

PROGRAMME

2026 MEDICRIME CONFERENCE

Republic of Moldova's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of
the Council of Europe



Committee of the Parties to the
MEDICRIME Convention



*Medicines and
Medical Devices Agency*



PRESIDENCY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
NOVEMBER 2025 - MAY 2026
PRÉSIDENCE DE LA
RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
NOVEMBRE 2025 - MAI 2026

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ORGANISATION

Venue		Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel Chişinău, Republic of Moldova
Hours		9:00a.m.–5:00 pm. Eastern European Summer Time (EEST)
Coffee break		10:40 a.m. and 15:00 p.m.
Lunch		12:30 a.m.
Interpretation		Simultaneous interpretation for all sessions (English, French and Romanian)
Group photo		09:30 a.m.
Social event		17:00 p.m.

PROGRAMME

8h30 – 9h00

Accreditation

9h00 – 9h30

OPENING SESSION

Mr Rafael BENITEZ, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, Council of Europe

Mr Emil CEBAN, Minister of Health of the Republic of Moldova

Mr Dumitru VLEJU, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Moldova

Ms Iuliana ALBU, Director, Medicines and Medical Devices Agency, Republic of Moldova

9h30 – 9h45

Group photo

9h45 – 10h45

Session 1 - MEDICAL PRODUCT-RELATED CRIME IN THE REGION: CHALLENGES TOWARDS SOLUTION

Moderated by Ms Lynda SCAMMELL, Head of Borderline Products, Healthcare Quality and Access, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), United Kingdom

This session will focus on the provisions of the Convention and how they can help tackle the specific challenges in criminal-law, law-enforcement, victim protection and cooperation at both national and international levels. It will also address medical product-related crime in the region as well as emerging threats.

- **Mr Yassen TOKUSCHIEV**, Attorney at Law, Bulgaria
- **Ms Sofia MANZANO RUIZ**, Police Inspector, Spanish National Police 
- **Ms Lucy HAMBLOCH**, Associate Director, Anti-Falsified Medicines for Europe & Middle East, Novartis 
- **Mr Vadim TIRON**, Commissioner, International Police Cooperation Directorate, General Police Inspectorate, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Republic of Moldova
- **Ms Verica TRBIC**, Vice-Chair, MEDICRIME Committee, Expert adviser, Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina NCB INTERPOL
- **Mr Niall MCCARTHY**, Regional Director EMEA, Pharmaceutical Security Institute (PSI)

10h45 – 11h15

Coffee break

11h15 – 12h30

Session 2 - MEDICRIME COMMITTEE HELPING THE PARTIES

Moderated by Mr Mkrtich SHAKARYAN, Head, Inspection Department, The Scientific Centre of Drug and Medical, Technology Expertise, Ministry of Health, Armenia

This session will explore the ways in which the work of the Committee of the Parties can assist in criminalising behaviours, facilitate the review of capabilities and readiness and evaluate the results achieved. It will also address the resolution of differences in the meaning of terms, including Guidance Notes as well as aspects related to information exchange and cooperation with a particular focus on what the monitoring rounds entail for the Parties.

- **Ms Annaïck LE GOFF**, First Vice-President for Investigation, Ministry of Justice, France
- **Mr Iván Ákos BUJDOS**, Senior legal Advisor, Deputy Secretariat of State for Criminal Law Legislation, Ministry of Justice, Hungary 
- **Mr Younes ESCAYD**, Head of Unit for Crimes Regulated by Specific Legal Provisions, Public Prosecution, Morocco
- **Mr Hugo BONAR**, Independent expert, Ireland 
- **Ms Judith Selma VONEY**, Attorney at law, Head Penal Division, SWISSMEDIC, Switzerland
- **Mr Marcel DOUA**, Magistrate, Ivory Coast
- **Mr Asier URRUELA MORA**, Professor of Criminal Law, University of Zaragoza, Spain

12h30 – 13h30

Lunch break

13h30 – 14h30

Session 3 - MEDICRIME AND BEYOND

Moderated by Mr Mark JACKSON, Independent expert, United Kingdom

This session will consist of a presentation and panel discussion on the interactions between other areas and the focus of the MEDICRIME Convention, namely the falsification of medical products and related crimes. It will highlight the relevance of the MEDICRIME Convention beyond the traditional supply of medicines to the health sector. The session may include a short presentation on medicinal products abused in both sports and addiction to demonstrate the input and added value of the MEDICRIME Convention.

- **Mr Andrés GARCIA CAMPOS**, Senior Programme Manager, World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)
- **Mr Alexandr MANCIU**, Deputy Director for Sanitary and Veterinary Affairs, National Food Safety Agency, Republic of Moldova
- **Mr Athanasios THEOCHARIS**, National Coordinator for Addiction Treatment, Ministry of Health, Permanent Correspondent of the Pompidou Group, Greece
- **Mr Michał RYNKOWSKI**, Chair of the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO), Poland

14h30 – 15h00

Coffee break

15h00 – 16h00

Session 4 - MEDICRIME CONVENTION: MOVING FORWARD

Moderated by Mr Oscar Alarcón-Jiménez, Executive Secretary of the MEDICRIME Committee

This session will highlight the added value of the MEDICRIME Convention, not as a competing instrument but as an alliance that helps achieve and support the respective mandates of other international organisations. It will also address strategies to encourage new country accessions. In addition, the session will offer an opportunity for a few heads of national delegations to express and explain their support for the Convention as well as for future activities and developments aimed at strengthening the response.

- **Mr Matus FEREC**H, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, DG SANTE, European Commission 
- **Ms Paule ONOVIET**, Customs Attaché, Embassy of Gabon in Brussels, AIDF
- **Mr Hugo BONAR**, Independent expert, Ireland 
- **Mr Moussa THOMBIANO**, Criminal Intelligence Officer, INTERPOL 
- **Mr Asier URRUELA MORA**, Professor of Criminal Law, University of Zaragoza, Spain
- **Mr Kai MJAANES**, General Manager, European Medicines Verification Organisation (EMVO) 
- **Mr Thiago MORELLO PERES**, Policy Control and Anti-Fraud Unit, World Customs Organization (WCO)

16h00 – 16h15

Session 5 – CLOSING SESSIONS

The recap session will present the main outcomes of the conference, highlighting opportunities for the Council of Europe to further strengthen its contribution by leveraging its comparative advantages in combating pharmaceutical crime and protecting public health. It will focus on the added value of the Convention as a unique legal instrument for protecting patients' rights through criminal law. It will also explore avenues for building strategic partnerships, fostering cross-sectoral synergies and encouraging the accession and effective implementation of the MEDICRIME Convention and the importance of enhancing public awareness to prevent the risks associated with falsified medical products.

- **Mr Christian TOURNIÉ**, Chair of the MEDICRIME Committee, rapporteur
- **Ms Iuliana ALBU**, Director, Medicines and Medical Devices Agency

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