

Strasbourg, 21 November 2025

T-THO (2025) LD3

Committee of the Parties Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (Santiago de Compostela Committee)

LIST OF DECISIONS 7th Plenary meeting

Strasbourg, 16-17 October 2025

Council of Europe
Agora building, room G04
Palais, Room 2

The Committee of the Parties (hereinafter, CoP) to the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (hereinafter, the Convention, the Santiago de Compostela Convention or THO Convention), meeting in Strasbourg, under the Chairmanship of Ms Pavla BUREŠOVÁ (Czechia), took the following decisions:

1. Opening of the meeting

- to **take note** of the introductory remarks by Mr Rafael BENITEZ, Head of the Directorate of Social Rights, Health and Environment, who welcomed the representatives of the 14 states Parties (out of 15), the signatory states and all other participants and observers. Mr BENITEZ informed the CoP of recent changes within the Secretariat and emphasised that discussions on establishing a new network under the Convention should build on existing mechanisms and good practices, notably those developed within NETTA. He briefed about the valuable outcomes of the 2025 Conference on the protection of health and echoed the [Secretary General's Statement](#) on the occasion of the European Day for Organ, Tissue and Cell Donation. He also underlined the importance of the work of the Santiago de Compostela Committee by highlighting two key tools: a practical [Q&A booklet](#) on the Convention and a commemorative [video](#) for its 10th anniversary.
- to **take note** of the introductory remarks by Ms Laurence LWOFF, Head of the Health Division, who highlighted the active role of the CDBIO regarding two core principles shared with the THO Convention: informed consent and the prohibition of profit. She reaffirmed the CDBIO's strong commitment to contributing to the fight against trafficking in human organs;

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

- to **adopt** the agenda without amendments (the list of participants and the agenda appear in Appendices I and II respectively);

3. Information by the Chair and the Secretariat

- to **take note** of the information provided by Dr. Oscar ALARCÓN-JIMÉNEZ, Executive Secretary to the CoP, on activities carried out since the last plenary meeting, in particular the international presentation of the Santiago de Compostela Convention in both the ELPAT Conference in Sevilla (Spain) and in a study visit of Egyptian prosecutors to the Council of Europe;
- following the request of the Bureau, to **note** that letters signed by the Chair were sent to the Chairs of CD-P-TO, GRETA and CDBIO, with a reply received only from the latter, and that Europol has expressed interest in joining the next plenary meeting;
- on the occasion of European Day for Organ, Tissue and Cell Donation, to **welcome** the [Secretary General' Statement](#);
- to **take note** of the update on the *Medlead case*, with a man part of this criminal network arrested in Russia on 5 October 2025

4. 2025 Conference on the Protection of Health

- to **take note** of the feedback from the Chair, Ms Pavla BUREŠOVÁ, on her participation in the Conference and her address to the Committee of Ministers, during which she both invited member states to join the Santiago de Compostela Convention and encouraged states Parties to promote it through informal channels;
- to **take note** of the [outcome paper](#) of this Conference;

5. Exchange of Information / Tour de table

- at the invitation of the Chair, to **hold** a *tour de table* during which states Parties provided updates on the enforcement of the Convention in their national legislation, measures to strengthen donor protection, ongoing cooperation between national actors in reporting cases and protecting victims, and activities promoting organ donation, as well as other relevant issues within the CoP's mandate. states Parties are invited to submit their written contributions to be reflected in Appendix III;
- to **hold** an exchange of views on the definition of what should be considered as "cases" and on the reporting of national cases, including distinctions between judicial and medical cases and between lawful and unlawful travels for transplantation;
- to **instruct** the Secretariat to prepare a guidance note clarifying reporting criteria (what should be reported or not) to be presented at a forthcoming plenary meeting;

6. Monitoring of the Santiago de Compostela Convention and future work

6.1 Country Profile Questionnaire

- to **take note** of the status of responses received from states Parties to the Country Profile Questionnaire (hereinafter, CPQ) from states Parties and from signatory countries. On the latter, the CoP members noted that only Poland submitted its answers to the Secretariat and thus states Parties were **invited** to liaise with other signatory countries to encourage their participation in submitting the CPQ;
- to **take note** of the information provided by the Chair regarding her contacts with the Slovak Republic. The CoP was informed that the Slovak Republic agreed to review the CPQ and provide responses to it without a fixed deadline;
- to **adopt** the summary report of the Country Profile Questionnaire (hereinafter, CPQ). The CoP members noted that this document is not a monitoring report and thanked both independent experts, Mr Hugo BONAR and Prof. Asier URRUELA MORA, for their valuable work;
- to **instruct** the Secretariat to prepare an executive summary of such report for publication on the website. CoP members were invited to provide unofficial translations into their national languages of the executive summary;

