention and the other within the Committee of Ministers. The annual conference of the Gender Equality Commission will focus on efforts to remove obstacles to the participation of women, making conflict resolution and the consolidation of peace gender inclusive.

Children and young people are the future of our societies. This means that enhancing the protection of their rights and promoting their participation in democratic life are essential structural commitments. Several high-level events will be dedicated to the challenges they face, such as an International Conference on radicalisation and violent extremism among young people, a thematic dialogue on the impact of social media on children's mental health and a Conference on young people and disinformation. A seminar will also be held in the Principality on child-friendly justice. Increased involvement of young people in the prevention of these phenomena and the development of the appropriate solutions will help to identify practical measures.

In Monaco, we believe that **sport** is an outstanding tool because of its widespread contribution to physical and mental health, social inclusion and cohesion and to acquiring the values which shape children and young people throughout the rest of their lives. However, for the power of sport to be entirely fulfilled, it must be practised in a context which protects young people from all forms of violence and prioritises their well-being and development. The 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, to be held in Monaco on 3-4 November 2026, will be on the theme: "Safer and healthier sport for all children". The 10th anniversary of the Saint-Denis Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events will also be celebrated on this occasion.

II – Through an effective Organisation

The Council of Europe's operational effectiveness and its capacity to provide suitable legal and political remedies will depend on whether it can rely on credible monitoring mechanisms, updated standard-setting instruments and fora for dialogue enabling it to translate principles into action.

The Principality of Monaco reiterates its commitment to the **European human rights protection system**, which is the Council of Europe's legal and institutional foundation, the cornerstones of which are the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights. The full execution of judgments by the member States and measures to strengthen dialogue between national courts, executive authorities and Council of Europe bodies deserve our entire attention. A colloquy in Monaco to be attended by the President of the European Court of Human Rights will help to raise awareness of Court procedures and the implementation of its judgments. A conference on best practices in the execution of judgments concerning prison overcrowding will be held in Strasbourg. The smooth functioning of all the other monitoring mechanisms deriving from Council of Europe Conventions must also be preserved so as to ensure that the highest possible standards are respected when it comes to protecting rights.

The Monegasque Presidency will promote **regular dialogue and co-operation** between all the member States and between all Council of Europe bodies to strengthen the consistency of commitments, ensure that measures are fully in keeping with the Organisation's aims and values and put its priorities into practice. In this context, networks and fora for exchange will be ideal means of disseminating standards and pooling experience and expertise. Accordingly, Monaco will assist with the organisation of the Annual Forum of the Superior Courts Network and will take part in the first joint meeting of the members of the Network of Pilot Courts and the Network of National Correspondents of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) and the Annual Conference of the HELP Network. The 1567th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies will also be held in Monaco.

Developments in convention-based obligations make it possible to consolidate the Council of Europe's leading standard-setting role. For instance, the Protocol amending the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196) will be opened for signature in May. This text will be a major step forward, proposing a full, updated pan-European legal definition of the offence of terrorism and strengthening national frameworks along with international co-operation. The Additional Protocol to 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) will also be opened for signature in October. It will help to strengthen the European legal framework for the search, management and confiscation of criminal assets.

III – To meet today's challenges

Europe is currently facing a whole range of major challenges which are having direct and far-reaching effects on human rights, the rule of law and democracy. The Monegasque Presidency will ensure that the Council of Europe's work and activities are firmly geared towards practical responses to these challenges.

The Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine has profoundly shaken the worldwide geopolitical balance, leading Europe to rethink its defence, autonomy and security. Monaco reaffirms its ongoing support for Ukraine, including through the Register of Damage, and calls for the efforts to assist the millions of people affected by the conflict, including Ukraine's children, to continue, along with the fight against impunity. The establishment and deployment of accountability bodies such as the International Claims Commission for Ukraine and the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine are obvious priorities for our Organisation.

The Monegasque Presidency will pay particular attention to stepping up **measures to combat crime** in all its forms, combining strategic analysis, the development of norms and international mutual assistance, including in the fight against terrorism referred to above. The Informal Conference of Ministers of Justice, in Strasbourg on 16 June, will focus on money laundering and the judicial agenda for the fight against financial crime. It will provide a setting for strategic dialogue on means of enhancing the effectiveness of judicial systems, pooling good practices and devising co-ordinated responses against illicit financial flows. The Octopus Conference will celebrate this year's 25th anniversary of the Budapest Convention and it will be an ideal occasion to highlight the importance of international co-operation in combating cybercrime, while supporting efforts to strengthen States' capacities and develop appropriate legal and institutional frameworks.

