

HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEMOCRACY
AND THE RULE OF LAW

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

DROITS DE L'HOMME,
DÉMOCRATIE
ET ÉTAT DE DROIT

ICCO Virtual
European Meeting

Presentation
4 June 2020

Cooperation with Companies

Council of Europe priorities during and after the pandemic

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Council of Europe promotes human rights with the International Communications Consultancy Organisation (ICCO)

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Digital Partnership



Exchange of letters

- **The purpose of this collaboration** is to promote a shared commitment and cooperation between the parties in order to strengthen dialogue between them and **to explore ways to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Internet users** in accordance with Council of Europe Conventions and standards.
- **The parties agree** to share information, exchange views and best practices, develop co-operation and, where appropriate, partnerships in various fields.
- **A liaison person** will be designated by each party to act as the first point of contact and co-ordinate support and collaboration.

Objective Combine Council of Europe's expertise in HR-based policies and partners' expertise in digital technologies

Opportunities for companies



- Boost public confidence
- Access to the network of the Council of Europe's 47 member states and 6 observer states and civil society organisations
- Better understand government and societal expectations
- Influence the development of Council of Europe policies for the internet
- Devise and implement corporate social responsibility initiatives more effectively.

Membership

21 technology firms and associations



Council of Europe partnership with digital companies: five new partners joined on 6th of February 2020. ICCO was represented by Rob Morbin, Deputy Chief Executive.

Areas of common interest



Internet governance

Cybercrime

Freedom of expression

Data protection

Children's rights

Gender equality

Combating terrorism

Digital citizenship education

World Forum for Democracy

E-voting

Counterfeiting medical products and similar crimes

Efficiency of Justice

Bioethics

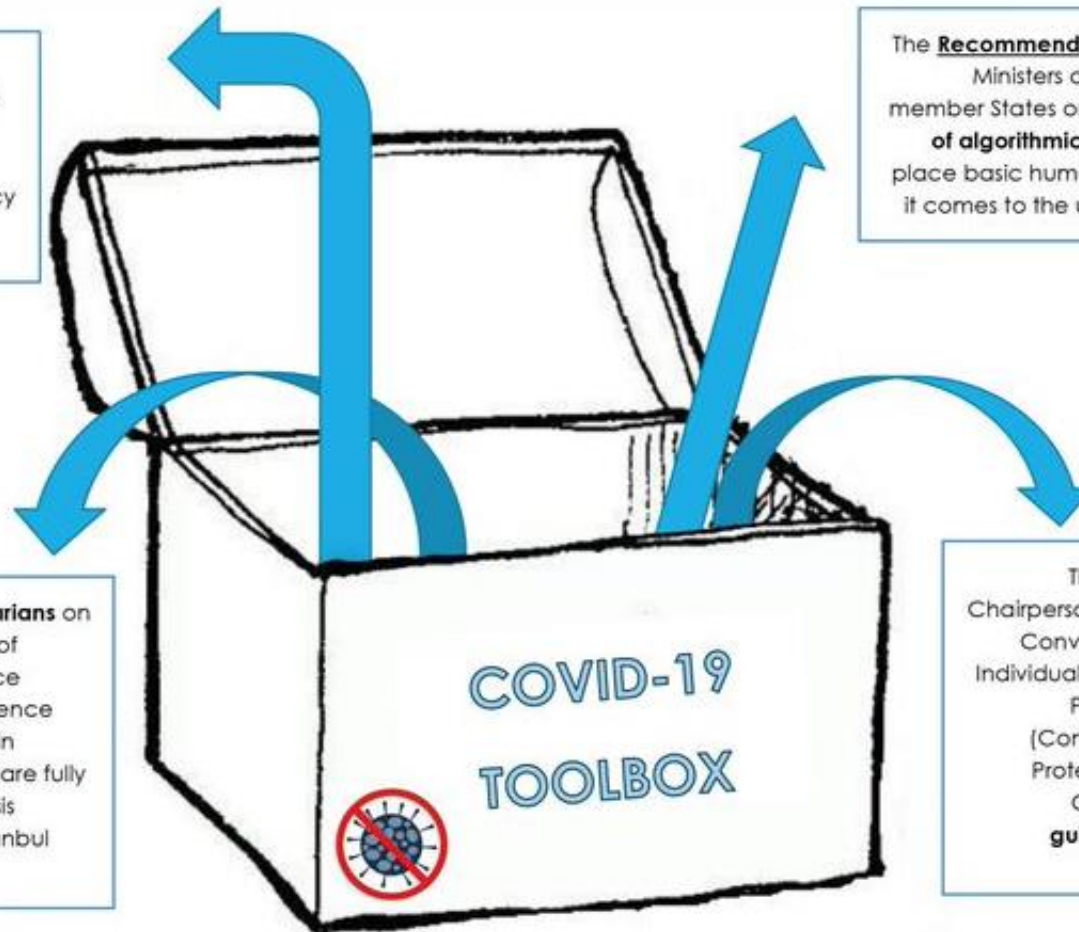
Culture and Cultural Heritage

Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination

AN OPEN-ENDED COUNCIL OF EUROPE TOOLBOX TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES POSED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The **information document** of the **Secretary General of the Council of Europe** provides guidance and advice to member States on respecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law during the COVID-19 crisis.

The new **Handbook for parliamentarians** on the Council of Europe Convention of Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (**Istanbul Convention**) can assist us in securing that women and children are fully protected during the COVID-19 crisis according the standards of the Istanbul Convention.