6.2 1st monitoring round report

- to **take note** of the state of play of the replies received to the 1st thematic monitoring round questionnaire (as of 24 September 2025) and the updated timeline;
- to **welcome** the presentation of the preliminary draft report outlining the theme, purpose and its structure. CoP members noted that 14 states Parties (out of 15) contributed to this report, which demonstrates strong engagement and timely submission, thereby enhancing the coherence of the process. The report is structured around seven key questions and focuses primarily on Article 21 of the Convention, extending beyond its criminal dimension to include aspects such as transparent national systems and information collection;
- to **instruct** the Secretariat to circulate the presentation to the states Parties;
- to **recall** that states Parties are **instructed** to submit their comments on the preliminary draft monitoring report by 15 February 2026;

6.3 2nd monitoring round

- to **hold** a discussion on the issue of the different possible themes for the second monitoring round. In this regard, the CoP took note of the contributions put forward by Norway, Czechia, Belgium and France;
- to **note** that the Bureau, at its September meeting, analysed the various proposals received for the 2nd monitoring round and agreed that the final theme should be considered and agreed upon during the 7th CoP Plenary meeting;
- to **consider** the Secretariat's proposal of a consolidated version including the proposals formulated by different states Parties (Albania, Czechia (2nd Theme proposal) and France (1st Theme proposal)) to facilitate the decision-making process of the CoP;
- after considering the different proposals, to **agree** on the following theme for the 2nd monitoring round: "*Reinforcing legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms against organ trafficking*";
- to **instruct** the Secretariat to draft a preliminary questionnaire to be discussed in the next Bureau meeting and then presented in the 8th plenary meeting for discussion;

- following the previous discussion, to **agree** to proceed by means of a “*flash survey*” on mandatory reporting instead of a monitoring round. Against this background, a draft survey was drafted, and the Secretariat was instructed to fine-tune it and circulate it to all States Parties, signatories and observers with a deadline for comments;

6.4 National Platform

- to **recall** that states Parties are invited and recommended to establish national platforms to ensure effective collaboration at the national level between all relevant actors and sectors;
- to **note** that Costa Rica has agreed to present its national platform at the 8th plenary meeting;

7. Exchange of information, experiences and good practices

7.1 The work of NETTA

- to **take note** of the presentation on NETTA’s latest activities and of the information provided on the data collected by the network;
- to **welcome** NETTA’s position paper on the online promotion of transnational transplantation;
- to **note** the importance of enhanced cooperation between the CoP and CD-P-TO. Against this background, the CoP members took note of the statement by Ms Petra DÖRR, Director of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (hereinafter, EDQM), in which she both highlighted the EDQM’s commitment to strengthened cooperation between CD-P-TO and NETTA with the CoP and endorsed the work of the CoP. Responding to a request from the Slovenian CoP member, Ms. DÖRR put forward a proposal to include a standing item on the CoP’s work in the CD-P-TO agenda with a view to keeping all members informed and fostering further accessions to the THO Convention;

7.2 Information from representatives participating in other bodies

- to **encourage** CoP members to inform the Secretariat of their participation in other bodies where they may represent the CoP;

7.3 Presentation of the United Kingdom’s efforts against organ trafficking

- to **take note** of the presentation by Ms. Jessica PORTER and Ms. Lisa BURNAPP on the United Kingdom’s new regulatory measures. The presentation highlighted the Human Tissue Act 2004 (Supply of Information about Transplants) Regulations 2024, which create a statutory duty for clinicians to report any reasonable suspicion of organ trafficking and transplants performed abroad to the Human Tissue Authority (hereinafter, HTA). The HTA then assesses these reports and refers cases to the police when appropriate;
- in light of the above, CoP members were informed that while most travel for transplantation is legitimate, these measures are crucial for detecting potential illicit activity. Together with a 2022 amendment that extended extraterritorial jurisdiction for organ trafficking offences, these regulations form part of a coordinated, multi-agency strategy to strengthen oversight, prevent illicit transplant activity and enhance donor protection;
- to **thank** both speakers for their availability and clear information provided to the CoP;

