

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.