The **Recommendation** of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member States on the **human rights impact of algorithmic systems** will help us put in place basic human rights safeguards when it comes to the use of algorithmic systems.

The **Joint Declaration** by the Chairperson of the Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108) and the Data Protection Commissioner of the Council of Europe, contains **guidance on track-and-trace applications**.



“The virus is destroying many lives and much else of what is very dear to us. We should not let it destroy our core values and free societies,”

Council of Europe Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić

[Artificial Intelligence](#)

[Bioethics](#)

[Children](#)

[Cities & Regions](#)

[Civil participation](#)

[Contact tracing apps](#)

[Culture, heritage & art](#)

[Cybercrime](#)

[Data protection](#)

[Democracy](#)

[Democratic governance](#)

[Drugs](#)

[Education](#)

[Education](#)

[Elections](#)

[Human rights and the rule of law](#)

[Human trafficking](#)

[Intercultural Cities](#)

[Major hazards & disasters](#)

[Media](#)

[Non-discrimination, diversity & inclusion](#)

[Social rights](#)

[Support to the Audiovisual Sector](#)

[Terrorism](#)

[Women's rights](#)

[Youth](#)



Guidance to governments on respecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law

- **Derogation from the European Convention** on Human Rights in times of emergency
- **Respect for the rule of law** and democratic principles in times of emergency, including limits on the scope and duration of emergency measures
- **Fundamental human rights standards** including freedom of expression, privacy and data protection, protection of vulnerable groups from discrimination and the right to education
- **Protection from crime** and the protection of victims of crime, in particular regarding gender-based violence.



Article 15 – Derogation in time of emergency

In time of war or other public emergency threatening the life of the nation any High Contracting Party may take measures derogating from its obligations under this Convention to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with its other obligations under international law.

Notifications under Article 15 of the Convention in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic received from:

Albania	Armenia	Estonia
Georgia	Latvia	Romania
San Marino	North Macedonia	Republic of Moldova
Serbia		



Protection of Freedom of Expression

Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on protecting freedom of expression and information in times of crisis

COVID-19 and media freedom – guidance based on the Council of Europe standards

Statement on Freedom of expression and information in times of crisis by the Council of Europe's Committee of experts on media environment and reform (MSI-REF)

Statement by the Commissioner for Human Rights: Press freedom must not be undermined by measures to counter disinformation about COVID-19

Freedom of expression and information, media freedom, access to official information

- **The freedom of expression**, including free and timely flow of information, is a critical factor for the ability of the media to report on issues related to the pandemic.
- **The exceptional circumstances** may compel responsible journalists to refrain from disclosing government-held information intended for restricted use – such as, for example, information on future measures to implement a stricter isolation policy.
- **Any restriction on access to official information** must be exceptional and proportionate to the aim of protecting public health.
- **Any prior restrictions on certain topics**, closure of media outlets or outright blocking of access to on-line communication platforms call for the most careful scrutiny and are justified only in the most exceptional circumstances.
- The pandemic should not be used to silence whistle-blowers or political opponents.
- **Malicious spreading of disinformation** may be tackled with ex post sanctions, and with governmental information campaigns.

Thanks for your
attention !



further resources:

www.coe.int/freedomofexpression

www.coe.int/dataprotection

www.coe.int/cybercrime


www.coe.int/AI

Facebook Page

Information Society Group

 Albania - Albanie Tirana	 Estonia - Estonie Tallinn	 Lithuania - Lituanie Vilnius	 San Marino - Saint-Marin San Marino - Saint-Marin
 Andorra - Andorre Andorre-la-Vieille Andorre-la-Vieille	 Finland - Finlande Helsinki	 Luxembourg Luxembourg	 Serbia - Serbie Belgrade
 Armenia - Arménie Yerevan - Erevan	 France Paris	 Malta - Malte Valletta - La Vallette	 Slovakia - Slovaquie Bratislava
 Austria - Autriche Vienne - Vienne	 Georgia - Géorgie Tbilisi - Tbilissi	 Republic of Moldova - République de Moldova Chişinău	 Slovenia - Slovénie Ljubljana
 Azerbaijan - Azerbaïdjan Baku - Bakou	 Germany - Allemagne Berlin	 Monaco Monaco	 Spain - Espagne Madrid
 Belgium - Belgique Brussels - Bruxelles	 Greece - Grèce Athens - Athènes	 Montenegro - Monténégro Podgorica	 Sweden - Suède Stockholm
 Bosnia and Herzegovina Bosnie-Herzégovine Sarajevo	 Hungary - Hongrie Budapest	 Netherlands - Pays-Bas Amsterdam	 Switzerland - Suisse Bern - Berne
 Bulgaria - Bulgarie Sofia	 Iceland - Islande Reykjavik	 Norway - Norvège Oslo	 "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" "L'Ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine" Skopje
 Croatia - Croatie Zagreb	 Ireland - Irlande Dublin	 Poland - Pologne Warsaw - Varsovie	 Turkey - Turquie Ankara
 Cyprus - Chypre Nicosia - Nicosie	 Italy - Italie Rome	 Portugal - Portugal Lisbon - Lisbonne	 Ukraine - Ukraine Kyiv - Kiev
 Czech Republic - République tchèque Prague	 Latvia - Lettonie Riga	 Romania - Roumanie Bucharest - Bucarest	 United Kingdom - Royaume-Uni London - Londres
 Denmark - Danemark Copenhagen - Copenhague	 Liechtenstein Vaduz	 Russian Federation - Fédération de Russie Moscow - Moscou	



 non-member state of the Council of Europe (Belarus)