

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE Highlights 2022



Human rights,  
democracy  
and the rule of law

Activity report

**Evgenia**, wife of **Mr Vladimir Kara-Murza**, leader of the Russian opposition, winner of the 10th **Václav Havel** Human Rights Prize (Strasbourg, 10 October 2022)

Official visit to the European Court of Human Rights by **Katerina Sakellariopoulou**, President of the Hellenic Republic (Strasbourg, 24 June 2022)

Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelensky** addresses the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe during its fourth part-session (Strasbourg, 13 October 2022)

Address by **Guðni Th. Jóhannesson**, President of Iceland, to the Ministers' Deputies (Strasbourg, 7 December 2022)

Speech by **Giovanni Infantino**, President of FIFA (Strasbourg, 26 January 2022)

**French edition:**

*Points forts 2022*

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# Contents

<b>COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY</b>	<b>13</b>
Responding to the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine	13
Towards the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe	14
Addressing current and emerging challenges	14
Personalities addressing the Assembly, election observation, election of judges	15
Prizes and other major events	15
<b>CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES</b>	<b>17</b>
Supporting local and regional authorities in Ukraine	17
Promoting local and regional democracy	18
Implementing statutory and thematic activities	18
Enhanced co-operation with institutional partners	19
<b>EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	<b>21</b>
The consequences of the Russian Federation's expulsion from the Council of Europe on the European Court of Human Rights	21
Update on the Court's impact case-processing strategy	21
Furthering dialogue with Convention partners	22
Grand Chamber case law highlights in 2022	22
<b>COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	<b>25</b>
War in Ukraine	25
Country work	25
Thematic work	26
Other work	26
<b>CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS</b>	<b>31</b>
Political advice	31
Confidence-building measures	31
External relations	32
Relations with the European Union, the OSCE and the United Nations	32
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW</b>	<b>35</b>
Human rights, development and implementation	35
Independence of justice and legal co-operation	36
Specific human rights issues	36
Action against crime	39
Justice and legal co-operation	41
Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees	42
<b>DEMOCRACY</b>	<b>45</b>
Good governance	45
Human dignity, equality and non-discrimination	47
Sustainable democratic societies	50
<b>EUROPEAN DIRECTORATE FOR THE QUALITY OF MEDICINES &amp; HEALTHCARE (EDQM)</b>	<b>57</b>
Key achievements	57
Protecting the health of patients	57
Protecting consumer health	58
Health crises: ongoing role of the EDQM	58
Co-operation with European and international partners	58
Global outreach	59
<b>ACTIONS IN THE FIELD AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION</b>	<b>61</b>
Global actions	61
EU member states	61
Resource Mobilisation and Donor Relations	64
<b>PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>69</b>
Digital Communication and Editorial Division	69
Public relations and publications	69
<b>2022 CONTRIBUTIONS OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER STATES (IN EUROS)</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>2022 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (IN EUROS)</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>ORGANISATION CHART OF THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN 2022</b>	<b>75</b>



Handover of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers from Italy to Ireland. **Luigi Di Maio**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, and **Simon Coveney**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland (Turin, 20 May 2022)

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Transfer of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers to **Thórdís Kolbrún Reykjörd Gylfadóttir**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, incoming Chair of the Committee of Ministers, from **Breifne O'Reilly**, Irish Ambassador at the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the Council of Europe, outgoing Chair (Strasbourg, 9 November 2022)

# Committee of Ministers

The texts adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2022 can be consulted at:  
[www.coe.int/cm](http://www.coe.int/cm).

**The Committee of Ministers acts as the main decision-making body of the Council of Europe. It is made up of member states' foreign ministers or their permanent diplomatic representatives in Strasbourg.**

**D**uring 2022, the Committee of Ministers was chaired by Italy until 20 May, then by Ireland until 9 November and thereafter by Iceland. The highest concern for the Council of Europe and the Committee of Ministers during 2022 was the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

■ In this respect, on 24 February 2022, the Committee of Ministers promptly adopted a series of decisions, condemning in the strongest terms the armed attack on Ukraine by the Russian Federation in violation of international law and expressing its support to Ukraine. On 25 February 2022, considering the serious violation by the Russian Federation of its obligations under Article 3 of the Statute of the Council of Europe (ETS No. 1) and, following an exchange of views with the Parliamentary Assembly in the Joint Committee, the Committee of Ministers agreed to suspend the Russian Federation from its rights of representation in the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 8 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and agreed that this suspension should take immediate effect in respect of the rights of representation in the Committee of Ministers and in the Parliamentary Assembly.

