

## 135<sup>th</sup> 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.