

## EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

*Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.*

**Type of committee:** Steering Committee

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021**

<b>PILLAR/PROGRAMME/SUB-PROGRAMME</b>
<p><b>Pillar:</b> Democracy  <b>Programme:</b> Democratic Governance  <b>Sub-programme:</b> Democratic Governance</p>
<b>MAIN TASKS</b>
<p>Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, having regard to the Secretary General's reports on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law, and building on the achievements in the area of local and regional democracy and multi-level governance, the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) will steer the Council of Europe's intergovernmental work in the field of democracy and democratic governance and advise the Committee of Ministers in its field of competence, taking due account of relevant transversal perspectives. The overall aim of the CDDG is to contribute to strengthening democratic institutions, public administration reform, decentralisation and good governance, with particular emphasis on enhancing citizens' participation and strengthening public ethics. The CDDG will also work on meeting the challenges raised and using the opportunities offered by technological development to strengthen governance and democracy and citizens' trust in them. In particular, the CDDG is instructed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) act as a forum where members, associating as appropriate participants and observers, exchange information, views and experience and disseminate good practice in the design and implementation of democracy related reforms, including through compilation of best practice and guidelines;</li> <li>(ii) provide responses based on domestic legislation, practice and experience to member States so requesting that envisage policy reviews and legislative reforms, including through peer reviews and the rapid response service;</li> <li>(iii) develop as appropriate standards relating to modernisation of democratic institutions, public administration, citizens' participation and democratic governance at all levels;</li> <li>(iv) promote the implementation of the Twelve Principles of Good Governance through targeted action and the use of the tools of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance;</li> <li>(v) without prejudice to the mandates of intergovernmental committees of the Council of Europe that already follow the work of monitoring mechanisms, follow the activities of the relevant monitoring and other bodies or convention mechanisms;</li> <li>(vi) provide input and ensure follow-up to the sessions of the Council of Europe's World Forum for Democracy when the themes addressed fall within the mandate of the CDDG;</li> <li>(vii) promote and follow the implementation of the non-binding instruments that it has prepared;</li> <li>(viii) hold an exchange of views annually in order to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued;</li> <li>(ix) take due account of gender and children's rights perspectives, building cohesive societies and promoting and protecting rights of persons with disabilities in the performance of its tasks while closely associating civil society in its activities;</li> <li>(x) in accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which it has been given responsibility,<sup>1</sup><a href="https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016805c24cf_-_ftn17">https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016805c24cf_-_ftn17</a> in co-operation, where appropriate, with other relevant bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers.</li> <li>(xi) contribute to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regards to Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and Goal 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.</li> </ul>
<b>SPECIFIC TASKS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Building on its previous work on e-democracy and taking into account the outcome of the 129th Session of the Committee of Ministers in Helsinki, prepare a study on the impact of the digital transformation, including artificial intelligence and automated decision-making, on democracy and good governance, also with a view to contributing to the work of the CAHAI.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Cf. relevant decision of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2) and list of Conventions in document CM(2019)132.

- (ii) Develop standards on new technologies and the different stages of the electoral process (including voter registration, transmission and tabulation of results, etc.) in the form of a Committee of Ministers' recommendation or guidelines as a follow-up to the Secretary General's reports on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and Rule of Law and taking into account the outcome of the 129th Session of the Committee of Ministers in Helsinki as well as the work of the Venice Commission in this area.
- (iii) Draft a recommendation for the Committee of Ministers on democratic accountability of elected officials and bodies at local and regional level with a view to complementing Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)3 on the supervision of local authorities' activities and updating previous work in this area.
- (iv) Promote the guidelines and the revised Handbook on public ethics at all levels of government.
- (v) Contribute to the implementation of the next Digital Governance Strategy in its field of expertise.
- (vi) Contribute to the updating of toolkits of the Centre of expertise for good governance reflecting the latest governance practices as well as the principles of efficiency and effectiveness.
- (vii) Report to the Committee of Ministers on a regular basis on the work and achievements of the European Stakeholders Platform which delivers the accreditation to the national platforms or bodies authorised to grant the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE).
- (viii) Review progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), as evidenced by monitoring mechanisms and promoted through standard-setting and exchange of experiences and good practices.

#### COMPOSITION

##### Members:

Governments of member States are invited to designate one or more representatives of the highest possible rank in the relevant field, with senior responsibility at national level for the implementation of democratic (constitutional) principles and/or the planning, development and implementation of policies in the field of democratic governance, including at local and regional level, and the modernisation of public administration, and/or for co-ordinating government policy relevant to the work of the Committee.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each member State (two in the case of the State whose representative has been elected Chair).

Each member of the committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

In accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, in cases where there is no convention-based body including all the Parties, non-member States are invited to take part, with a right to vote, in the committee meetings pertaining to the conventions to which they are Parties.

##### Participants:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union;
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- Office for Democratic Institutions and Human rights (ODIHR-OSCE).

##### Observers:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- Assembly of European Regions;
- Council of European Municipalities and Regions;
- European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU).

Other non-governmental organisations may receive, upon request, observer status and have the right to send representatives without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses.

<b>WORKING METHODS</b>
<p><b>Plenary meetings:</b> 48 members, 2 meetings in 2020, 2 days 48 members, 2 meetings in 2021, 2 days</p> <p><b>Bureau meetings:</b> 7 members, 2 meetings in 2020, 2 days 7 members, 2 meetings in 2021, 2 days</p> <p>The Committee will also appoint Rapporteurs on Gender Equality, on Children's Rights, on Roma and Travellers<sup>2</sup> Issues and on the rights of persons with disabilities from amongst its members.</p> <p>The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.</p> <p>Without prejudice to Resolution CM/Res(2011)24, draft agendas for meetings will be prepared with a view to facilitating participation by representatives, with due regard to the areas of expertise of those representatives.</p> <p>Whenever appropriate, it will prioritise environmentally sound working methods, such as virtual meetings facilitated by information technology and written consultations.</p>

**BUDGETARY INFORMATION\***

	Meetings per year	Number of days	Members	Plenary €K	Bureau €K	Working groups	Secretariat (A, B)
2020	2	2	48	105	8.8	13.1	1.5 A; 1 B
2021	2	2	48	105	8.8	13.1	1.5 A; 1 B

\*The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of the 2020 standard costs.

<sup>2</sup> The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "Gens du voyage", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.