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Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY)

T-CY 35

Report on the 35th Plenary of the Cybercrime Convention Committee

Strasbourg, 12 – 13 October 2026

35th Plenary Meeting of the T-CY

Strasbourg, France, 12 – 13 October 2026

1. Introduction

The 35th Plenary of the T-CY Committee, meeting in Strasbourg from 12 to 13 October 2026, was chaired by Pedro Verdelho (Portugal) and opened by Matthias Kloth (Head of Department of Digital Governance and Sport).

Some 261 representatives of 74 Parties and 12 Observer States as well as of 5 international organisation and 1 Council of Europe committee participated in person (217) or online (44) in this meeting.

2. Decisions

The T-CY decided:

Item 1 – Opening of the 35th Plenary and adoption of the agenda

- To adopt the agenda of the 35th Plenary of the Cybercrime Convention Committee.

Item 2 – Bureau elections

- To thank the outgoing Chair Pedro Verdelho (Portugal) and other Bureau members for their contribution to the work of the T-CY;
- To elect Judith Herrnfeld (Austria) as Chair and Anne-Marie LeBel (Canada) as Vice-chair of the T-CY;
- To elect as Bureau members:
 - Denisa Asko, Albania
 - Sêvi Rodolphe Adjaïgbe, Benin
 - Fernanda Teixeira Souza Domingos, Brazil
 - Tupou'tuah Baravilala, Fiji
 - Angela Attachie, Ghana
 - Louisa Becker, USA
 - Pedro Verdelho, Portugal (member de iure)

Item 3 – State of signatures, ratifications and accessions to the Convention on Cybercrime and its Protocols

- To note that 2026 marks the 25th anniversary of the Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185) and the continued interest by States worldwide in joining the Convention and its Protocols on xenophobia and racism (ETS No. 189) and on electronic evidence (CETS No. 224), as reflected in recent signatures, ratifications and accessions, demonstrating their continued relevance and global reach.
- To welcome the recent accession to the Convention on Cybercrime by Seychelles on 17 September 2026.
- To welcome the interventions by Seychelles and Kazakhstan and by the new T-CY observers, CARICOM IMPACS and the Regional Security System, as well as their commitment to combating cybercrime and contributing to the work of the T-CY.

- To encourage Parties to the Convention on Cybercrime to join the first Additional Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism (ETS 189).
- To encourage all Parties to the Convention on Cybercrime to sign, implement and ratify the Second Additional Protocol as soon as possible so that its tools become available to practitioners.
- To note that capacity building projects continue to be available to support the implementation of the Budapest Convention framework including the Second Additional Protocol.
- To welcome the information provided by the Dominican Republic on the ongoing domestic procedures towards the ratification of the Second Additional Protocol, which it expects to complete soon.
- To welcome the information provided by the Republic of Moldova on the approval of its domestic law on ratification of the Second Additional Protocol in August 2026 and its forthcoming deposit of the instrument of ratification.

Item 4 – Financial resourcing of the T-CY

- To recall that the T-CY relies on voluntary contributions to support its activities, including its plenary meetings and other activities under the T-CY workplan, as the Ordinary Budget of the Council of Europe alone is not sufficient for this purpose.
- To note that the current financing of the Octopus Project, which supports the functioning and activities of the T-CY will run out by early 2027.
- To underline the importance of adequate, sustainable and predictable funding for the functioning of the T-CY and the implementation of the Convention on Cybercrime and its Protocols.
- To thank Japan and Monaco for recent voluntary contributions to the Octopus Project.
- To strongly encourage Parties and observers to the T-CY to provide voluntary contributions to the Octopus Project in line with the decision taken by the T-CY in 2013 and as foreseen in Article 12.1 of the T-CY Rules of Procedure to permit the functioning of the T-CY.
- To note that, in the absence of additional funding the T-CY Plenary will meet only once in person in 2027.
- To request Parties to respond in writing to the letter issued by the Chair of the T-CY and the Executive Secretary of the T-CY in June 2026 at the earliest convenience and at the latest by 1 December 2026

Item 5 – 25th anniversary of the Budapest Convention: responding to current and emerging challenges

- To mark the 25th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention on Cybercrime and to reaffirm the continued relevance of the Budapest Convention framework in addressing cybercrime and electronic evidence.
- To welcome the information provided by Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Malawi, Moldova, Montenegro, Paraguay, Peru, Seychelles, Spain, Tonga, Ukraine and the United States.

