
135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

Volume of Decisions Addendum to the Minutes of the sitting held in Chişinău

List of Heads of delegation

Decisions adopted

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Support for Ukraine
 - a. Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine – Adoption of Resolution CM/Res(2026)5 establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine
 - b. Together with Ukraine
3. New Democratic Pact for Europe
 - a. Report of the Secretary General
 - b. Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference
 - c. From Reykjavík to the Pact: strengthening democratic resilience
4. 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)
5. Council of Europe action in the field of migration
6. External Action Strategy of the Council of Europe
7. Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union
8. Other business - *No decision*
9. Transfer of the presidency between the Republic of Moldova and Monaco - *No decision*
10. Date and place of the next Session

135th SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS
135^e SESSION DU COMITÉ DES MINISTRES
(Chişinău, 14-15 May/mai 2026)

LIST OF HEADS OF DELEGATION /
LISTE DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms	Megi	FINO	Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs / Ministre adjointe de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères
----	------	------	---

ANDORRA / ANDORRE

Ms	Imma	TOR FAUS	Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre des Affaires étrangères
----	------	----------	---

ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE

Mr	Robert	ABISOGHOMONYAN	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre adjoint des Affaires étrangères
----	--------	----------------	--

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Mr	Sepp	SCHELLHORN	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Secrétaire d'État, Ministère des Affaires étrangères
----	------	------------	---

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

Mr	Elnur	MAMMADOV	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre adjoint des Affaires étrangères
----	-------	----------	--

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Mr	Maxime	PRÉVOT	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Development Cooperation / Vice-premier Ministre et Ministre des Affaires étrangères, des Affaires européennes et de la Coopération au développement
----	--------	--------	--

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE

Mr	Elmedin	KONAKOVIĆ	Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre des Affaires étrangères
----	---------	-----------	---

BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Ms Genka GEORGIEVA

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe / Ambassadrice extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Représentante permanente auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

CROATIA / CROATIE

Mr Frano MATUSIC

State Secretary for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs / Secrétaire d'Etat aux affaires politiques, Ministère des Affaires étrangères

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Ms Theodora CONSTANTINIDOU

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Secrétaire d'Etat, Ministère des Affaires étrangères

CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Mr Petr MACINKA

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs / Vice-Premier Ministre et Ministre des Affaires étrangères

DENMARK / DANEMARK

Mr Lars LØKKE RASMUSSEN

Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre des Affaires étrangères

ESTONIA / ESTONIE

Ms Liisa PAKOSTA

Minister of Justice / Ministre de la Justice

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Mr Pasi RAJALA

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Secrétaire d'Etat, Ministère des Affaires étrangères

FRANCE

Mr Benjamin HADDAD

Minister Delegate for Europe to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs / Ministre délégué chargé de l'Europe auprès du Ministre de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères

GEORGIA / GÉORGIE

Ms Maka BOTCHORISHVILI

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs / Vice-Premier Ministre et Ministre des Affaires étrangères

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

Mr Gunther KRICHBAUM

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre adjoint aux Affaires étrangères

GREECE / GRÈCE

Mr Nicolas

SIGALAS

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe / Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Représentant permanente auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

HUNGARY / HONGRIE

Ms Ágnes

KERTÉSZ

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe / Ambassadrice extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Représentante permanente auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

ICELAND / ISLANDE

Ms Gréta

GUNNARSDÓTTIR

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe / Ambassadrice extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Représentante permanente auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

IRELAND / IRLANDE

Ms Caitríona

DOYLE

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe / Ambassadrice extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Représentante permanente auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

ITALY / ITALIE

Mr Massimo

DELL'UTRI

Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation / Sous-secrétaire d'État, Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération internationale

LATVIA / LETTONIE

Mr Artjoms

URŠUĻSKIS

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Secrétaire parlementaire, Ministère des Affaires étrangères

LIECHTENSTEIN

Ms Sabine

MONAUNI

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Environment and Culture / Vice-Première Ministre, Ministre des Affaires étrangères, de l'Environnement et de la Culture

LITHUANIA / LITUANIE

Ms Audra

PLEPYTĖ

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre adjointe des Affaires étrangères

LUXEMBOURG

Mr	Xavier	BETTEL	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade / Vice-Premier Ministre, Ministre des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce extérieur
----	--------	--------	--