- to **instruct** the Secretariat to draft a *flash survey* to assess the possibility of establishing a similar statutory duty to report in other states Parties;

7.4 The work of the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group

- to **note** the presentation by Prof. Thomas MÜLLER on the activities of the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG). The presentation addressed the DICG's work in Kenya, including the media impact and national response to the *MedLead-MediHeal* scandal, and noted the ongoing accessibility of the *Medlead* websites in Europe.
- to **take note of the recent** United States legal developments, specifically the "End Kidney Deaths Act" proposal (August 2024) offering a USD 50,000 tax reduction for non-directed donors. In light of these events, the presentation demonstrated that the DICG has reaffirmed the necessity of financial neutrality in organ donation, warning against the risk of commercialisation. Consequently, the DICG plans to reopen discussions on donor incentives in an upcoming workshop;
- to **discuss** the Chair's proposal for a contribution on financial neutrality, potentially through a position paper or statement based on the work and standards of CDBIO, reaffirming this principle and noting that the US bill contradicts the THO Convention;
- to **instruct** the Secretariat to consider this issue further and the CoP Chair to liaise with other Chairs for a common position paper;

7.5 The work of INTERPOL

- to **take note** of the presentation by INTERPOL on their ongoing work in Africa, notably on prosecution and victim support. The presentation emphasised the importance of collaborating with the health sector, specifically by considering the lifting of medical confidentiality in cases of trafficking in human beings for organ removal (hereinafter, THBOR) to strengthen responses;
- to **note** several key issues, including trafficking of human bodies for rituals and cases of illicit organ removal in Egypt involving wealthy individuals travelling to developing countries. INTERPOL stressed the need to clearly distinguish between organ trade, organ trafficking and THBOR to ensure effective investigations;
- to **take note** that a memorandum of collaboration between WHO and INTERPOL is being finalised, based on three areas: information exchange, capacity building and establishing a network of focal points to enhance multi-sectoral co-operation;

8. Follow-up to the Hearing: “From Online offers to organ trafficking: The need for coordinated action”

- to **take note** of the information provided by the Secretariat and the [Statement](#) from the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the occasion of European Day for Organ, Tissue and Cell Donation (11 October);
- to **agree** to prepare a position paper of the CoP following this statement;

9. Discussion of the establishment of a Network against Trafficking in Human Organs within the Committee of the Parties

- to **hold a discussion** on the possible establishment of a new network, taking into account data-sharing challenges, GDPR requirements and potential overlaps with existing networks like NETTA;

- to **agree** that further clarity is needed on the type and purpose of data to be gathered and to **instruct** CoP members to submit proposals before the 8th plenary meeting on the scope of data collection;
- to **encourage** CoP members to liaise with their NETTA counterpart and **instruct** the Secretariat to send NETTA's terms of reference to all states Parties for information and discussion;
- to **take note** that Eurotransplant could serve as a hub for data collection and **agree** to discuss this further at the 8th plenary meeting;

10. Activities to promote the Santiago de Compostela Convention

10.1 Q&A booklet on the Santiago de Compostela Convention

- to **take note** of the finalised Q&A booklet and **encourage** states Parties to provide unofficial translations of this booklet into their national languages;

10.2 Videos 10th anniversary

- to **take note** of the compilation video prepared from the contributions received from states Parties to mark the 10th anniversary of the Santiago de Compostela Convention, now available on the [website of the CoP](#), and to **invite** CoP members to share it widely to further promote the visibility of the Convention;

10.3 International Day against organ trafficking

- to **encourage** states Parties to celebrate the International Day against Trafficking in Human Organs (25 March) as a joint effort, with coordinated or complementary initiatives rather than isolated national actions;
- to **consider** awareness-raising activities at national level;
- to **recall** the importance of marking this day and to **invite** states Parties to inform the Secretariat of any planned actions;