■ There ensued in March several important developments. Following the adoption of Resolution CM/Res(2022)1 on legal and financial consequences of the suspension of the Russian Federation from its rights of representation in the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers decided to consult the Parliamentary Assembly on potential further use of Article 8 of the Organisation's Statute in response to the serious violations by the Russian Federation of its statutory obligations as a member state. The Committee expressed, *inter alia*, deep concern about the fate of the civilian victims of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and strongly urged the Russian Federation to implement the interim measures indicated by the European Court of Human Rights (the Court).

■ On 15 March 2022, the Chair of the Committee of Ministers, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe made a joint statement after members of the Parliamentary Assembly unanimously voted that the Russian Federation should no longer be a member state of the Organisation (Opinion No. 300 (2022)). The following day, the Committee of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res(2022)2 on the cessation of the membership of the Russian Federation to the Council of Europe under Article 8 of the Statute. The Russian Federation ceased to be a member of the Organisation as of 16 March 2022.

■ On 23 March 2022, the Committee of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res(2022)3 on legal and financial consequences of the cessation of membership of the Russian Federation in the Council of Europe. This resolution stipulates, *inter alia*, that the Russian Federation shall cease to be a High Contracting Party to the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5, the Convention) on 16 September 2022.

■ The Committee of Ministers held its 132nd Session in Turin, Italy, on 19-20 May 2022. The Ministers decided that the Organisation should not emerge weakened as a consequence of Russia's aggression against Ukraine but, on the contrary, strengthened. They reaffirmed their commitment to the values of the Council of Europe and its work in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and committed themselves to guaranteeing the sustainability of the Organisation.

■ Reiterating their firm condemnation of all Russia's violations of human rights and international law, including attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine and cultural and religious heritage, the Ministers called on Russia to cease immediately its aggression, withdraw its occupation forces from the territory of Ukraine and release all abducted civilians, including those forcibly transferred to the territory of the Russian Federation. The Ministers pledged to

mobilise all the Council of Europe's capacity to ensure the Russian Federation's full accountability for the human rights violations committed. They underlined that Russia bore the sole responsibility for depriving persons under its jurisdiction of the protection afforded by the European Convention on Human Rights, as of 16 September 2022, while reiterating its obligation to fully execute the final judgments of the Court.

■ The Committee of Ministers reiterated its full support to and solidarity with Ukraine and its unwavering commitment to the independence, sovereignty and respect for the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. The Ministers also decided to adopt adjustments to the Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2022, subsequently followed by the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" (2023-2026).

■ In addition, the Ministers stressed the need to review the Council of Europe's priorities in the light of the new reality of the continent and to strengthen the development throughout Europe of the Organisation's values, in particular through co-operation with civil society, including in Russia and in Belarus. To ensure the Organisation's sustainability and its ability to carry out its mission and mandate effectively, the Ministers welcomed the Secretary General's progress report on reform measures and decided to ensure collectively the financial resources to fill the gap in its 2022 Budget, following Russia's exclusion on 16 March. The Committee of Ministers also invited its Deputies to consider the desirability of a new summit of heads of state and government of the Council of Europe.

■ For this purpose, the Ministers invited the Secretary General to set up a high-level reflection group to consider the Council of Europe's responses to new realities and challenges and to report back at the earliest possible opportunity. Accordingly, Secretary General Pejčinović Burić set up the High-level Reflection Group, whose report was presented to the Committee of Ministers by the president of the group, Mary Robinson, in October 2022. On 7 November, the Committee of Ministers welcomed the invitation of the Icelandic authorities and agreed that the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe should be held under the Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 16 and 17 May 2023. The Committee entrusted its relevant working party with the preparation of the outcomes of the summit and the respective documents to be adopted, and to report back regularly.

■ Furthermore, upon adopting the adjusted Programme and Budget for 2023, whereby the Ministers agreed to increase the level of resources, the Committee of Ministers also agreed that a new four-year programme would be prepared as from 2024, in light of its reflection on the long-term strategic role

of the Organisation for 2024 and beyond and building on the outcome of the 4th Summit.