MALTA / MALTE

Mr	Neville	AQUILINA	Director General for Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directeur général chargé des questions internationales, Ministère des Affaires étrangères
----	---------	----------	--

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA

Mr	Mihail	POPȘOI	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs / Vice-Premier Ministre, Ministre des Affaires étrangères
----	--------	--------	---

MONACO

Ms	Isabelle	BERRO-AMADEÏ	Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation / Ministre des Relations extérieures et de la Coopération
----	----------	--------------	--

MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRO

Mr	Ervin	IBRAHIMOVIĆ	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs / Vice-Premier Ministre, Ministre des Affaires étrangères
----	-------	-------------	---

NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS

Ms	Heleen	BAKKER	Deputy Minister for European Co-operation / Ministre adjointe chargée de la coopération européenne
----	--------	--------	--

NORTH MACEDONIA / MACÉDOINE DU NORD

Mr	Zoran	DIMITROVSKI	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade / Ministre adjoint des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce extérieur
----	-------	-------------	---

NORWAY / NORVÈGE

Mr	Espen	BARTH EIDE	Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre des Affaires étrangères
----	-------	------------	---

POLAND / POLOGNE

Mr	Artur	HARAZIM	Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Sous-Secrétaire d'État, Ministère des Affaires étrangères
----	-------	---------	--

PORTUGAL

Ms	Inês	DOMINGOS	Secretary of State for European Affairs / Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires européennes
----	------	----------	--

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Ms Oana-Silvia ȚOIU

Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre des Affaires étrangères

SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN

Mr Luca BECCARI

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Political Affairs, International Economic Cooperation and Digital Transition / Ministre des Affaires étrangères, des Affaires politiques, de la Coopération économique internationale et de la Transition numérique

SERBIA / SERBIE

Mr Marko ĐURIĆ

Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre des Affaires étrangères

SLOVAK REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE

Mr Marek EŠTOK

Deputy Minister for Foreign and European Affairs / Ministre adjoint des affaires étrangères et européennes

SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE

Ms Tanja FAJON

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs / Vice-première Ministre et Ministre des Affaires étrangères et européennes

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Mr Fernando SAMPEDRO MARCOS

State Secretary for the European Union / Secrétaire d'État à l'Union européenne

SWEDEN / SUÈDE

Ms Therese HYDEN

Director General for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Directrice Générale des Affaires juridiques, Ministère des Affaires étrangères

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

Mr Ignazio CASSIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre des Affaires étrangères

TÜRKIYE

Mr Mehmet Kemal BOZAY

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre adjoint des Affaires étrangères

UKRAINE

Mr Andrii SYBIHA

Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre des Affaires étrangères

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI

Ms Yvette COOPER

Minister for Foreign Affairs / Ministre des Affaires étrangères

*
* *

EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPÉENNE

Ms Vesna KOS

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of the Delegation to the Council of Europe / Ambassadrice extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Cheffe de la délégation auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

*
* *

CANADA

Mr Tristan GARCIA

Political-Economic Counsellor at the Embassy of Canada to Romania, Republic of Moldova and Bulgaria / Conseiller politique et économique auprès de l'ambassade du Canada en Roumanie, en République de Moldova et en Bulgarie

HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIÈGE

Msgr Marco GANCI

Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe / Observateur permanent auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

JAPAN / JAPON

Mr Oeda SHIGETA

Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe / Observateur permanent auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

MEXICO / MEXIQUE

Mr Julio César ESCOBEDO FLORES

Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Deputy Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe / *Chargé d'Affaires a.i.*, Observateur permanent adjoint auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

Ms Yvonne M. GONZALES

Deputy Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe / Observatrice permanente adjointe auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

*
* *

OSCE

Mr Feridun H. SINIRLIOĞLU

Secretary General / Secrétaire Général

*
* *

DEVELOPMENT BANK (CEB) /
BANQUE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT (CEB)

Mr Tomáš BOČEK

Vice-Governor for Target Group Countries /
Vice-Gouverneur « Pays du Groupe Cible »

*
* *

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY /
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE

Ms Petra BAYR

President / Présidente

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES /
CONGRÈS DES POUVOIRS LOCAUX ET RÉGIONAUX

Ms Gunn Marit HELGESEN

President / Présidente

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS /
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Mr Mattias GUYOMAR

President / Président

COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS /
COMMISSAIRE AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

Mr Michael O' FLAHERTY

Commissioner / Commissaire

CONFERENCE OF INGOS /
CONFÉRENCE DES OING

Mr Gerhard ERMISCHER

President / Président

*
* *

SECRETARIAT GENERAL /
SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL

Mr Alain BERSSET

Secretary General / Secrétaire Général

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

1. Adoption of the agenda

Decision

The Committee of Ministers adopted the agenda of the 135th Session, as it appears in document CM(2026)OJ-final.