10.4 Education & Training about organ trafficking

- to **take note** of the proposal presented by Ms Danica AVSEC, Slovenian CoP member, on education and training initiatives to raise public awareness on organ trafficking, structured around different target groups;
- to **take note** of the Secretariat's clarification on the procedure for establishing a working group, which requires the preparation and CoP approval of terms of reference before its work can begin; This proposal will require further refinement ahead of the next Bureau meeting before deciding on the way forward;

10.5 Additional activities

- to **agree** on the preparation of a short document clarifying the distinction between trafficking in human organs and THBOR;

- to **instruct** the Secretariat to liaise with WHO and EDQM, reminding them to share any existing work on this topic known to them in order to avoid duplication or overlap;
- to **take note** of INTERPOL's expressed willingness to contribute to its drafting;

11. Decisions to be taken by the Committee of the Parties

11.1 Observer status to the Santiago de Compostela Committee

- to **take note** of the presentations made by Eurotransplant and the World Patients Alliance (WPA) on their activities and applications for observer status;
- after proceeding with the vote, to **grant** observer status to Eurotransplant and the WPA;

11.2 Gender Equality Rapporteur

- to **elect**, pending confirmation by her Minister, Ms Mirjana VLAHOVIĆ ANDRIJAŠEVIĆ, CoP member from Montenegro, as the new Gender Equality Rapporteur (hereinafter, GER);

11.3 Amendment proposal article 23.2 Rules of Procedure

- to **adopt** the amendment to Article 23.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the CoP;

12. Information Points

12.1 Events

- to **take note** that the Secretariat has been invited to present the convention at the World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law that will take place in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 24-26 November 2025;
- to **instruct** the Secretariat to liaise with the French permanent representation to ensure the presentation of the Santiago de Compostela Convention in future meetings of francophone ambassadors in Vienna;

12.2 Website information

- to **take note** of the latest updates to the website and its ongoing restructuring;
- to **remind** states Parties to submit relevant national legislation on trafficking in human organs and the Convention, as well as other publications (Q&A, FAQ, etc.) translated into their national language, for inclusion as unofficial translations;

12.3 Accession of new countries

- to **take note** that Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Netherlands have informed the Secretariat that they are in the process of ratifying the Convention and to **welcome** this development;

- to **take note** that the Secretariat has been in contact with Sweden, Estonia and Finland, thanks to contacts provided by the Norwegian member to the CoP, Ms Sigrid BEITLAND, and with the Netherlands, thanks to the Belgian member, Ms Claire HUBERTS;
- to **encourage** other states Parties to share relevant contacts with the Secretariat and promote the ratification of the Convention;

13. Any other business

14. Dates of the next meetings

- to **take note** that the 8th plenary meeting will take place in June 2026 (1st or 2nd week of June, dates TBC) and **instruct** the Secretariat to liaise with NETTA to avoid overlap of the meetings, noting their meeting is also planned for June.

*
* *
*

➤ Appendix I – List of Participants	See below
➤ Appendix II- Agenda of the meeting	Agenda
➤ Appendix III- Tour de table - Presentation of the Parties	See below

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 20 October 2025

T-THO (2025) LP1

Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention against
Trafficking in Human Organs /

Comité des Parties à la Convention du Conseil de l'Europe contre le
trafic d'organes humains

.....

**List of participants /
Liste des participants**

7th meeting of the Committee of Parties to the THO Convention /
7^{ème} réunion du Comité des Parties à la Convention TOH

Rooms G04 & 2, Strasbourg, France, 15 - 17 October 2025 /
Salles G04 & 2, Strasbourg, France, 15 - 17 octobre 2025

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms Mimoza QYRA, Head of anti-trafficking sector, Ministry of Interior (online, *en ligne*)

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Ms Claire HUBERTS, Juriste au sein du Service public fédéral Justice, Direction générale Législation, Libertés et Droits fondamentaux, Service des principes de droit pénal et de procédure pénale

Ms Régine WILMOTTE, Legal Officer in the Federal Public Service Public Health, Directorate-General for Health Care, Legal Service (Apologised, *Excusée*)

COSTA RICA / COSTA RICA

Dr. Roselyn SERRANO VARGAS, Technical Executive Secretary of Donation and Transplantation, Ministry of Health (Apologised, *Excusée*)