■ In the field of human rights, during the year, the Committee of Ministers held four meetings to supervise the execution of judgments. The overall number of pending cases increased slightly, while the number of leading cases remained stable. In February 2022, for the second time in its history, the Committee of Ministers initiated proceedings under Article 46, paragraph 4, of the Convention in the case of *Kavala v. Turkey* as Mr Kavala remained detained. The Grand Chamber gave its judgment in those proceedings on 11 July 2022, finding a violation of Article 46 paragraph 1 of the Convention. The Committee examined the case at every regular and human rights meeting during the year and appointed a liaison group of Ambassadors to assist the Chair in engaging with the Turkish authorities. The Committee continued to call for Mr Kavala's immediate release. The Committee of Ministers also held exchanges of views with the President of the European Court of Human Rights, the Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees (SRSG).

■ In the field of social rights, the Committee of Ministers took note of operational proposals for the reform of the European Social Charter system and invited the relevant bodies to implement them as soon as possible.

■ Several exchanges of views were also held with the chairs of various committees and monitoring bodies, such as the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB).

■ During 2022, the Committee of Ministers held a number of in-depth discussions on priority issues for the Organisation. These included a thematic exchange on non-discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons; an exchange on media freedom and safety of journalists; an exchange of views with representatives of civil society, other international organisations and experts on how best to strengthen the participatory culture and encourage citizens to participate in the decision-making process and also an exchange with representatives of youth civil society organisations. The Committee also held an informal meeting on human rights and sport.

■ The Committee of Ministers also examined and took note of a number of important reports and texts on priority issues, such as the first implementation report on the Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller<sup>1</sup> Inclusion (2020-2025), the 2021 annual report on the activities of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the annual report for 2021 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 and the first thematic implementation review report on Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, focusing on the specific legal gender recognition aspect. The Committee also took note of the Council of Europe digital agenda 2022-2025 on "Protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the digital environment".

■ With regard to the rights of the child, the Committee of Ministers took note of the final implementation report of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) and adopted the new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child "Children's Rights in Action: from continuous implementation to joint innovation" for the years 2022-2027.

■ In the field of bioethics, in May the Committee of Ministers instructed its relevant steering committee to complete, by the end of 2024, a draft recommendation promoting the use of voluntary measures in mental healthcare services, as well as a report on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights relevant to mental health. It also agreed to prepare a declaration of the Committee of Ministers affirming the commitment of the Council of Europe to improving the protection and the autonomy of persons in mental healthcare services after the examination of the aforementioned texts.

■ With regard to activities relating to the rule of law and judicial co-operation, the Committee of Ministers decided to open for signature the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on Enhanced Co-operation and the Disclosure of Electronic Evidence (CETS No. 224) in Strasbourg on 12 May 2022. In May, the Ministers' Deputies endorsed the creation of a network of national correspondents of police authorities of member states.

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1. 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.

■ In February, the Committee of Ministers took note of the document "Possible elements of a legal framework on artificial intelligence, based on the Council of Europe's standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law", submitted to it by its Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHA); in June it instructed the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) to proceed speedily with the drafting of a legally binding instrument of a transversal nature ("convention"/"framework convention") on artificial intelligence based on the Council of Europe's standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

■ Continuing its examination of the consequences of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the Committee of Ministers also took decisions in June and in October regarding the modalities for the participation of the Russian Federation and Belarus in open conventions.