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

2. Support for Ukraine

a. Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine –

Adoption of Resolution CM/Res(2026)5 establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine

Reference document
CM(2025)105-prov

Decisions

The representatives in the Committee of Ministers of Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, as well as the representatives of the European Union, Australia and Costa Rica:

1. adopted Resolution CM/Res(2026)5 establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine and thus expressed their intention to join the Enlarged Partial Agreement, subject to the completion of internal procedures necessary to express their consent to be bound where applicable;
2. agreed that the Committee of Ministers, in its composition restricted to States/European Union having notified their intention to join the Enlarged Partial Agreement, and the completion of their internal procedures necessary to express their consent to be bound where applicable, shall decide on the entry into force of the Enlarged Partial Agreement once:
 - (i) the aforementioned States/European Union have reached agreement that their total number, including the major contributors of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, according to its scale of contributions, is sufficient for such entry into force, it being understood that this number will be higher than 16;
 - (ii) they deem, in accordance with their internal procedures, the budgetary parameters to be adequate and acceptable taking into account the work carried out by the Advance Team; and
 - (iii) those States/European Union, who are major contributors of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, according to its scale of contributions, have agreed to its entry into force;
3. invited the Secretariat to report on the progress of the Advance Team's preparatory work;
4. stated that any member State or observer State of the Council of Europe, other State or international organisation that notify before the entry into force their intention to join the Enlarged Partial Agreement, as a member or associate member, and the completion of their internal procedures necessary to express their consent to be bound where applicable, shall be considered a founding member of the Enlarged Partial Agreement and shall be entitled to participate in the adoption of that decision;

5. decided that, in line with the phased-in approach to be adopted for the establishment of the Special Tribunal, the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal shall review the implementation of the first phase of the Special Tribunal under Article 53, paragraph 1, lit. a of the Statute of the Special Tribunal and decide, by a two-thirds majority of its members, including the affirmative votes of all major contributors, on the transition to phase 2 of the Special Tribunal under Article 53, paragraph 1, lit. b of the Statute of the Special Tribunal, including the approval of the related budgetary and organisational arrangements.

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

2. Support for Ukraine

b. Together with Ukraine

Decisions

The Committee of Ministers

1. guided by the Reykjavík Declaration adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, reiterated its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the Russian Federation's continued war of aggression against Ukraine and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders as well as the Council of Europe's steadfast support to Ukraine and solidarity with its people;
2. expressed its strong concern regarding the continuing grave violations by the Russian Federation of human rights and international humanitarian law in and against Ukraine, in particular in the territory of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, and reaffirmed the importance of continued international monitoring and accountability in this regard;
3. reiterated that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine must be based on full compliance with international law and on accountability, including for the crime of aggression and other serious violations of international law, and reaffirmed the central role of the Council of Europe in advancing a comprehensive accountability architecture for the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine;
4. recalled that the Russian Federation must bear the legal consequences of its internationally wrongful acts in or against Ukraine, including the obligation to provide full reparation for the injury, loss and damage caused by its war of aggression;
5. welcomed that the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is fully operational and that close to 150 000 claims have already been submitted to it, while the Register's Board has issued decisions on the recording of more than 45 000 of these claims; emphasised the importance of publicising the Register to all potential claimants, including those displaced outside Ukraine, across all categories of damage, and agreed to actively support and amplify these outreach efforts within our countries to ensure every victim can submit a claim;
6. welcomed the adoption and opening for signature, at the Diplomatic Conference in The Hague on 16 December 2025, of the Convention Establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine, as a key element of the international compensation mechanism, as well as the fact that 35 States and the European Union have already signed the Convention; noted with satisfaction the first two ratifications of the Convention and encouraged other States to follow suit without delay, and stressed the importance of the swift operationalisation of the Claims Commission;