Mr. Javier ROJAS VIQUEZ, Ministre Conseiller, Ambassade du Costa Rica en France

CROATIA / CROATIE

Ms Marina PREMUŽIĆ, National Transplantation Coordinator, Ministry of Health

CZECHIA / TCHEQUIE

Chair/Présidente

Ms Pavla BUREŠOVÁ, Senior Ministerial Counsellor, Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic

FRANCE

Mr. Pierre LECHARTE, Magistrat, Direction des affaires criminelles et des grâces (Apologised, *Excusé*)

Ms. Mathilde BERTRAND, Magistrate, Direction des affaires criminelles et des grâces (online, *en ligne*)

Mr. Arnaud DE BLESSON, Rédacteur spécialisé à la Mission de lutte contre la Cybercriminalité, Direction des Affaires Criminelles et des Grâces (DACG)

LATVIA / LETTONIE

Ms Kristīna DOMBROVSKA, Lawyer of the Criminal Law department of the Ministry of Justice of Latvia

MALTA / MALTE

Mr Michael CAMILLERI, Director (Human Rights), Human Rights Directorate, Office of the Prime Minister (Apologised, *Excusé*)

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA

Dr Dorian VISTERNICEANU, Head of Informatics Systems and Logistics Dept.

MONTENEGRO / MONTENEGRO

Ms Mirjana VLAHOVIĆ ANDRIJAŠEVIĆ, State Secretary in the Ministry of Health of Montenegro

NORWAY / NORVEGE

Ms Sigrid BEITLAND, Senior Medical Advisor for the Specialised Health Care Services at the Norwegian Directorate of Health

PORTUGAL / PORTUGAL

Vice - Chair / Vice- Président

Mr Manuel AIRES MAGRIÇO, Public Prosecutor, Administrative Court of Lisbon (online, *en ligne*)

SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE

Ms Danica AVSEC, Deputy director of the Institute of Organ and Tissue Transplantation Slovenia-transplant

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Ms Escarlata GUTIÉRREZ MAYO, Prosecutor. Advisor to the General Directorate for Public Justice Service, Ministry of the Presidency, Justice, and Relations with the Courts

Ms Beatriz DOMÍNGUEZ-GIL, General Director of ONT (online, *en ligne*)

Ms Lola PEROJO, Head of Service of the Support Office of the General Directorate of the ONT (online, *en ligne*)

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

Ms Salome RYF, Deputy head of Unit / Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA / Federal Office of Public Health FOPH / Biomedicine Division / Transplantation Unit

1. **OBSERVERS TO THE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA CONVENTION/ OBSERVATEURS DE LA CONVENTION DE SAINT-JACQUES-DE-COMPOSTELLE**

Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group

Prof. Thomas MÜLLER, Co-Chair of the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG)

Europol

Mr. Nenad NACA, Team Leader AP Phoenix (Trafficking in Human Beings), Europol, European Serious & Organised Crime Centre (ESOCC), European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) (Apologised, *Excusé*)

Eurotransplant

Dr André MATERA, General Director

Interpol

Mr Patrice KOUASSI, Criminal Intelligence Officer, Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (HTSM) Unit

Ms Silvia DE ROSA, Project Assistant, Focal Point for Victim Protection and Assistance, Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (HTSM) Unit

World Health Organization

Mr Efstratios (Stratos) CHATZIXIROS, Advisor, Transplantation Human Organs-Tissues-Cells, Health Systems Division

World Medical Association

Dr. Jose Antonio LORENTE, M.D., Ph.D. (online, *en ligne*)

World Patients Alliance

Ms Penney COWAN, Secretary (online, *en ligne*)

2. SIGNATORIES/ SIGNATAIRES

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI:

Ms Sharmilie GNANACHELVAM, Policy and Corporate Support Officer, UK Delegation to the Council of Europe (Apologised, *Excusée*)

3. COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER STATES / ETATS MEMBRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

FINLAND / FINLANDE:

Ms Sonja SJÖMAN, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Justice of Finland (online, *en ligne*)

SWEDEN / SUEDE:

Ms Emilie GRIPEWALL, Programme Officer, National Board of Health and Welfare (online, *en ligne*)

4. EXPERTS / CONSULTANTS

Independent experts / Experts indépendants

Mr Hugo BONAR, Consultant

Dr. iur. Asier URRUELA MORA, Professor of Criminal Law, University of Zaragoza

5. HEARING / AUDITION

Speakers / Intervenants

Ms Lisa BURNAPP, Consultant Nurse, Associate Medical Director of Living Donation and Transplantation, NHS Blood and Transplant, United Kingdom (online, *en ligne*)