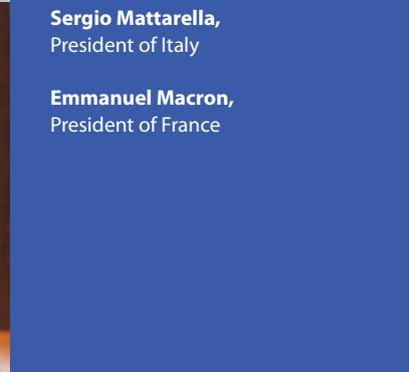
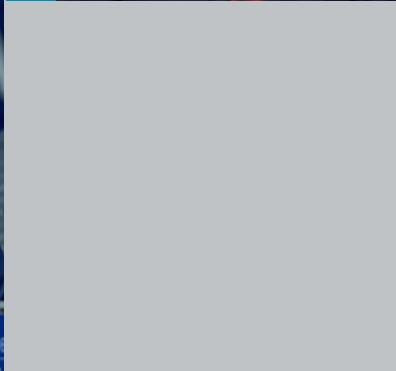
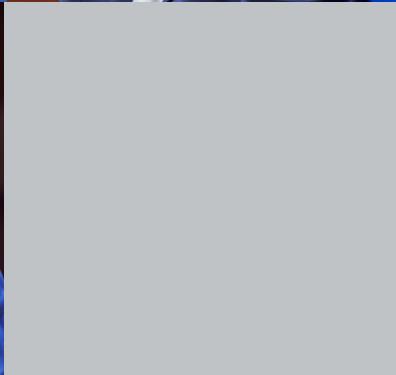
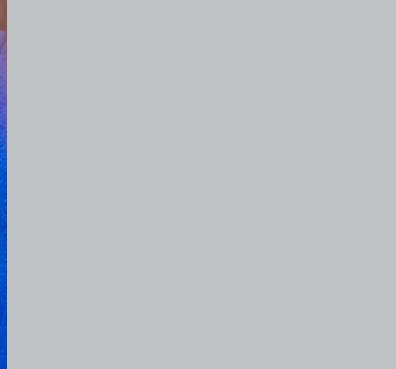
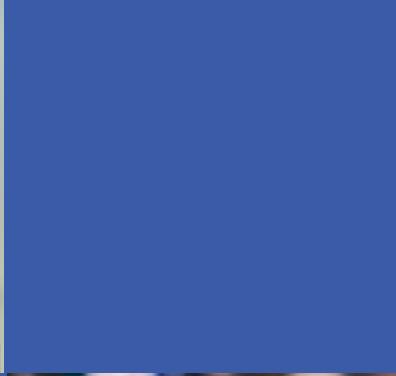
■ With regard to the Committee of Ministers' regular discussions on the specific situations in a number of member states, the situation in Ukraine was a top priority. The Committee of Ministers, *inter alia*, gave instructions for "Priority adjustments to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2022" to be implemented. In June, it examined a report by the Secretary General on the human rights situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol (Ukraine) and took a number of decisions relating thereto. In September, the Committee adopted a decision stressing the urgent need to ensure a comprehensive system of accountability for serious violations of international law arising out of the Russian aggression against Ukraine to avoid impunity and to prevent further violations. They also noted with interest the Ukrainian proposals to establish an ad hoc special tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine and a comprehensive international compensation mechanism, including, as a first step, an international register of damage.

■ The specific situation and co-operation activities in other member states were also addressed. In February, the Committee of Ministers approved an action plan to provide assistance to Azerbaijan over the period 2022-2025. In May, it took a series of decisions on the conflict in Georgia and, in June, took note of the progress review report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Georgia 2020-2023. The Committee of Ministers also took note with satisfaction of the final reports on the implementation of the action plans for 2018-2021 for Azerbaijan and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In November, the Committee of Ministers adopted an action plan for Armenia for the period 2023-2026. Finally, the Committee also took note of the results achieved so far in the framework of the Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Kazakhstan (2019-2022) and agreed to extend the priorities until the end of 2023 to enable all the objectives to be achieved.

■ The Committee of Ministers was also very active in 2022 with regard to external relations and co-operation with other international organisations. For example, in February, it held an exchange of views with the United Nations (human rights questions), with a thematic discussion on human rights and the environment. At its 132nd Ministerial Session, the Committee of Ministers called for co-operation with the European Union – as the main institutional partner of the Council of Europe in political, legal and financial terms – to be stepped up still further in view of the many challenges currently facing Europe. In July, the Committee held an exchange of views with Mr Michael O’Flaherty, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). Co-operation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was also pursued.

■ With regard to Belarus, in March the Committee of Ministers condemned the active participation of Belarus in the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and invited the Secretary General to submit proposals on possible steps to be taken with regard to relations between the Council of Europe and Belarus. On 17 March 2022, the Committee of Ministers decided to suspend all relations with Belarus. Following an exchange of views in July with Ms Svetlana Tikhanovskaia, leader of the Belarusian opposition, in September the Committee of Ministers agreed to hold regular exchanges with Ms Tikhanovskaia and other representatives of Belarusian democratic opposition forces. The Committee invited the Secretary General to set up a “contact group” within the Council of Europe, in co-operation with representatives of Belarusian democratic forces and civil society and to report back regularly.