7. noting that the Council of Europe has kept the good momentum of the Diplomatic Conference, welcomed the adoption of Resolution CM/Res(2026)2 on the creation of the Preparatory Committee for the International Claims Commission for Ukraine on 25 February 2026 and that the Advance Team for the Claims Commission, which includes the participation of the Register of Damage, is operational and has started to exchange with the host State to practically prepare the presence of the Claims Commission in the host State;
8. stressed that broad participation in the Convention Establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine, by States from Europe and beyond, is essential to ensure the highest possible level of political legitimacy of the Claims Commission that is equally open to member States and non-member States of the Council of Europe;
9. welcomed the adoption of Resolution CM/Res(2026)5 establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, which represents a crucial step towards an operational Special Tribunal to investigate, prosecute and try persons who bear the greatest responsibility for the crime of aggression against Ukraine;
10. recalling that the Enlarged Partial Agreement will enter into force once the criteria set out in the decision adopting the above-mentioned resolution have been met, underscored the importance of its earliest possible entry into force and, with a view to ensuring the widest possible legitimacy and financial sustainability of the Special Tribunal, encouraged States that have the intention to join the Enlarged Partial Agreement to express it swiftly, and called on all participating States to work towards fulfilling those criteria as soon as possible;
11. welcomed the setting-up of an advance team to initiate the legal, operational and institutional preparations necessary for the swift establishment and effective functioning of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the framework of the Council of Europe as from January 2026, with the financial support of the European Union, and encouraged it to continue its work;
12. welcomed the continued engagement of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General on the situation of children of Ukraine, as a sign of the Council of Europe's strong and unwavering commitment to Ukraine and to its children, wherever they may be;
13. welcomed the efforts of the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine as a unique multilateral platform of dialogue and co-ordination regarding policies for Ukrainian children residing in Council of Europe member States, and welcomed also the Council of Europe's membership in the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, while expressing its strong support for the Coalition as well as other national and international efforts to identify, locate and secure the safe return of children of Ukraine unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred by the Russian Federation, and to support their rehabilitation and reintegration; recalled, in this context, the thematic discussion on "Human rights and the children of Ukraine" organised at the initiative of the Republic of Moldova's Presidency in the framework of the Ministers' Deputies' exchange of views with the United Nations on human rights questions; called for the full execution of the July 2025 judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. the Russian Federation* which was first examined by the Committee of Ministers at its Human Rights meeting in December 2025;
14. welcomed the dedication of the Ukrainian authorities to pursue a reconstruction and recovery process in compliance with the standards and values of the Council of Europe and remained committed to strengthening the Council of Europe's support for Ukraine's reconstruction and democratic security through its Action Plan for Ukraine, in particular in areas such as elections, decentralisation and good governance, as well as judicial reforms;
15. noted with satisfaction that the implementation of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction 2023-2026" has contributed substantially to Ukraine's reform agenda, facilitating the country's progress on its path towards accession to the European Union, notably in strengthening the protection of fundamental rights in wartime conditions, supporting judicial and constitutional reforms, enhancing access to justice and remedies for war-affected individuals, improving social protection and the inclusion of vulnerable groups and veterans, and reinforcing Ukraine's capacity to implement European standards in human rights, the rule of law and democracy and the fight against corruption;

16. reaffirmed that support for Ukraine remains a priority for the Council of Europe and that the work carried out by the Committee of Ministers for and with Ukraine through the Action Plan as well as by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Commissioner for Human Rights, and, not the least, the European Court of Human Rights, which is adjudicating violations of human rights arising from this war, underscores that the Council of Europe stands fully engaged until justice and peace are secured.