Ms Jessica PORTER, Head of the Human Tissue Authority of the United Kingdom (online, *en ligne*)

6. **COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARIAT / SecrÉTARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

DGI - HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW / DGI - DROITS HUMAINS ET ÉTAT DE DROIT

**Directorate of Social Rights, Health and Environment /
Direction des droits sociaux, de la santé et de l'environnement**

Mr. Rafael BENITEZ, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment / *Directeur des Droits Sociaux, Santé et Environnement*

Ms Laurence LWOFF, Head of Health Division / *Cheffe de la Division Santé*

Dr. iur. Óscar ALARCÓN-JIMÉNEZ, **Executive Secretary to the Committee of the Parties to the Trafficking in Human Organs Convention / Secrétaire Exécutif du Comité des Parties de la Convention contre le trafic d'organes humains**

Ms Rachel VAN DER BEEK, Junior Programme Manager / *Programme Manager Junior*

Ms Emma JEANNOEL, Administrative Assistant / *Assistante Administrative*

Ms Léa KREMER, Trainee / *Stagiaire*

**EUROPEAN DIRECTORATE FOR THE QUALITY OF MEDICINES AND HEALTHCARE (EDQM) /
DIRECTION EUROPEENNE DE LA QUALITE DU MEDICAMENT ET SOINS DE SANTE (DEQM)**

Dr. Petra DOERR, Director of the EDQM (online, *en ligne*)

Dr. Anna PSZENNY, Chair of the Network of National Focal Points on Travel for Transplantation (NETTA) (online, *en ligne*)

Mr Jaime MARCO, Scientific Programme Manager, Transplantation & Blood Transfusion Steering Committees

INTERPRETERS:

Ms Julia TANNER

Ms Christine GILL

Ms Corinne MAGALLON

APPENDIX III**TOUR DE TABLE - PRESENTATION OF THE PARTIES****1. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM THE PARTIES (Following the 7th CoP Plenary Meeting)**

	COUNTRY	TOUR DE TABLE PRESENTATION IN WRITTEN
1	ALBANIA	
2	BELGIUM	16 October 2025
3	COSTA RICA	
4	CROATIA	
5	CZECH REPUBLIC	10 November 2025
6	FRANCE	6 November 2025
7	LATVIA	
8	MALTA	Not present
9	MONTENEGRO	
10	NORWAY	21 October 2025
11	PORTUGAL	
12	REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	
13	SLOVENIA	
14	SPAIN	20 October 2025
15	SWITZERLAND	16 October 2025

ALBANIA/ ALBANIE	Contribution received on:

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE	Contribution received on 16/10/2025
<p>1. <u>Pas de cas détecté en Belgique.</u></p> <p>Il n'y a pas de cas détecté de trafic d'organes en Belgique, ou d'enquête ouverte.</p> <p>2. <u>Initiatives menées ou lancées en Belgique depuis le mois de juin 2025 :</u></p> <p>a) Le SPF Justice s'est attelé à la préparation d'un nouveau <u>Plan d'action de lutte contre la traite 2026-2030</u>. Il devrait être finalisé au début de 2026, après des discussions au niveau politique. Il comportera un chapitre sur le trafic d'organes avec des propositions d'actions.</p> <p>b) Au niveau de la <u>coordination</u></p> <p>Le 29 septembre s'est tenue la 3^e réunion du groupe de coordination Traite -Trafic d'organes (en comité plus restreint que prévu notamment en raison de la poursuite de la grève des magistrats). La Cellule de lutte contre le blanchiment et le Professeur Charles-Eric Clesse (Faculté de droit de l'ULB) – outre le professeur Kristof Van Assche de l'Université d'Anvers - y participent désormais aussi. La prochaine réunion a été fixée mi-mai, toujours en format hybride pour faciliter la participation des membres du groupe.</p> <p>c) <u>Questionnaire pour les praticiens</u> (en préparation)</p> <p>Un questionnaire anonyme et volontaire, destiné aux praticiens de la transplantation, est actuellement préparé par les Services publics fédéraux de la Justice et de la Santé, avec le concours de la BTS (Belgian transplantation Society) et du Professeur Van Assche. Il est prévu d'y placer une question sur la prise de connaissance des guidelines et des indicateurs diffusés fin mai. Il serait diffusé notamment par la BTS à ses membres. L'objectif est qu'il soit prêt début 2026.</p>	