**Tiny Kox** (Netherlands),  
President of the Parliamentary  
Assembly of the Council of  
Europe

**Giovanni Infantino**,  
President of FIFA

**Katerina Sakellaropoulou**,  
President of the Hellenic  
Republic

**His Majesty King  
Willem-Alexander**  
of the Netherlands

**Edi Rama**,  
Prime Minister of Albania

**Michael D. Higgins**,  
President of Ireland

**Ignazio Cassis**,  
President of Switzerland

**Svetlana Tikhonovskaïa**,  
leader of the Belarusian  
opposition

**Pekka Haavisto**,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Finland

**Sergio Mattarella**,  
President of Italy

**Emmanuel Macron**,  
President of France

# Parliamentary Assembly

*The functioning of the Parliamentary Assembly, its rules, work, events, calendar, the profiles of its members and their activities within the Assembly, as well as the texts adopted by the Assembly in 2022, can be found on the Assembly website: <http://assembly.coe.int>.*

**The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (the Assembly) brings together 612 parliamentarians of the Council of Europe's 46 member states. Its core mission is to uphold the shared values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law that are the "common heritage" of the peoples of Europe. On 24 January 2022, Tiny Kox was elected President of the Assembly for the 2022 Ordinary Session. He is the Assembly's 34th President and the third Dutch national to hold this office. In setting out the key priority for his presidency, he underlined the need to ensure that the Council of Europe remains the pillar of democratic security, the guarantor of human rights and the rule of law, as well as a platform for effective multilateralism in Europe.**

## RESPONDING TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

■ The Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine has been the main focus of attention of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2022.

■ On 14 and 15 March 2022, the President of the Assembly convened an **Extraordinary Session** – an exceptional event in the history of the Council of Europe – to debate the consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression. On 15 March, at the end of a full day of debate, the Parliamentary Assembly unanimously adopted a historic **opinion** in which it condemned, in the strongest possible terms, the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, expressed its solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, and reaffirmed its unwavering support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. The Assembly recognised that the Russian Federation had committed serious violations of the Statute of the Council of Europe that were incompatible with the status of a member state, had not honoured its undertakings to the Council of Europe and had not complied with its commitments. It expressed the view that the Russian Federation could therefore no longer be a member state of the Organisation and called on the Committee of Ministers to request that Russia "immediately withdraw from the Council of Europe".

■ Following the exclusion of the Russian Federation from the Council of Europe, as the aggression continued, the Assembly repeatedly appealed for unity in supporting Ukraine and for maximum pressure on the Russian Federation to cease its aggression immediately and unconditionally. It **urged** the Council of Europe to be in the front line in supporting Ukraine

by establishing a package of measures to provide immediate assistance and a second package to be implemented in the aftermath of the conflict, to be developed in close consultation with the Ukrainian authorities and in response to their evolving needs. The Assembly took practical measures to ensure both the participation of the Ukrainian delegation in its work and support for Ukraine, including by reinforcing the parliamentary dimension of its co-operation activities.

■ The President of the Assembly remained active in addressing the consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, particularly focusing on generating wide multilateral support for the country and promoting the idea of bringing the perpetrators of war crimes (including the crime of aggression) to justice. He initiated the **first visit** by the Council of Europe to Ukraine since the beginning of the aggression, when the Presidential Committee travelled to Lviv to meet the Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament, Ruslan Stefanchuk, and the Ukrainian Parliamentary Assembly delegation (6 April 2022). President Kox also visited many member states of the Council of Europe to advocate for robust multilateral action to help Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, aiming to ensure that war in Europe did not become a normality.

■ At its April part-session, the Assembly called for accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian law and other international crimes in Ukraine. It became the first international body to call for the establishment of a **special tribunal for the crime of aggression**. In June, an ad hoc sub-committee of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights carried out a **fact-finding visit** to Kyiv, Bucha and Irpin, which confirmed the nature and scale of the atrocities committed by Russian forces, particularly in the temporarily occupied areas.

■ The Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine has also led to the largest population movement in Europe since the second world war, and unprecedented solidarity among Council of Europe member states in welcoming those fleeing the war, the majority of whom are women and children. The Assembly rapidly [identified ways](#) in which their needs in the short and longer term could be addressed. A specific focus was placed on [unaccompanied or separated migrant and refugee children](#), a particularly vulnerable category of persons on the move.

