

CDDH(2026)R_EXTRA
Strasbourg, 15 January 2026

**STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
(CDDH)**

MEETING REPORT

Extraordinary meeting

Strasbourg, 13 – 15 January 2026

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SUMMARY

Information on the meeting

The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) held an extraordinary meeting in Strasbourg from 13 to 15 January 2026, with Tonje MEINICH (Norway) in the Chair.

The agenda of the meeting appears in appendix.

Items for information of the Committee of Ministers

- The CDDH began work to prepare elements for a political declaration reaffirming the obligation to ensure the effective enjoyment of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights (the Convention) to everyone within the jurisdiction of member States in the context of the contemporary challenges posed both by irregular migration and by the situation of foreigners convicted of serious offences, taking duly into account in particular governments' fundamental responsibility to ensure national security and public safety.
- It considered that its role was to provide a technical/ legal, fact-based foundation for the political work that would be undertaken subsequently by the Committee of Ministers. It recalled the tight deadlines involved, especially for the Committee of Ministers, and considered that it should seek to provide concrete elements that could be included in a draft declaration.
- It agreed on the factual situations that it would address, namely expulsion of foreign nationals convicted of serious criminal offences and extradition of foreign nationals, including issues under Articles 3 and 8 of the Convention; instrumentalisation of migration; mass arrivals of migrants by land and sea; innovative solutions to address migration; and decision-making in migration cases.
- It agreed on a common approach to be taken when discussing these issues and presenting the results of its discussions in the eventual outcome document.
- It agreed on dates for its next meeting and on methods to be used for further work in advance of the next meeting.
- It agreed on a policy for the publication of written comments and submissions.

MEETING REPORT

1. The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) held an extraordinary meeting in Strasbourg, from 13 to 15 January 2026, with Tonje MEINICH (Norway) in the Chair (see list of participants in Appendix II).

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. Gianluca ESPOSITO, Director General for Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI), welcomed the participants and recalled the background to the CDDH's work, notably the Informal Ministerial Conference that had been convened by the Secretary General on 10 December 2025, and the mandate that the CDDH had subsequently received from the Committee of Ministers.

3. The CDDH adopted the agenda of the meeting as it appears in Appendix I.

ITEM 2: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE MANDATE

4. The CDDH exchanged views on its mandate, as set out in the decision of the Ministers' Deputies on follow-up to the Informal Ministerial Conference.

5. The CDDH discussed the meaning to be given to the expression "elements for a political declaration". It considered that its role was to provide a technical/ legal, fact-based foundation for the political work that would be undertaken subsequently by the Committee of Ministers. Recalling the tight deadlines involved, especially for the Committee of Ministers, the CDDH considered that it should seek to provide concrete elements that could be included in a draft declaration.

ITEM 3: EXAMINATION OF A DRAFT STRUCTURE

6. The CDDH expressed appreciation for the approach taken in the document presented by the Secretariat (CDDH(2026)01), which included a possible "menu" of elements from which the Committee of Ministers could select. Whilst the elements need not be presented in the form of a draft declaration as such, they should be structured in such a way as to facilitate the work of the Committee of Ministers.

7. The CDDH considered that its outcome document should include an explanatory text on the issues addressed, along with concrete drafting proposals for elements where possible. These elements could be inspired where appropriate by previous relevant declarations and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (the Court).

8. The CDDH agreed that its discussions should follow a four-step approach: first, to identify the factual situations to be addressed; second, to describe the legal issues involved, with reference to the Convention and the Court's caselaw where relevant; third, to determine the collective position in response to those issues; and fourth, to consider specific language to express the collective position. It considered that its discussions on steps two and three could provide material for the explanatory document, with discussions under step four potentially producing draft elements for the political declaration.

ITEM 4: DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ELEMENTS FOR A POLITICAL DECLARATION

9. The CDDH exchanged views on the issues that should be addressed in the political declaration. Several members expressed appreciation for the possible elements set out in document CDDH(2026)01 as a basis for addressing more general issues. Several members referred to the Joint Statement delivered to the Informal Ministerial Conference on 10 December 2025, which had been supported by 27 member States.