COSTA RICA /COSTA RICA	Contribution received on:

CROATIA / CROATIE	Contribution received on:

CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE	Contribution received on 10/11/2025
<p>The Czech Republic would like to share recent developments in its efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in human organs, in line with its obligations under the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (CETS No. 216).</p> <p>While the amendment to the Criminal Code, adopted in 2025 and entering into force on 1 January 2026, does not directly modify the provisions related to organ trafficking, it reflects a broader shift in the Czech Republic's criminal justice policy. The reform emphasizes decarceration, proportionality, and modernization, with a focus on alternative sanctions, victim participation, and social reintegration. Although these changes do not alter the legal framework for organ Trafficking, still governed by Act No. 40/2009 Coll. (Criminal Code) and Act No. 285/2002 Coll. (Transplantation Act), they may influence the broader context in which criminal justice priorities and enforcement strategies are shaped.</p>	

The Czech Republic continues to report no confirmed cases of trafficking in human organs, as reiterated in the 2024 Report on the Status of Human Trafficking in the Czech Republic issued by the Ministry of the Interior, as well as in the annual report of the National Rapporteur, her deputy, and the team for combating human trafficking at the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office. Nevertheless, transplant tourism remains a concern, particularly in light of international reports on unethical practices abroad. Czech lawmakers have publicly warned against travel to countries where organ procurement may involve serious human rights violations, including forced organ harvesting.

In response to these challenges, the Czech Republic is currently exploring the establishment of a national coordination platform to address the risks of organ trafficking. This initiative is inspired by successful models in Spain and the Republic of Moldova, and aims to bring together stakeholders from the Ministries of Health, Justice, and Interior, as well as law enforcement authorities, medical professionals, and civil society organizations. The platform would serve to enhance intersectoral cooperation, data sharing, and the development of preventive and protective measures.

The Czech Republic operates under a presumed consent system for deceased organ donation, as established by Act No. 285/2002 Coll. Under this law, all deceased individuals are considered potential organ donors unless they have registered their objection in the National Register of Persons Disagreeing with Post-Mortem Donation. This system has significantly contributed to the availability of organs for transplantation while fully respecting individual autonomy.

Deceased organ donation remains the primary source of organs for transplantation in the Czech Republic, supported by the country's presumed consent system. Altruistic living donations, while encouraged and ethically regulated, represent a smaller but important share of total transplants, particularly for kidneys and livers.

In 2024, the Czech Republic achieved a record number of organ transplantations, with 952 procedures performed, the highest annual total since the first transplant in 1961. According to the Koordinační středisko transplantací (KST) and the International Registry on Organ Donation and Transplantation (IRODaT), the breakdown is as follows:

- 484 kidney transplants from deceased donors and 40 from living donors,
- 196 liver transplants, including 10 from living donors,
- 101 heart transplants,
- 72 lung transplants, and
- 40 pancreas transplants.

These achievements reflect the strength of the Czech transplant system and the dedication of healthcare professionals across the country. Notably, the number of patients on the transplant waiting list at the end of 2024 was the lowest since 2011, with 923 individuals registered, indicating improved access to transplantation services.

Despite these accomplishments, the Czech Republic remains firmly committed to the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs and to international cooperation in preventing and combating this crime. Organ trafficking remains a serious and heinous violation of human rights that knows no borders. It continues to be a matter of concern even in countries where confirmed cases are rare or absent.

Therefore, we look forward to continued collaboration with all Parties and stakeholders to uphold human rights and protect public health.

FRANCE

Contribution received on 06/11/2025

Le cadre juridique national relatif au trafic d'organes humains n'a pas fait l'objet d'évolution depuis la dernière réunion.

Nous n'avons pas eu connaissance de procédures judiciaires identifiées en matière de trafic d'organes.

S'agissant de la question des sites Internet faisant la promotion de la transplantation d'organes à l'étranger, et plus particulièrement des agissements de la société Medlead, l'Agence de la biomédecine a indiqué qu'après investigation, il s'était avéré que cette société n'avait pas d'activité en France et que son site français avait été fermé.

