

Strasbourg, 29 October 2024

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN PROSECUTORS (CCPE)

19th plenary meeting

28-29 October 2024
Room G03, Agora Building

Strasbourg

ABRIDGED MEETING REPORT

A. FOREWORD

1. The Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) held its 19th plenary meeting on 28-29 October 2024. It was chaired by Ms Jana Zezulová (Czechia), President of the CCPE. The agenda is appended to the present report.
2. Mr Gianluca Esposito, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe, greeted the participants and made opening remarks underlining the continued relevance of the work of the CCPE, including in the broader context of the Council of Europe.

B. ITEMS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS FOR DECISION

3. The CCPE **invited** the Committee of Ministers:
 - a. to take note of Opinion No. 19 (2024) on managing prosecution services to ensure their independence and impartiality, 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

4. **adopted** Opinion No. 19 (2024) on managing prosecution services to ensure their independence and impartiality, 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;
5. **decided** to submit it to the Committee of Ministers for it 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;
6. **adopted** the thematic study on management practices of prosecution services in member states in connection with prosecutorial independence and impartiality, subject to possible editorial amendments and country specific additions 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 Zezulová (Czechia), President of the CCPE, on the CCPE activities in 2024 and her participation in various events contributing to higher awareness of the standards developed by the CCPE;
8. **welcomed** the 2024 Annual Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe entitled “Our Rights, Our Future” where the relevance of the CCPE’s work, in particular Opinion No. 17 (2022) on the role of prosecutors in the protection of the environment, Opinion No. 18 (2023) on Councils of Prosecutors as key bodies of prosecutorial self-governance, and the 2023 thematic study on digitalisation in the work of prosecution services and international co-operation, was stressed;
9. **took note** of the good progress in the drafting of a convention on protecting the environment through criminal law, which is being drawn up to provide a framework to address environmental crime and promote co-operation in the field, and **underlined** in this regard the relevance of its Opinion No. 17 (2022) drawing specific attention to the role of prosecutors in protecting the environment through criminal, administrative and civil law;
10. **took note** of the information provided by the Secretariat underlining the importance of the work of the CCPE in the global context of the Council of Europe, as reflected in the Secretary General’s above-mentioned Report, and the Reykjavík Principles for Democracy adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Reykjavík, Iceland, 16-17 May 2023), which stress the commitment of member states to ensuring the independence and impartiality of the judiciary;
11. **reiterated** the importance of strengthening the prosecutorial systems in the context of 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;

12. **welcomed** the information provided by the CCPE members about their efforts to disseminate the CCPE Opinions and standards and promote their implementation at international and national levels;
13. **welcomed** the continued close co-operation between the CCPE and other bodies and institutions of the Council of Europe, and in particular with the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) and the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);
14. **noted** in this respect the process of preparation by the CEPEJ of the Time Management Checklist for the public prosecution services in order to provide prosecutors with a management tool to help them take appropriate measures to prevent delays in criminal proceedings;
15. **welcomed** the continued use of the CEPEJ and Venice Commission's standards in the CCPE Opinions and other documents, and also the use by the CEPEJ and the Venice Commission of CCPE standards and recommendations; also **noted** 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 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 CCPE standards in this context;
17. **reiterated** that it also 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 any 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 any given member states;
19. **confirmed** its intention to proceed in 2025, as it was already decided during the CCPE plenary meeting in 2023, with the preparation of the Opinion No. 20 (2025) on diversity and equity in prosecution services - moving towards inclusive prosecution services, and **instructed** its Bureau and the Working Group of 2025 to prepare a draft Opinion on this topic for adoption at its 20th plenary meeting in 2025; further **decided** to focus its Opinion No. 21 (2026) on the use of artificial intelligence in the work of prosecution services;
20. **decided** to continue entrusting the Bureau of the CCPE with the organisation of the thematic studies of the CCPE, and organise in particular the preparation of the thematic study in 2025 on the use of artificial intelligence in the work of prosecution services, which is in line with the greater emphasis put within the Council of Europe on

issues related to the artificial intelligence, including the recently adopted Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, and which will serve as a groundwork for developing the relevant standards in Opinion No. 21 (2026);

21. **appointed** Yeghiazar Avagyan (Armenia), Despina Kyprianou (Cyprus), Zsuzsa Mendola and Dario Scaletta (Italy), Natia Merebashvili (Georgia), Aivars Ostapko (Latvia), Jacques Rayroud (Switzerland), Horatiu Razvan Radu (Romania), Jens Rommel (Germany), Laura Vaik (Estonia) as members, and Isabelle De Tandt (Belgium), Michael Leitner (Austria) as substitute members of the Working Group responsible for preparing the 2025 draft Opinion to be submitted to the 20th plenary meeting of the CCPE;
22. **elected** Antonio Vercher Noguera (Spain) as President for 2025; Raymond Briscoe (Ireland) as Vice-President for 2025; Onur Ustali (Türkiye) and Jana Zezulova (Czechia) as members of the CCPE Bureau for 2025-2026;
23. **designated** Jana Zezulova (Czechia) as Gender Equality Rapporteur for 2025;
24. **expressed** its satisfaction with the manner in which its activities were implemented in a timely manner in 2024, **took note** of the views expressed of the added value of organising meetings only in-person, **thanked** the Secretariat for its strong support; **thanked** all members and observers for their constant and active involvement in the CCPE's work;
25. **thanked** Jana Zezulova (Czechia) for her dedication, commitment and excellent work in the capacity of the CCPE President in 2023-2024;
26. **decided** to hold its 20th plenary meeting on 16-17 October 2025;
27. **decided** to hold the 36th and 37th meetings of the Working Group on 20-21 February 2025 and 22-23 May 2025, respectively.