Enhancing democratic resilience in the face of the swift and deep-reaching changes in our societies will be another important branch of the Organisation's activities during Monaco's Presidency. Disinformation poses a direct threat to the smooth functioning of democratic societies. By impairing the quality of public debate, exacerbating problems of polarisation and influencing individual viewpoints, it undermines citizens' ability to form free and informed opinions, free from all foreign manipulation and interference. A conference will be built around interactive workshops, bringing together young Europeans with a view to devising practical solutions and forging citizens who are fully aware of their role in safeguarding democratic debate.

Lastly, Monaco expresses its hope that the work relating to the New Democratic Pact for Europe will result in increased co-operation between member States, public institutions and civil society, thus supporting the Secretary General in his efforts to prevent certain abuses, restore public trust in democratic processes, promote democratic innovation and protect the integrity of electoral processes, so that a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable form of democracy can prevail.

Cultural and political programme of the Monegasque Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

I. Official programme of the Presidency

- 14-15 May 2026, Chişinău, Moldova – **Handover of the Presidency from Moldova to Monaco** at the 135th Session of the Committee of Ministers;
- 14-15 May 2026, Morocco – **Youth awareness-raising event in Morocco on the universal abolition of the death penalty;**
- 18-19 May 2026, Strasbourg – **Conference on “Human rights in extended reality (XR): freedom of expression, justice, children’s rights and well-being”;**
- 20 May 2026, Strasbourg – **First meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies under the Monegasque Presidency**, followed by the inauguration of the Presidency Tram and the Flag-raising Ceremony, **with the participation of Ms Isabelle BERRO-AMADEÏ, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation;**
- 21-22 May 2026, Monaco – **Meetings of the Presidential Committee, the Bureau and the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE);**
- 26 May 2026, Strasbourg – International conference on **“Terrorism and violent extremism: youth radicalisation”, with the participation of Mr Samuel VUELTA SIMON, State Secretary and Director of Judicial Services;**
- 27 May 2026, Strasbourg – **First joint meeting of the members of the Network of Pilot Courts and of the Network of National Correspondents of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ);**
- 2 June 2026, Strasbourg – **Joint meeting of the Lanzarote Committee/Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY), with the participation of Mr Samuel VUELTA SIMON, State Secretary and Director of Judicial Services;**
- 2 June 2026, Strasbourg – **Meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention, with the participation of Mr Samuel VUELTA SIMON, State Secretary and Director of Judicial Services;**
- 3 June 2026, Strasbourg – **Thematic debate of the Committee of Ministers on combating violence against women and protecting children’s rights, with the participation of Mr Christophe ROBINO, Minister for Social Affairs and Health;**
- 3 June 2026, Strasbourg – **First European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders;**
- 4 June 2026, Strasbourg – **Thematic dialogue on “Social media and children’s mental health: taking stock and formulating policy responses” (joint CDBIO and CDENF event), with the participation of Mr Christophe ROBINO, Minister for Social Affairs and Health;**
- 4 June 2026, Strasbourg – **Superior Courts’ Network Forum, with the participation of Mr Samuel VUELTA SIMON, State Secretary and Director of Judicial Services;**
- 9 June 2026, Strasbourg – **Annual conference of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), with the participation of Ms Isabelle BERRO-AMADEÏ, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation;**
- 16 June 2026, Strasbourg – **Informal Conference of Ministers of Justice;**
- 16 June 2026, Monaco – **Conference on Child-friendly Justice;**
- 18 June 2026, Strasbourg – **High-level conference as part of No Hate Speech Week;**
- 18 June 2026, Monaco – **Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities;**
- 19 June 2026, Monaco – **Side event on women’s rights on the occasion of the Congress Bureau meeting;**