LATVIA / LETTONIE**Contribution received on:****MALTA / MALTE****Not present****MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRO****Contribution received on:****NORWAY/ NORVEGE****Contribution received on 21/10/2025****Better cooperation between the health, justice, and police authorities**

We have been working to improve cooperation between health, justice, and police authorities. This has been part of the work to complete the first monitoring round and the country profile.

Work to increase the number of legal organ donors

To prevent organ trafficking, we are actively working to increase the number of legal donors. A new initiative is to establish a national competence centre for organ donation.

Surveys related to organ trafficking

Belgium has proposed to conduct a survey related to organ trafficking. I would like to point out that this has been done before, for example at the Erasme Hospital in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

PORTUGAL**Contribution received on:****REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA****Contribution received on:****SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE****Contribution received on****SPAIN / ESPAGNE****Contribution received on 20/10/2025**

On the part of Spain, our main task in relation to the Santiago Convention is to advance the Protocol of Action to prevent and combat transplant tourism, organ trafficking, and human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal for transplantation.

We are developing this protocol within the national committee for the prevention and fight against organ trafficking. In August, we circulated a draft text with possible scenarios of organ trafficking or trafficking for the purpose of organ removal that doctors in a hospital might encounter and the procedure for reporting cases they consider suspicious to the police. Comments on this text were received from some members of the committee, and we have called a meeting for October 20 to discuss them and continue to make progress in finalizing the text.

Developing this protocol is important because it raises issues of violation of fundamental rights, the right not to incriminate oneself (and possible evidentiary nullity) in cases where doctors report to the police the details of a patient suspected of having received an illegal organ transplant, which in Spain is a criminal offense, in order to initiate an investigation).

Furthermore, in order to strengthen our transplant system and thus prevent organ trafficking, a law (Law 6/2024) was passed in December 2024 to improve the protection of living donors of organs or tissues for subsequent transplantation:

The purpose of this law is to make the necessary amendments so that organ or tissue donation processes have a specific protection regime, in order to provide the widest possible coverage in these cases. It is about a labor law and the social security system.

As for the work carried out by the National Transplant Organization (ONT) at the national level:

- The ONT is updating the protocol for kidney transplants from living donors to non-resident recipients.
- Training for judges, forensic scientists, and state security forces on transplantation and trafficking.

At the European level: as a member country of the CoE, within the framework of the NETTA group (Network of National Focal Point on Travel for Transplantation) of the CD-P-TO (European Committee on Organ Transplantation):

- Statement on Online Promotion and Facilitation of Unethical International Travel for Transplantation
- Toolkit for CoE National Focal Point on Travel for Transplantation –Internal tool for the NETTA group, currently in draft form.
- Its working in the First Report of the Registry of International Travel for Transplantation (RITTA): a Council of Europe initiative. Currently in draft form.
- Collection of data on transplants in which a Spanish citizen traveled abroad for a transplant in 2024 (no cases reported) and transplants performed in Spain during 2024 in which the donor, recipient, or both were not residents of Spain - RITTA

At the Ibero-American level: as the ONT holds the Presidency and Permanent Secretariat of the Ibero-American Network/Council for Donation and Transplantation (RCIDT), it works and provides support to ensure that these countries sign the Santiago Agreement, report data to RITTA, and participate in other NETTA group initiatives.

SWITZERLAND /SUISSE

Contribution received on 16/10/2025

In Switzerland there were some activities concerning the MedLead website. The Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) contacted the owner of the website and asked them to remove it. Additionally, the FOPH reported MedLead to the public prosecutor's office. The website was removed. The Swiss Federal police is collaborating with Europol/Interpol on the subject. The CoP member is in contact with the Swiss investigators on MedLead.

In the Swiss opinion the CoP should define, which cases must be reported under Article 22 letter a: judgments, penalty orders, decisions not to prosecute. It should specify how often countries must provide these figures. The first survey on the number of cases since the convention came into force in each country should be carried out as soon as possible. The number of cases prior to the entry into force of the convention could also be reported on a voluntary basis. The implementation of Article 21 paragraph 1 letter c enables countries to provide this data and, on the basis of additional information and exchanges with other authorities, to identify interesting cases or examples that they could present to the CoP.