## TOWARDS THE 4TH SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

■ The return of a large-scale war of aggression to Europe has highlighted that the solidity and resilience of European democracies, their respect for human rights and their adherence to the rule of law are the best guarantees for each other's prosperity, security and a peaceful future. Based on this conviction, in 2022 the Assembly reiterated its proposal for the Council of Europe to hold a new summit of heads of state and government, a long-standing request which, following Russia's aggression against Ukraine, had become a political imperative which could not be delayed any longer. President Kox repeatedly conveyed the Assembly's call for a summit, including at the [Committee of Ministers' Ministerial Session in Turin](#) (20 May 2022).

■ Working in a climate of interinstitutional dialogue with the Committee of Ministers, the Secretary General, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and other Council of Europe bodies, the Assembly multiplied opportunities to reflect on the summit, including its scope and expected outcomes. Throughout the year, it held numerous exchanges and discussions, including in the framework of an ad hoc committee of the Bureau specifically set up to this end, and through the preparation of a report by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy under the rapporteurship of Fiona O'Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE). The draft [recommendation](#) was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in December 2022 and asked European leaders to reaffirm their unity around common values and their unfaltering commitment to multilateralism based on international law. In the Assembly's view, while expressing firm support for Ukraine and ensuring accountability of the Russian Federation for its actions, the summit should provide a new strategic vision and a forward-looking agenda for the Council of Europe, putting people's interests, concerns and expectations to the forefront of its mission.

## ADDRESSING CURRENT AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

■ There have been widespread public demands for governments to tackle climate change and to prioritise

long-term environmental sustainability over immediate economic concerns. As the Assembly pointed out, once the tipping point of climate change is reached, one can hardly imagine how it will be possible to ensure peace, security and prosperity, without which democracy, human rights and the rule of law will become increasingly difficult to guarantee. It therefore called for the summit to set forth a leadership role for the Council of Europe in the area of environmental protection and the fight against climate change. The Assembly also followed up its 2021 resolutions on the environment by launching [a network of contact parliamentarians for a healthy environment](#), under the auspices of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development. It also explored ways to better protect the environment – and ultimately human living space – during armed conflicts.

■ In the light of the huge challenges confronting Europe, the Assembly again called for [a stronger strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union](#) on the basis of their shared values and convergence of interests. It demanded to accelerate the negotiations on the European Union's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. The Assembly also underlined that the prospect of European Union membership represents a factor of stability in Europe and called on the Council of Europe to redouble its efforts to help its member states wishing to join the European Union to make tangible and measurable progress towards meeting the necessary criteria. In this context, the Assembly paid particular attention to the situation in the Western Balkans. Strengthening democratic resilience and respect for the rule of law and human rights in this region, as well as promoting reconciliation and good neighbourly relations, and creating the conditions for stronger economic and social progress, are a geostrategic investment in peace, stability and democratic security for the whole of Europe.

■ The Assembly, under the aegis of its Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, also continued to push states to improve gender equality and the protection of women's rights, through reports on [promoting justice and security for women in peace and reconciliation, creating a level playing field for women in the world of sport and stopping anti-choice harassment in access to abortion in Europe](#). The adoption of a resolution on [combating rising hate against LGBTI people in Europe](#) also prompted the Assembly to strengthen its own efforts to counter discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics by establishing a new parliamentary platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe. Launched in June 2022, the platform uses interparliamentary co-operation to promote full and effective equality for LGBTI people throughout the continent. It enables its members to press for change and work together to engage governments, inspire

new laws and raise awareness of the situation and rights of LGBTI people throughout Europe.

■ The situation of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees unfortunately did not improve in 2022. They became increasingly the subject of highly polarised and politicised discussions at national and European levels, translating into continued attacks on these people and their defenders. As a result, thousands of migrants died on their way to Europe or were pushed back in breach of international law. The Assembly, through the work of its Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, remained **vigilant** that any reforms remain guided by Council of Europe standards, notably the proposed [European Union Pact on Migration and Asylum](#). It also expressed **concern** at attempts to externalise the examination of asylum requests to unsafe third countries.