- June 2026, Strasbourg – **Third part-Session of the PACE:**
- 22 June 2026: **Address by H.E. Mr Christophe MIRMAND, Minister of State, to the PACE;**
- 23 June 2026: **Address by Ms Isabelle BERRO-AMADEÏ to the PACE as President of the Committee of Ministers;**
- 26 June 2026, Monaco – **Colloquy on Monaco and the European Court of Human Rights, with the participation of Mr Mattias GUYOMAR, President of the European Court of Human Rights;**
- 2-3 July 2026, Strasbourg – **HELP Network Annual Conference;**
- 30 June to 2 July 2026, Paris – **9th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, with the participation of Ms Isabelle BERRO-AMADEÏ, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation;**
- 1-3 July 2026, Strasbourg – **Meeting of the Council of Europe Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine;**
- 9 July, Vienna – **Presentation of the priorities of the Monegasque Presidency to the Permanent Council of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE);**
- 14 July, Brussels – **Presentation of the priorities of the Monegasque Presidency to the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC);**
- 2 August 2026, Strasbourg and Auschwitz-Birkenau – **Commemorative ceremony organised by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to mark the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma, with the participation of Ms Isabelle BERRO-AMADEÏ, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation;**
- 2 September 2026, Monaco – **Hosting of the 1567th Meeting of the Committee of Ministers' Deputies;**
- September 2026, Strasbourg – **Fourth part-session of the PACE:**
- 30 September 2026: **Address by Ms Isabelle BERRO-AMADEÏ to the PACE as President of the Committee of Ministers;**
- 1 October 2026, Strasbourg: **Address by HSH Sovereign Prince Albert II to the PACE;**
- 7 October 2026, Strasbourg – **Thematic debate of the Committee of Ministers on the death penalty;**
- 13 October 2026, Strasbourg – **Conference on best practices in the execution of European Court of Human Rights judgments concerning prison overcrowding, with the participation of Mr Samuel VUELTA SIMON, State Secretary and Director of Judicial Services;**
- 14 to 16 October 2026, Strasbourg – **OCTOPUS Conference, with the participation of Mr Samuel VUELTA SIMON, State Secretary and Director of Judicial Services;**
- 29 October 2026, Strasbourg – **51st Session of the Congress – Address by Mr Lionel BEFFRE, Minister of the Interior, to the Congress;**
- 2-4 November 2026, Strasbourg – **World Forum for Democracy;**
- 3-4 November 2026, Monaco – **19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport on “Safer and healthier sport for all children”, chaired by M. Lionel BEFFRE, Minister of the Interior;**
- 3-4 November 2026, Monaco – **10th plenary meeting of the Saint-Denis Convention Committee and Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Saint-Denis Convention;**

- 9-10 November 2026, Strasbourg – Conference on combating disinformation relating to **young people, with the participation of Ms Isabelle BERRO-AMADEÏ, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation;**
- 10 November 2026, Strasbourg – **Handover of the Presidency from Monaco to Montenegro, in the presence of Ms Isabelle BERRO-AMADEÏ, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation;**
- Date to be confirmed, Strasbourg – **Working lunch between non-EU member States and Mr Alain BERSET, Secretary General of the Council of Europe.**

II. Cultural programme

- 20 May 2026, Strasbourg – **Concert by Monegasque pianist Stella Almondo (Foyer of the Committee of Ministers) and a performance by the Palladienne de Monaco (Place Broglie);**
- 26 May 2026, Strasbourg, Assembly Chamber, Palais de l'Europe – **Concert to mark the start of the Monegasque Presidency – Printemps des Arts (Caravaggio Ensemble);**
- 5 June 2026, Strasbourg, Eglise Saint-Guillaume – **Piano concert with Les Petits Chanteurs de Monaco;**
- 11 June 2026, Strasbourg, Eglise Saint Pierre le Jeune – **Sacred music concert by the Estonian choir, Vox Clamantis – Prince Pierre Foundation;**
- 15 June 2026, Strasbourg, Opéra National du Rhin – **Concert by the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra;**
- 15 September - 15 October 2026, Strasbourg, Place Broglie – **Photography exhibition: “Discovering Monaco’s Architectural Heritage”** (photographs to be exhibited beforehand at the Council of Europe, in the Foyer of the Committee of Ministers, from 23 June to 3 July);
- 17 September 2026, Strasbourg, Bibliothèque nationale et universitaire (BNU) – **Monaco Philosophy Forum conference on the theme “Europe: heritage and promise”;**
- From 28 September to 4 October 2026, Strasbourg, “Les Haras” Restaurant – **Monaco Gastronomic Week;**
- From 1 to 30 October 2026, Council of Europe Entrance Hall, Strasbourg – **Exhibition of photographs from the Prince Albert II Foundation Environmental Photography Award;**
- 4 October 2026, Monaco – **Launch of Monaco’s European Heritage Days;**
- 23 October 2026, Strasbourg, Cosmos Cinema – **Screening of the documentary, “Rainier III in His Own Words”;**
- 24 October 2026, Strasbourg, Le Münsterhof – **“Le rêve de Mercier”: a play created and produced by the Princess Grace Theatre in Monaco;**
- 28 October 2026, Strasbourg, Auditorium des Musées – **Round-table discussion: “From Monaco to Strasbourg: current and future challenges for museums”.**