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

3. New Democratic Pact for Europe

a. Report of the Secretary General

Reference document
SG(2026)1

Decisions

The Committee of Ministers

1. welcomed the Secretary General's annual report on the state of play of the New Democratic Pact for Europe, as it appears in document SG(2026)1, and took note with satisfaction of the progress achieved during the consultation phase;
2. underlined the continued relevance and added value of the Council of Europe in advancing the following objectives, building on the momentum of the New Democratic Pact for Europe process:
 - a. reinforcing democratic institutions and processes and restoring trust by making them more inclusive, representative, accountable, effective and adaptable;
 - b. reinforcing democracy, using a whole of government and society approach; updating its capacity to anticipate the needs of all the citizens and its functioning through innovation, including digital technologies and artificial intelligence;
 - c. protecting democratic security in Europe and countering the undermining of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, especially in times of instability and increased pressure on democratic systems and on the people who play a vital role in safeguarding our democracies;
3. recognised that, in the current context, strengthening democratic security and resilience is essential to peace, stability, prosperity and the effectiveness of multilateralism in Europe and beyond;
4. stressed that the process of the New Democratic Pact for Europe is closely interconnected with the ongoing reflection on the reform and the role of the Organisation in the current geopolitical context, and invited the Secretary General to pursue this process within existing resources in a structured and inclusive manner;
5. stressed that in identifying priorities for the next Programme and Budget, emphasis should be put on: optimising the impact of the Council of Europe so that it is fit for purpose and adapted to current and emerging challenges; achieving greater transparency, efficiency and effectiveness; and ensuring that the Organisation is more agile, resilient and results-oriented.

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

3. New Democratic Pact for Europe

b. Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference

Reference document
CM/Inf(2026)18

Decisions

The Committee of Ministers

1. welcomed the feasibility study on the possible elaboration of a legal instrument on foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), including disinformation, as it appears in document CM/Inf(2026)18;
2. recognised that foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) poses serious threats to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and requires further action building on the findings of the feasibility study, and grounded in evidence, inclusive consultation and international co-operation;
3. consequently, instructed the Secretary General to submit to its Deputies proposals relating to the negotiation of an appropriate legal instrument, including a possible framework convention, addressing foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), based on the standards and expertise of the Council of Europe;
4. invited the Secretary General to report back to its Deputies in due course.

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

3. New Democratic Pact for Europe

c. From Reykjavík to the Pact: strengthening democratic resilience

Reference documents

CM/Del/Dec(2026)1559/2.1, SG/Inf(2026)13, CM/Del/Dec(2024)133/2b, CM/Del/Dec(2025)134/3, CM(2025)194-add, CM/Rec(2026)4, CM/Rec(2026)1, CM/Rec(2026)2, CM/Rec(2026)3

Decisions

The Committee of Ministers

Support for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of member States

1. in addition to its decisions adopted with respect to the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the Committee of Ministers took note of the position of national delegations and of the work conducted by the Council of Europe with respect to other conflicts and crises in Europe. The Committee of Ministers reiterated its call on the Russian Federation to comply with its international obligations and to immediately withdraw completely and unconditionally its forces from Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova; it reasserted its unwavering support for their sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, within their internationally recognised borders;

2. recalled the set of decisions adopted in relation to the conflict in Georgia at the 1559th meeting of the Deputies (CM/Del/Dec(2026)1559/2.1) and took note of the 33rd consolidated report of the Secretary General on the conflict in Georgia (October 2025 – March 2026) (SG/Inf(2026)13), as well as statements of member States on this matter;

3. with respect to the normalisation of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, recalling its decisions adopted at the 133rd and 134th Sessions (CM/Del/Dec(2024)133/2b and CM/Del/Dec(2025)134/3), welcomed the Joint Declaration by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, also signed as a witness by the President of the United States of America, on the outcomes of their meeting held in Washington D.C., United States of America, on 8 August 2025, as well as the initialling of the Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Interstate Relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Foreign Ministers of both countries, and subsequent progress made by the parties towards further consolidation and institutionalisation of peace, including through implementation of confidence building measures;

System of the European Convention on Human Rights

4. recalling its unwavering commitment to the system of the European Convention on Human Rights and mindful of the need to preserve its integrity as the cornerstone of the protection of human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Europe, welcomed the continuation of co-ordinated efforts undertaken by Council of Europe bodies and institutions to assist member States with the implementation of the Convention at the national level, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity and margin of appreciation;

5. emphasised the importance of the principle of subsidiarity and the margin of appreciation for the implementation of the Convention at the national level by the High Contracting Parties, reinforced by the entry into force of Protocol No. 15, as well as the concept of shared responsibility among the High Contracting Parties, the Court, and the Committee of Ministers to ensure the proper functioning of the Convention system;

6. reaffirmed the importance of taking into account the case law of the European Court of Human Rights in a way that gives full effect to the Convention and the unconditional obligation of member States to abide by the final judgments of the Court in any case to which they are Parties and underlined the fundamental importance of the execution of the Court's judgments and the primary role of the Committee of Ministers in the effective supervision of that process; recalled further the need to continue improving the effectiveness of the supervision mechanism;