- To underline the importance of ensuring that the Budapest Convention framework continues to respond effectively to current and emerging legal, policy and technological challenges.
- To encourage Parties to share technical knowledge and useful resources with the Secretariat for onward dissemination.
- To recognise the value of guidance notes, mapping studies, assessment reports, model templates and exchanges of practical experience in helping Parties implement and apply the Convention and its Protocols.
- To encourage continued capacity building and the sharing of practical tools and expertise, including through the 24/7 Network, to support timely cooperation on cybercrime and electronic evidence.

Item 6 – T-CY Working Group on Artificial Intelligence

- To thank the Chair and members of the Working Group, the T-CY Secretariat, C-PROC and other contributors for their work in preparing the study.
- To adopt the mapping study on cybercrime, electronic evidence and artificial intelligence, document T-CY(2025)1.

Item 7 – Fifth round of T-CY assessments

- To underline that Article 15 is a core provision of the Convention, requiring the establishment, implementation and application of its powers and procedures to be subject to conditions and safeguards under domestic law that protect human rights and liberties, including rights arising under applicable international human rights instruments.
- To decide that the fifth round of T-CY assessments will focus on Article 15 of the Convention on Cybercrime on “conditions and safeguards”.
- To note that an assessment of the implementation of Article 15 would provide an opportunity for Parties to exchange information and experience on the conditions and safeguards applicable to powers and procedures under the Convention.
- To invite the Bureau to prepare a draft questionnaire between November 2026 and May 2027, with a view to its consideration and adoption by the T-CY at its 36th Plenary in June 2027.

Item 8 –Accession procedure under Article 37 of the Budapest Convention

- To adopt the paper on the role of the Cybercrime Convention Committee in relation to the accession procedure under Article 37 of the Convention on Cybercrime, including the structured procedure set out therein (document T-CY(2026)12), and, following consideration of the document by the Committee of Ministers, to apply that procedure to each request by a State for an invitation to accede to the Convention pursuant to Article 37.
- To request the T-CY Secretariat to submit document T-CY(2026)12 to the Committee of Ministers through its Rapporteur Group on Legal Co-operation (GR-J) for consideration.
- To request the Secretariat, subject to the outcome of the Committee of Ministers’ consideration of document T-CY(2026)12, to prepare amendments to the T-CY Rules of Procedure and submit them to the T-CY for consideration and adoption by written procedure.

- To invite the Bureau to prepare a draft model accession questionnaire for consideration and adoption at the 36th Plenary in June 2027.

Item 9 – Fourth round of T-CY assessments

- To take note of the update provided by the Bureau on the follow-up given by Parties to the recommendations of the Article 19 Assessment Report.
- To thank Parties that submitted replies to the questionnaire on follow-up to the Article 19 Assessment Report.
- To encourage Parties that have not yet done so to provide comprehensive replies and to continue reporting on measures taken to implement the recommendations, as soon as possible and at the latest by 30 November 2026.
- To invite the Bureau and T-CY Secretariat to prepare a draft follow-up report and share it with Parties by early May 2027 for comments and for consideration in view of adoption by the 36th Plenary of the T-CY in June 2027.

Item 10 – UN Treaty process

- To welcome the exchange of views among Parties on developments in the work of the UN Ad Hoc Committee, and on promoting consistency between the UN Convention against Cybercrime and the Budapest Convention.
- To take note of the updates provided by the T-CY Secretariat on its joint work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- To underline the importance of consistent implementation of relevant international instruments, including with regard to conditions and safeguards, human rights, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms.
- To encourage Parties and observers to continue exploring complementarity between the Budapest Convention framework and the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime.
- To recognise the role of intergovernmental organisations and other stakeholders in the future work related to the UN treaty.