■ The Assembly's Monitoring Committee continued to follow the situation of all Council of Europe member states regarding their membership obligations and accession promises, with its tried-and-tested formula of dialogue, visits and debates. In particular, the Assembly decided to open a full monitoring procedure in respect of Hungary, which joined the 10 other countries under monitoring procedure (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine). Three countries are engaged in post-monitoring dialogue (Bulgaria, Montenegro and North Macedonia). Five countries (France, Malta, the Netherlands, Romania and San Marino) faced periodic review reports.

■ The [women@PACE group](#), created on 8 March 2022 at the initiative of the Secretary General of the Assembly, offers women of the Assembly, from all national delegations and between party lines, a platform to address, from a woman's perspective, any issue falling within the Council of Europe's mandate. During the year, it discussed, among other issues, how to co-ordinate concrete support to women in Ukraine, barriers in breast cancer detection and treatment, as well as challenges for women in the next decade.

## PERSONALITIES ADDRESSING THE ASSEMBLY, ELECTION OBSERVATION, ELECTION OF JUDGES

■ Among the leading personalities that addressed the Assembly in 2022 were Denys Shmyhal, Prime Minister of Ukraine; Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic; Katerina Sakellaropoulou, President of the Hellenic Republic; His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands; Michael D. Higgins,

President of Ireland. The Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers, in turn the foreign ministers of Italy and Ireland, held exchanges of view with Assembly members. Highly appreciated question-and-answer sessions with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe continued to take place in 2022. As a well-established tradition, the Commissioner for Human Rights presented her annual report to the Assembly.

■ The address by video link on 11 October 2022 of the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, was a major highlight of this year. In his statement, President Zelensky underlined that, at this difficult moment, Europe had never in its history been as strongly united.

■ The Assembly debated its observations of elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Serbia. It also elected a judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Ukraine.

## PRIZES AND OTHER MAJOR EVENTS

■ The [10th Václav Havel Human Rights Prize](#), which honours outstanding civil society action in defence of human rights, was awarded to imprisoned Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza. On 26 April, the Sub-Committee on the [Europe Prize](#) decided to award the 2022 edition of the prize to İzmir, Türkiye. April 2022 also saw the award of the [2022 Council of Europe Museum Prize](#) by the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, to Nano Nagle Place in Cork, Ireland, in recognition of its quest for equality and social justice.

■ On 27 January 2022, the Assembly held a solemn ceremony marking the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The **event** focused on teaching about the Holocaust and the importance of remembrance for future generations. Two Holocaust survivors – Eva Clarke and Liliana Segre – shared their stories and reflections.

■ Finally, on 21 June, the Assembly hosted a high-level panel on "[Upholding democratic security in Europe](#)", which addressed challenges to peace and stability on the continent and to the multilateral co-operation system arising from the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, and the role that the Council of Europe could play in upholding democratic security on the continent. The contribution of Svetlana Tikhanovskaia, leader of the Belarusian democratic opposition, who spoke for the first time being physically present at a high-level Council of Europe event, was particularly important in this respect.



Leendert Verbeek, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 24 October 2022)

42nd Session of the Congress, plenary session "The war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine". Address by **Oleksiy Chernyshov**, Minister for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine (Strasbourg, 22 March 2022)



# Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

*The texts adopted by the Congress in 2022 can be found on its website [www.coe.int/Congress](http://www.coe.int/Congress).*

**The Congress is the political assembly responsible for assessing the situation of local and regional democracy in the 46 Council of Europe member states and improving its quality. It implements the local and regional dimension of the Council of Europe's action in the field of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The Congress is made up of 306 members holding elective office and represents over 130 000 local and regional authorities in Europe. The statutory activities of the Congress derive from the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122), a legally binding instrument which affirms the role of cities and regions as the first level at which democratic rights are exercised.**

**President of the Congress: Leendert Verbeek (Netherlands)**

**T**he year 2022 as marked by the outbreak of the war against Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

■ This war was denounced multiple times by the Congress, as an unacceptable aggression against a sovereign member state and a flagrant violation of the Council of Europe values and standards, resulting in a major humanitarian, migratory and economic tragedy.

■ The Congress condemned in particular the abuses, abductions and assassinations of Ukrainian citizens and local elected representatives, as well as the illegitimate replacement of local elected representatives in the occupied regions. The Congress also condemned the deliberate Russian attacks on civilians and civil infrastructures and the illegal annexation of the occupied territories in the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, following sham referendums.

■ The Congress called for continued political, military and economic support to Ukraine and underlined the courage and resilience of Ukrainian people and local authorities in defending the country and democratic values.

