

Strasbourg, 20 October 2023

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## CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN PROSECUTORS (CCPE)

### 18<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting

19 - 20 October 2023  
Room G03, Agora Building

Strasbourg

### ABRIDGED MEETING REPORT

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#### A. FOREWORD

1. The Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) held its 18<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting on 19-20 October 2023. It was chaired by Ms Jana ZEZULOVA (Czech Republic), President of the CCPE. The agenda is appended to the present report.

#### B. ITEMS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS FOR DECISION

2. The CCPE **invited** the Committee of Ministers:
  - a. to take note of Opinion No. 18 (2023) on the Councils of Prosecutors as key bodies of prosecutorial self-governance, which will be forwarded to the competent authorities in the member States while encouraging its translation into appropriate languages if need be, and to the relevant bodies of the Council of Europe, in order that they may take account of it in their work;
  - b. to take note of this report as a whole.

## C. LIST OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CCPE

The CCPE

3. **adopted** Opinion No. 18 (2023) on the Councils of Prosecutors as key bodies of prosecutorial self-governance, subject to possible editorial amendments by its Bureau, which was entrusted with making any such amendments, if needed, and also ensuring consistency between the English and French versions;
4. **decided** to submit it to the Committee of Ministers to take note of it and to invite member States to ensure its dissemination as widely as possible among decision-makers and professionals of justice, including its translation where needed;
5. **adopted** the thematic study on the digitalisation in the work of the prosecution services and international co-operation, subject to possible editorial amendments by the Secretariat, which was entrusted with making any such amendments, if needed, and also ensuring consistency between the English and French versions;
6. **adopted** the Overview of the Councils of Prosecutors and other bodies dealing with prosecutorial self-governance in member States of the Council of Europe in the form of thematic study, subject to possible editorial amendments by the Secretariat, which was entrusted with making any such amendments, if needed, and also ensuring consistency between the English and French versions;
7. **took note** of the information provided by Ms Jana ZEZULOVA (Czech Republic), President of the CCPE, on the CCPE proposal for the attention of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) on the need to update Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers CM/Rec(2000)19 on the role of public prosecution in the criminal justice system, and of the information provided by the Secretariat in this respect;
8. **welcomed** the 2023 Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Europe where the CCPE work and in particular the CCPE Opinion No. 17 (2022) on the role of prosecutors in the protection of the environment were stressed;
9. **took note** that this Report mentioned a general tendency towards increased prosecutorial independence, with several member States undertaking important reforms in this area and as regards the transparency of the relationship of prosecution services with the executive, as it was confirmed at the European Conference of Prosecutors (Palermo, 5-6 May 2022) organised within the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;
10. **reiterated** the importance of strengthening the prosecutorial systems in the context of the priority 6 of the Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe focusing on the independence, efficiency and resilience of the judicial systems of member States. The overall preservation and further promotion of relevant European standards related to the rule of law are at the core of the CCPE mandate;

11. **took note** in this respect of the CCPE Terms of Reference for 2024-2027, scheduled for adoption by the Committee of Ministers before the end of 2023, and that they stress the continued role of the CCPE in developing and promoting key standards for prosecutorial independence and impartiality;
12. **noted** that the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe with the Heads of Monitoring and Advisory Bodies, held in Strasbourg on 17 January 2023, highly encouraged a regular dialogue and exchange of views among monitoring and advisory bodies on their contribution to the future work of the Organisation, as well as on other topics of common concern and relevance for their operation;
13. **welcomed** in this regard the presentation made during the present plenary meeting by Justice Francesco Depasquale, President of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), and his proposals for further co-operation between the CEPEJ and the CCPE, and **underlined** the readiness of the CCPE to proceed in this direction;
14. **welcomed** the information provided by the CCPE President, as well as by the CCPE members, about their efforts to disseminate the CCPE Opinions and standards and promote their implementation at international and national levels, **took note** in particular of the participation and contributions by the CCPE President in the 40<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the CEPEJ on 15-16 June 2023 and in the 82<sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting of the CDPC on 29 November 2022;
15. **welcomed** also the continued close co-operation between the CCPE and other bodies and institutions of the Council of Europe, and in particular with the Venice Commission; **noted** in this respect the continued use of the Venice Commission's standards in CCPE Opinions and other documents, and also the use by the Venice Commission of CCPE standards and recommendations; **noted** also the continued references to CCPE Opinions by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in its judgments;
16. **took note** of the information provided by the CCPE members as regards the progressive reforms undertaken in their respective prosecution and justice systems, as well as in the field of legislation on criminal law and criminal procedure, **welcomed** the increasing use of the CCPE standards in this process;
17. **recalled** also that it remains at the disposal of the Committee of Ministers and other bodies of the Council of Europe (particularly the Secretary General and the Parliamentary Assembly) and of the CCPE members and observers to prepare opinions and other texts concerning the specific situation of prosecutors in given member States;
18. **entrusted**, in this regard, the Bureau of the CCPE to prepare, adopt and publish such opinions and other texts concerning the specific situation of prosecutors in given member States;
19. **decided** to focus its 2024 Opinion on the administration of prosecution services in member States and its 2025 Opinion on the diversity and equity and moving towards inclusive prosecution services, which is in line with the key strategic priorities 1 and 6 of the Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe, and **instructed** its Bureau and the

Working Group of 2024 and 2025 to prepare draft Opinions on these topics for adoption at its 19<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in 2024 and 20<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in 2025;

20. **decided** to entrust the Bureau of the CCPE with the organisation of further thematic studies of the CCPE as need be;
21. **appointed** Milica ANDJELIĆ-MANDIĆ (Montenegro), Yeghiazar AVAGYAN (Armenia), Antonio MURA (Italy), Sava PETROV (Bulgaria), Peter POLT (Hungary), Horatiu Razvan RADU (Romania), José Manuel SANTOS PAIS (Portugal), Onur USTALI (Türkiye), Laura VAIK (Estonia) as members, and Isabelle DE TANDT (Belgium), Michael LEITNER (Austria) and Aivars OSTAPKO (Latvia) as substitute members of the Working Group responsible for preparing the 2024 draft Opinion to be submitted to the 19<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the CCPE;
22. **re-elected** Jana ZEŽULOVA (Czech Republic) as President, for a second term of one year (2024); Mikael JÄRETOFT (Sweden) as Vice-President for a second term of one year (2024); Robert WALLNER (Liechtenstein) as member of the CCPE Bureau for a second term of two years (2024-2025);
23. **designated** Gordana BOSILJCIC (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as Gender Equality Rapporteur for 2024;
24. **expressed** its satisfaction with the manner in which its activities were implemented in a timely manner in 2023, **took note** of the views expressed of the added value of organising meetings only in-person, **thanked** the Secretariat for its continuous hard efforts; **thanked** all members and observers for their constant and active involvement in the CCPE's work;
25. **decided** to hold its 19<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting on 28-29 October 2024;
26. **decided** to hold the 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Working Group on 15-16 February 2024 and 23-24 May 2024, respectively.