Item 11 – Operationalisation of the Second Protocol on enhanced co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence

- To welcome the progress made by Parties towards signing and ratifying the Second Additional Protocol, and towards its implementation and operationalisation.
- To encourage Parties to continue their efforts to sign, ratify and implement the Second Additional Protocol, so that its tools become available to practitioners, and to welcome C-PROC's capacity-building activities in support of those efforts.
- To take note of the information provided by the T-CY Secretariat regarding a new Octopus+ project proposal on the verification of orders, requests and data exchange.
- To welcome the guidance documents for completing the templates for requests and orders under Articles 6 to 9 of the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, developed, together with the templates, under the CyberSPEX joint project of the Council of Europe and the European Union.

- To thank the CyberSPEX project for the materials it has developed, and to recognise their value for the future work of the T-CY and Parties in implementing the Second Additional Protocol.

Item 12 – Cyber scam centres

- To note the links identified by Parties between cyber scam centres and organised crime, trafficking in human beings, money laundering, virtual assets and cross-border electronic evidence.
- To establish a T-CY Working Group on cyber scam centres, in accordance with Article 1.1.j of the T-CY Rules of Procedure.
- To request the Working Group to identify relevant authorities, sectors, international organisations and private-sector actors, and to examine how co-operation with them could support Parties in preventing, investigating and prosecuting crime linked to cyber scam centres, including through exchanges of experience, guidance and capacity building at T-CY and C-PROC levels.
- To request the Working Group to identify existing international and regional initiatives addressing cyber scam centres and to consider opportunities for co-operation where these would support its mandate.
- To invite the Working Group to present interim findings to the 36th Plenary.
- To invite Australia to chair the Working Group. Invite other interested Parties to submit the names of their experts for appointment to the T-CY Secretariat by email by the end of October 2026.
- To welcome written contributions and case studies from Parties and observers, including those not participating in the Working Group.
- To request the Secretariat to inform relevant Council of Europe bodies of the establishment of the Working Group.
- To provide that the Working Group may hold public hearings, invite experts and consult relevant stakeholders, including Council of Europe bodies, as appropriate.
- To provide that the Working Group's working meetings will be held online.

Item 13 – Capacity building

- To take note of the update provided on the activities of the Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe (C-PROC), in Romania.
- To acknowledge the contribution of C-PROC to supporting the implementation of the Convention on Cybercrime and its Protocols and to strengthening criminal justice capacities on cybercrime and electronic evidence.
- To welcome continued close co-operation between the T-CY and C-PROC in support of a strategic and coherent approach to capacity building.
- To encourage C-PROC to continue developing new capacity building initiatives and identifying new areas of support.

- To encourage Parties, observers and partners to continue supporting capacity-building activities worldwide.

Item 14 – Virtual assets and the relevance of the Convention on Cybercrime and its Second Protocol

- To welcome the proposals presented by the Bureau for possible follow-up action on virtual assets and virtual asset service providers.
- To recognise the continued relevance of the Convention on Cybercrime and its Second Additional Protocol in addressing criminal offences involving virtual assets and in facilitating co-operation with VASPs.
- To decide to pursue complementary follow-up activities, including the collection of practical examples and a thematic exchange with VASPs and capacity-building activities.
- To invite the T-CY Secretariat and C-PROC to develop and circulate a template for the collection of practical examples on the application of the Budapest Convention framework in VA/VASP-related cases, and to support the T-CY Bureau in analysing those examples in view of further work on this topic.
- To invite the Bureau to provide an update to the next T-CY Plenary.

Item 15 – Cyberviolence

- To take note of the update provided by the Secretariat on the development of the cyberviolence resource and an AI agent.
- To invite the T-CY Secretariat to continue updating the cyberviolence resource, developing an AI agent and report back to the next T-CY Plenary.
- To invite T-CY Members to test the AI agent in the forthcoming Octopus Conference.

Item 16 – Meetings with stakeholders

- To hold a thematic exchange on cyber scam centres with virtual asset service providers and AI service providers and other relevant stakeholders on 2 June 2027, prior to the 36th T-CY Plenary and invite the Secretariat and C-PROC to prepare the meeting.
- To thank the CyberSPEX project for its support in organising the three consultations with civil society, industry and service providers on the implementation of the Second Additional Protocol.

Item 17 – Any other business

Item 18 – Date of the 36th T-CY Plenary

- To take note of and reconfirm the dates of the 36th T-CY Plenary, to be held in Strasbourg on 3–4 June 2027, preceded by a meeting with stakeholders on 2 June 2027.