10. The CDDH agreed that it would address the following issues: expulsion of foreign nationals convicted of serious criminal offences and extradition of foreign nationals, including issues under Articles 3 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (the Convention); instrumentalisation of migration; mass arrivals of migrants by land and sea; innovative solutions to address migration; and decision-making in migration cases. The CDDH underlined that its approach to these issues must be based on respect for the independence and integrity of the Court and the authority of the Court's judgments, avoiding any impression of giving instructions to the Court.

11. Following preliminary discussion of these issues, CDDH members were invited to contribute to informal drafting of a preliminary draft text on the issues of instrumentalisation of migration and innovative solutions to address migration. The CDDH as a whole then examined the resulting draft text and made proposals for further drafting.

ITEM 5: ORGANISATION OF FUTURE WORK

12. The CDDH decided to hold its second extraordinary meeting from 25 – 27 February 2026.

13. As to working methods, the CDDH decided that the Secretariat will distribute a preliminary draft text of the outcome document by 30 January. Members and participants are encouraged to submit any contributions to the preparation of this draft text to the Secretariat, on an informal, bilateral basis, at the earliest opportunity. The deadline for comments on this text is 13 February.

14. The CDDH will hold a third extraordinary meeting on 10 – 12 March 2026 so that the outcome document can be finalised for transmission to the Committee of Ministers in advance of the deadline of 22 March 2026.

15. Both the February and the March meetings will be held in hybrid format.

16. The CDDH discussed whether and how to publish written comments and submissions by States, given the interest in ensuring an appropriate environment in which to conduct negotiations on these sensitive issues. It agreed that this material would not be published on the CDDH website but instead be distributed to members, observers and participants by email only. This implies that such material should not be published on other websites or via other media.

ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS

17. None.

ITEM 7: ADOPTION OF THE MEETING REPORT

18. The CDDH adopted the report of the present meeting.

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Appendix I**Agenda**

1: OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	1 : OUVERTURE DE LA RÉUNION ET ADOPTION DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR
CDDH EXTRA(2026)OJ1	CDDH EXTRA(2026)OJ1
2: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE MANDATE	2 : ÉCHANGE DE VUES SUR LE MANDAT
<u>Conclusions</u> of the Informal Ministerial Conference (Strasbourg, 10 December 2025) <u>CM/Del/Dec(2025)1546/4.3</u> – decisions of the Ministers' Deputies on follow-up to the Informal Ministerial Conference (Strasbourg, 10 December 2025)	<u>Conclusions</u> de la Conférence ministérielle informelle (Strasbourg, 10 décembre 2025) <u>CM/Del/Dec(2025)1546/4.3</u> – décisions des Délégués des Ministres sur les suites à donner à la Conférence ministérielle informelle (Strasbourg, 10 décembre 2025)
3: EXAMINATION OF A DRAFT STRUCTURE	3 : EXAMEN D'UN PROJET DE STRUCTURE
<u>CDDH(2026)02</u> – Draft structure for the document containing elements for a political declaration	<u>CDDH(2026)02</u> – Projet de structure pour le document contenant des éléments d'une déclaration politique
4: DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ELEMENTS FOR A POLITICAL DECLARATION	4 : DISCUSSION DES ÉVENTUELS ÉLÉMENTS D'UNE DÉCLARATION POLITIQUE
<u>CDDH(2026)01</u> – Possible issues for inclusion in a political declaration CDDH(2026)03 – Comments received in advance of the first CDDH extraordinary meeting	<u>CDDH(2026)01</u> – Éventuelles questions à inclure dans une déclaration politique CDDH(2026)03 – Commentaires reçus avant la première réunion extraordinaire du CDDH
5: ORGANISATION OF FUTURE WORK	5 : ORGANISATION DES TRAVAUX FUTURS
6: OTHER BUSINESS	6 : QUESTIONS DIVERSES
7: ADOPTION OF THE MEETING REPORT	7 : ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE RÉUNION
CDDH(2026)R_EXTRA – (Draft) Meeting Report	CDDH(2026)R_EXTRA – (Projet de) Rapport de réunion