7. reiterated the Russian Federation's ongoing legal obligation to implement judgments and decisions of the Court, including the payment of just satisfaction, also in interstate and interstate related cases and, in this context, recalled in particular the Grand Chamber judgment in the case of *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia* delivered on 9 July 2025;

8. welcomed the decision taken, in full respect for the independence of the Court and the binding nature of its judgments, to extend the format of the exchange of views of the Committee of Ministers (Deputies) with the President of the Court held twice a year to include one supplementary afternoon exchange each autumn on developments in the Convention case law and principles;

Rule of law

9. reaffirmed once again its, and member States', commitment to protect, strengthen and promote the rule of law at all levels, and to ensure that legal professionals, including the judiciary and lawyers, can exercise their functions free from threats, attacks or coercion;

10. welcomed and endorsed the Updated Rule of Law Checklist adopted by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) at its 145th Plenary Session (Venice, 12-13 December 2025);

11. encouraged its wide use by parliaments, governments and other State authorities, local and regional authorities, civil society and international organisations, as a tool for assessing the rule of law from the viewpoint of constitutional and legal structures, legislation in force and existing case law and as an instrument for resilient democratic institutions;

Strengthening democracy

12. took note of the Parameters to facilitate the application and implementation of the Reykjavík Principles, as they appear in document CM(2025)194-add;

13. encouraged member States to make use of these Parameters in conformity with their constitutional order and national legislation;

14. recalled that the Parameters are meant to help member States identify their strengths as well as to improve their responses to potential vulnerabilities in the field of democracy and noted that a methodological framework to support their application is currently being developed;

Democracy, freedom of expression and safety of journalists

15. recalling its strong commitment to securing and strengthening democracy and good governance at all levels, and stressing the importance of impartial election observation as a cornerstone in safeguarding electoral integrity and reinforcing public trust in democratic institutions, took note of the "Paris call to Action on Election Observation"; also recalled the importance for member States to give appropriate follow-up to the findings and conclusions of international election observation missions;

16. reiterated the Council of Europe's leading role in setting standards on freedom of expression, including in the digital sphere;

17. welcomed the recent Recommendation on online safety and empowerment of users and content creators (CM/Rec(2026)4) and the Guidelines on the implications of generative AI for freedom of expression, as well as new policy documents providing guidance for more strategic and effective efforts to safeguard the integrity of information and strengthen media and information literacy among European citizens;

18. encouraged member States to implement Council of Europe standards in this field, including through co-operation activities, capacity building and awareness-raising;

19. welcomed the progress of the “Journalists Matter” campaign, now in its third year, and reaffirmed the need to consolidate key achievements, such as the network of national focal points, national co-ordination mechanisms for the safety of journalists and dedicated national action plans, and called on member States to strengthen efforts to address threats against journalists and other media actors, including those identified through the Platform for the protection of journalism and safety of journalists, more effectively and combat impunity for crimes committed against them;

Social rights and social justice for democratic resilience

20. underlined the importance for the States Parties to the European Social Charter and its monitoring procedures for the protection of social and economic rights of citizens across Europe and reaffirmed the collective duty to respect, promote and further develop social rights and social justice, which are essential for democratic resilience, stability and security; welcomed the Chişinău Declaration adopted at the High-level Conference on Social Rights – The European Social Charter, organised by the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, and in the context of the New Democratic Pact for Europe, as well as the steps taken by several member States to broaden their commitments under the European Social Charter;

21. encouraged member States, as appropriate, to consider accepting additional provisions, and for those who have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Additional Protocol providing for a system of collective complaints and ratifying the revised European Social Charter;

22. also welcomed the organisation of the next High-level Conference on Social Rights – the European Social Charter to take place in 2029 under the auspices of the Portuguese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers;

Inclusive societies and non-discrimination, including all forms of intolerance

23. reiterated that discrimination, on any ground, must be prevented and combated; underlined the important role of the Council of Europe in this regard and reaffirmed the commitment of member States to continue strengthening efforts towards inclusive societies;

24. reiterated that the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities is a key aspect of human rights protection, democratic participation, and inclusive societies, and encouraged member States to continue to implement Council of Europe standards in this field;

25. welcomed the Council of Europe Strategy for Roma and Traveller¹ inclusion (2026–2030), as well as the work and engagement of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights with Roma and Traveller communities;

26. welcomed and further encouraged the work of the Secretary General's Special Representative on antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred, and all forms of religious intolerance (SRSG); in light of the rising levels of antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred across Europe, reaffirmed the importance of the SRSG's mandate in fostering inclusive societies by combating all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, in line also with relevant Council of Europe standards; encouraged synergies with other Council of Europe bodies and co-operation with relevant international organisations and national bodies working in this field, in order to strengthen efforts to address these alarming trends and foster living together, including through interreligious dialogue; invited, to this effect, the SRSG to pursue and strengthen this co-operation through dedicated annual co-ordination meetings;

¹ The term “Roma and Travellers” is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “Gens du voyage”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

Equality and gender equality

27. underlined that equality, gender equality, diversity and inclusion are powerful tools for protecting democracy and reinforcing democratic resilience, benefiting society as a whole by strengthening stability, safety, security, trust, creativity and prosperity; emphasised that the effective embedding and mainstreaming of equality across all policy areas, with a whole-of-society approach to decision making, are crucial for ensuring the adaptive and resilient democracies of tomorrow;

28. welcomed the recent Recommendations on equality and artificial intelligence (CM/Rec(2026)1) and on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (CM/Rec(2026)2), as well as the ongoing work to provide policy guidance to member States in their efforts to foster equality and to combat all forms of discrimination;

29. encouraged member States to continue implementing Council of Europe standards in these fields; to prevent and combat violence against women and girls, including by ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention); and to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation in democratic and public life for all, paying particular attention to women and girls;

Youth participation

30. recalled the Final Declaration of the 10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth entitled 'Young People for Democracy: Youth Perspectives in Action', held in Malta in October 2025, which highlighted the role of the Council of Europe as a key driving force in developing youth policy in Europe, owing to its pioneering co-management system and core instruments, and welcomed the follow-up steps taken, which charted the way ahead for the Organisation's youth policy;

31. welcomed all the actions undertaken to engage young people at European level in practicing, learning, innovating and defending democracy, in particular the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)3 on the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life; the Council of Europe Reference Framework on a Youth Perspective and the steps taken by the Secretary General to integrate youth perspectives across the Council of Europe's work; as well as the work under the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, on young people's access to rights in an age of disinformation; underlined that these efforts contribute to democratic resilience by supporting meaningful youth participation, including through co-management mechanisms, fostering safe and inclusive civic spaces, and ensuring that participation mechanisms remain responsive in times of crisis, conflict and recovery; all these actions represent a significant contribution to the New Democratic Pact for Europe in the field of youth;

32. welcomed the organisation of the 11th Conference of the Ministers responsible for youth by the Luxembourg authorities in 2028;

Civil society

33. considering that "civil society is a prerequisite for a functioning democracy" as stated in the Reykjavík Declaration, recalled the value of fostering meaningful and effective engagement between civil society, including human rights defenders, and the Council of Europe and reiterated its commitment to the full implementation of the "Road map on the Civil society engagement with the Council of Europe 2024-2027";

34. reaffirmed the importance of an enabling environment for the functioning of civil society and of national human rights institutions and, in this context, welcomed the second edition of the Council of Europe High-level Conference with Ombudsperson Institutions and National Human Rights Institutions (ON Forum), held on 12 and 13 March 2026 in Strasbourg and invited its Deputies to reflect on the possibility of institutionalising the ON Forum as an annual platform;

35. remained committed to ensure that safeguarding civic space in member States remains at the forefront of its agenda, while promoting the implementation of Council of Europe and other relevant international standards on freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression;

36. reaffirmed its engagement for the work of the Contact Group on co-operation with Belarusian democratic forces and civil society and reiterated the need to find ways to enhance co-operation with Russian and Belarusian human rights defenders, democratic forces, free media and independent civil society who are fully committed to the Organisation's values, principles and goals, and welcomed the initiatives undertaken in this respect by the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional authorities, as well as the recent inauguration of a Council of Europe Information Point for Belarusian people in Vilnius (Lithuania).

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

4. 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)

Reference documents
CM(2026)2-add1, CM(2026)2-add2

Decisions

The Committee of Ministers

1. adopted 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, as it appears in document CM(2026)2-add1final, and took note of its Explanatory Report, as it appears in document CM(2026)2-add2final;
2. agreed to open the Additional Protocol for signature in Strasbourg on 14 October 2026 on the occasion of the Octopus Conference.