Appendix II**List of participants****MEMBERS / MEMBRES**

ALBANIA / ALBANIE	Brunilda KOÇO Deputy Permanent Representative of Albania to the Council of Europe Arlinda GJATA (online) State Advocate, Office for Legal Representation in Foreign Courts and International Arbitration Tribunals, State Advocates Office
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AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE	Brigitte OHMS (online) Deputy Government Agent, Division for European and International Law, Human Rights Protection Valerie TROFAIER-LESKOVAR (online)
AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAIDJAN	Ziya FATALIYEV Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe Elmin JAFAROV (online) Second Secretary, Department for Cooperation with International Human Rights Institutions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
BELGIUM / BELGIQUE	Philippe WERY (online) Chef du Service des droits de l'homme, SPF Justice, Service des Droits de l'Homme Isabelle NIEDLISPACHER (online) Agent to the European Court of Human Rights for the Government of Belgium
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE	Monika MIJIC (online) Acting Agent of the Council of Ministers, of Bosnia and Herzegovina before European Court of Human Rights
BULGARIA / BULGARIE	Atanas MLADENOV (online) Ambassador, Deputy to the Permanent Representative Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Council of Europe

CROATIA / CROATIE	Štefica STAŽNIK (online) Representative of the Republic of Croatia before the ECHR, Office of the Representative of the Republic of Croatia, before the European Court of Human Rights
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	Theodora CHRISTODOULIDOU (online) Senior Counsel, Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus
CZECHIA / TCHÉQUIE	Petr KONŮPKA Deputy Agent of the Government for the representation before the European Court of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, Kateřina RADOVÁ Deputy Head of Litigation Unit, Office of the Government Agent, Ministry of Justice Nikola BURDOVÁ (online) Legal advisor, Office of the Government Agent, Ministry of Justice
DENMARK / DANEMARK	Nicolaj A. HEJBERG PETERSEN Ambassador for Conventions Thomas V. LYTKEN LARSEN Head of Secretariat Camilla KJÆRGAARD Deputy Head of Division, Ministry for Immigration and Integration Representative from the Ministry for Justice Nathalie MIELCHE SPOTTAG Chief Advisor, Ministry of Justice
ESTONIA / ESTONIE	Tim KOLK Agent du gouvernement estonien auprès de la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme, ministère des Affaires étrangères
FINLAND / FINLANDE	Krista OINONEN Government Agent before the ECtHR, Director, Unit for Human Rights Courts and Conventions, Ministry for Foreign Affairs Katja FOKIN Senior Specialist, Legal Affairs Unit for Human Rights Courts and Conventions Legal Service, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
FRANCE	Milène BLANCHARD Sous-directrice des droits de l'Homme, Direction des affaires juridiques, ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères Christelle THOMAS Directrice adjointe, Direction des affaires juridiques, ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères
GEORGIA / GÉORGIE	Nodar KHUROSHVILI (online) Legal Adviser at the Department of State Representation in International Courts, Ministry of Justice Salome SALUKVADZE (online)
GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE	Nicola WENZEL LL.M., Head of Unit IV C 1 (Human Rights), Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights, Federal Ministry of Justice

	<p>Jule ANDERSEN Legal Officer, Unit IV C 1 (Human Rights), Federal Ministry of Justice</p> <p>Nicolas HARTMANN (online) Legal advisor, Unit MII1, Federal Ministry of the Interior</p>
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HUNGARY / HONGRIE	<p>Zoltan TALLODI Government Agent before the ECtHR, Ministry of Justice, Department of International Criminal Law and Office of the Agent before ECHR</p>
ICELAND / ISLANDE	<p>Ingunn MARKÚSDÓTTIR Lawyer, Ministry of Justice</p> <p>Ragna BJARNADÓTTIR Director General of the Department of International Affairs at the Ministry of Justice</p>
IRELAND / IRLANDE	<p>Darina FLYNN Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights, Assistant Legal Adviser, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p> <p>Róisín Elizabeth COWAN Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration</p>
ITALY / ITALIE	<p>Roberto MARTINI Ambassadeur Représentation permanente de l'Italie auprès du Conseil de l'Europe</p>
LATVIA / LETTONIE	<p>Elīna Luīze VĪTOLA (online) Government Agent of Latvia before International Human Rights Institutions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Jekaterina TULINA Permanent representation of Latvia to the Council of Europe</p>
LIECHTENSTEIN	<p>Domenik WANGER (online) Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Council of Europe</p> <p>Helen LOREZ-SCHWEIG Counsellor Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Council of Europe</p>