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

5. Council of Europe action in the field of migration

Reference document
CM(2026)99

Decisions

The Committee of Ministers

1. adopted the Chişinău Declaration, as it appears in document CM(2026)99-final;
2. reaffirmed that migration challenges require a collective response from all member States, grounded in human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
3. welcomed the work of the Council of Europe Network of Focal Points on Migration set up in 2019 in facilitating the exchange of relevant information and good practices among member States on migration and human rights challenges;
4. invited its Deputies to continue examining the most appropriate ways to streamline and consolidate the work relating to migration challenges and, in this context, instructed the Secretary General to make proposals to be considered by its Deputies in relation to the Network's mandate, in order to strengthen and, where appropriate, adapt the overall Council of Europe action in these matters.

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

6. External action strategy of the Council of Europe

Reference document
CM(2026)76-prov2

Decisions

The Committee of Ministers

1. approved the Council of Europe Strategy on External Action, as it appears in document CM(2026)76-final;
2. agreed to invite the Secretary General to prepare an implementation plan outlining the concrete initiatives and measures, within the existing budget allocations, to achieve the objectives set out in the Strategy, and report back to its Deputies in due course.

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

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

Reference documents
CM(2026)32-prov, CM(2026)32-add

Decisions

The Committee of Ministers

1. highlighted the value-based strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union, which continues to intensify and deepen through co-operation and political dialogue, including at the highest level. In an evolving geopolitical context, where multilateralism is under pressure, the Council of Europe and the European Union are strategic and main institutional partners to protect common values and promote regional peace, stability and prosperity, and endeavour to strengthen this partnership's opportunities;
2. underscored that ensuring full accountability for the crime of aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation remains a cornerstone of this strategic partnership. European Union participation in the Register of Damage, its signature of the Convention establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine and the financial support provided to its Preparatory Committee, as well as the contribution to the progress achieved in the setting up of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, including the signature of an agreement on the financing of an advance team to establish the Special Tribunal, are tangible expressions of the joint commitment to accountability for the crime of aggression against Ukraine;
3. recalled that accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights represents a strategic goal that will enhance coherence in human rights protection in Europe and, in this connection, welcomed the submission by the European Commission, on 21 November 2025, of a request to the Court of Justice of the European Union for an opinion on the compatibility of the revised draft accession agreement with the European Union's treaties;
4. in an unprecedented context marked by increased challenges to democratic security, both at continental and global level, underscored the role of the Council of Europe in strengthening democratic security, notably through shaping a New Democratic Pact for Europe, as well as the common understanding of new challenges and the complementarity with the European Democracy Shield implemented by the European Union, and encouraged developing synergies and avoiding duplications;
5. welcomed the signature of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law by the European Union, and encouraged European Union participation in or accession to Council of Europe conventions and bodies, as appropriate, to further strengthen coherence and complementarity, while recognising that such participation would benefit from more structured co-ordination between the European Union and the Council of Europe to support future standard-setting exercises;
6. highlighted the Council of Europe's important contribution to the European Union Rule of Law Cycle, which underscores the leading role of the Council of Europe in the subject matter;

7. took note with satisfaction of the European Union's contribution to raise the global impact of the 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. highlighted the increasing relevance of the Council of Europe's instruments to European Union enlargement in as much as they are consistent with enlargement priorities and provide the European Union with valuable support to enhance preparedness of candidate countries and potential candidates for European Union accession in matters related to the rule of law, democracy and human rights; and based on the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding, reaffirmed the key benchmarking role of the Council of Europe in standard-setting in these areas;
9. acknowledged that the strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union is consistently encompassed by co-operation within the framework of the European Union - Council of Europe Joint Programmes in 2026, which continue strengthening human rights, democracy and rule of law in Europe (Enlargement and the Eastern neighbourhood) and its neighbouring regions (South Mediterranean, Central Asia) and in particular in the reconstruction process for Ukraine.

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

10. Date and place of the next Session

Decisions

The Committee of Ministers agreed that

1. the 136th Session of the Committee of Ministers will be held in Montenegro on 12 May 2027;
2. the handover of the presidency from Monaco to Montenegro will take place on 10 November 2026;
3. the minutes of the Session which appear in document CM/PV(2026)135-prov will be declassified.