LITHUANIA / LITUANIE	Lina URBAITĖ Senior Advisor of the Legal Representation Group of the Ministry of Justice
LUXEMBOURG	Anne GOSSET Responsable du service droits humains – Ministère de la Justice Cindy COUTINHO
MALTA / MALTE	Christopher SOLER (online) State Advocate and Government Agent
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA	Doina MAIMESCU (online) Head of the Government Agent Department of the Ministry of Justice
MONACO	Raphaël SIMIAN (online) Adjoint au Directeur des Affaires juridiques, Agent du Gouvernement auprès de la CEDH
MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRO	Mirko ĐUKOVIĆ (online) Agent before the European Court of Human Rights
NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS	Babette KOOPMAN Government Agent before the ECtHR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NORTH MACEDONIA / MACÉDOINE DU NORD	Elena BODEVA (online) Head of Unit - Directorate for Multilateral Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NORWAY / NORVÈGE	Tonje MEINICH Deputy Director General, Legislation Department, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Chairperson of the CDDH and "46+1" Group Tonje RUUD Legal adviser, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Legislation department Karoline HALVORSEN GAMRE Ministry adviser, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Migration department Kathrine Lund BRINCH (online) Ministry adviser, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Migration department Helle FALKENBERG (online)
POLAND / POLOGNE	Paweł WIERDAK Agent of the Government of Poland before the ECtHR, Deputy Director, Legal and Treaty Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Katarzyna GAŁKA (online) Legal and Treaty Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Agata ROGALSKA-PIECHOTA (online) Co-Agent of the Government of Poland before the ECtHR, Head of Criminal Proceedings Division, Legal and Treaty Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PORTUGAL	<p>Helena LEITÃO Procureure générale adjointe, Agente du Gouvernement du Portugal auprès de la Cour</p> <p>Natália CAMPBELL Deputy PR and Legal Advisor</p>
ROMANIA / ROUMANIE	<p>Oana-Florentina EZER Government Agent for the ECHR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Adriana-Mihaela BĂRBIERU Co-agent before the European Court of Human Rights, Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p> <p>Elisabeta Maria DAVID (online) Director general for Human Rights and International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Florin TOMA (online) Ministry of Internal Affairs, Department for European Affairs and International Relations</p>
SAN MARINO / SAINT MARIN	<p>Ilaria SALICIONI (online) Ministre Plénipotentiaire, Département du ministère des Affaires Etrangères</p> <p>Filippo PANZAVOLTA (online)</p>
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SLOVAK REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE	<p>Miroslava BÁLINTOVÁ Government Agent before the ECHR, Ministry of Justice</p>
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HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIÈGE	Christine JEANGEY (online) Officiel, Chargée des Droits de l'Homme et du Droit Humanitaire, Dicastère pour le service du développement humain intégral
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EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION / CONFÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES SYNDICATS	Stefan CLAUWAERT (online) Senior Legal and Human Rights Advisor Klaus LÖRCHER (online) Former ETUC Legal and Human Rights advisor and also former representative of ETUC on the CDDH

SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT

Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law / Direction générale Droits humains et État de droit (DG I)	
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	Clare OVEY (online) Director / Directrice
	Daniele CANGEMI Head of the Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standard-settings activities Department / Chef du Service des activités normatives en matière de droits humains, justice et coopération juridique
Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation Division / Division de la coopération intergouvernementale en matière de droits humains	
	David MILNER Head of Division, Secretary of the CDDH / Chef de Division, Secrétaire du CDDH
	Elvana THACI Head of the Tromsø Convention Unit / Chef de l'Unité Convention de Tromsø
	Vera MANUELLO Administrator / Administratrice, Secretary of the Drafting Group on the eradication of impunity for serious human rights violations and of the Drafting Group on Save third Country Concept (CDDH-PTS) / Secrétaire du Groupe de rédaction sur l'élimination de l'impunité pour les violations graves des droits humains (CDDH-ELI) et du Groupe de rédaction sur la notion de pays tiers sûr (CDDH-PTS)

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INTERPRETERS / INTERPRÈTES

DEVICTOR Gregoire	TILDEN Luke	CHENETIER Chloé
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