## SUPPORTING LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES IN UKRAINE

■ For many years, the Congress has been very active in Ukraine, alongside the associations of local and regional authorities and local elected representatives, implementing activities to strengthen and consolidate local democracy.

■ It continued to do so during the war, in particular by mobilising its network of institutions and

associations to create synergies in helping the country. Thus, the Congress sponsored the launching of the "Cities 4 Cities" online platform to match the demands and needs of Ukrainian local authorities with the capacities of cities and regions from other Council of Europe member states.

■ The platform currently counts some 300 members and helps to build partnerships between cities and regions, to provide humanitarian aid and promote the exchange of know-how and technical co-operation. It shows the prominent role of local and regional authorities in the country's recovery and how crucial it is to include them in the decision making on the reconstruction of the country.

■ The Congress also became an institutional partner of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, which was launched mid-2022 by the European Committee of the Regions of the European Union.

■ In June, the President of the Congress, Leendert Verbeek, visited Ukraine at the invitation of the President of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) and Mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko. The two presidents signed a joint declaration calling for the reconstruction of Ukrainian communities and the restoration of the functioning of local authorities in line with the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

■ During his journey, the president held bilateral meetings with central authorities from the government and the parliament and with regional and local authorities, including the mayors of Bucha, Fastiv and Zhytomyr and the Mayor of Chelm, a Polish city which welcomed a large number of Ukrainian refugees.

■ The Congress organised debates on the war in Ukraine during its sessions and exchanged remotely with the Ukrainian Minister for Communities and Territories Development, Oleksiy Chernyshov, the Mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko, and the Mayor of Mykolaiv, Oleksandr Senkevych.

■ In October, the Congress signed a memorandum of understanding with the Open Government Partnership and the AUC to support Ukrainian local authorities and preserve the principles of open government at local level.

■ In November, the new Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” (2023-2026) was adopted by the Committee of Ministers, including a significant Congress project to promote multilevel governance, foster innovation and open government, and strengthen youth participation and a human rights-based approach at local level.

## PROMOTING LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEMOCRACY

■ The war in Ukraine has added to the many crises societies have endured in recent years, whether related to security, economic and financial, health, energy, food or environmental issues. Together with the backsliding of democracy and distrust in politics, disinformation, growing polarisation and extremism, these challenges show the crucial importance of the values of the Council of Europe, which the Congress helps to promote and defend.

■ In 2022, the Congress members continued to engage in concrete action in the field, working directly between peers and with central governments, citizens and civil society to address these challenges.

■ The Congress issued recommendations, advice and political support and developed practical tools to help national governments, national associations and the 130 000 territorial communities across Europe increase the quality and efficiency of local democracy and governance.

## IMPLEMENTING STATUTORY AND THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

■ The core mission of the Congress is the effective monitoring of the situation of local and regional democracy in member states by assessing their application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. In 2022, the Congress assessed the situation of local and regional democracy in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Luxemburg, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

■ The Congress observes local and regional elections in member states and beyond, to complement the political monitoring of the charter and, in 2022, it published the findings of its observation missions to Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Georgia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Serbia and Slovenia.

■ Besides Ukraine, the Congress carries out cooperation activities with several specific countries aimed at fostering dialogue between central and local authorities, strengthening transparency, accountability and citizen participation in decision making and promoting human rights at local level. These activities are based on the findings of the monitoring and election observation missions and complement the process. In 2022, such projects were also implemented in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia.

■ A particular mention should be made of the Congress project aimed at promoting deliberative democracy, which allowed the implementation of the citizens’ assembly in the City of Mostar, the first of its kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina and South-East Europe. In 2022, thorough follow-up to the Assembly’s recommendations was given, in accordance with an action plan unanimously adopted by the Mostar City Council.

■ As a political assembly, the Congress meets in plenary sessions twice a year in Strasbourg, to debate the work implemented in the field and/or prepared in its committees and to adopt the resulting reports.

■ At its session of March 2022, in addition to the monitoring and observation reports, it adopted reports on:

- ▶ deliberative democracy (with the participation of the Mayor of Mostar);
- ▶ children in sustainable development;
- ▶ rural youth;
- ▶ the situation of independent candidates and opposition in local and regional elections.

■ It also held debates on fake news, threats and violence on mayors, democratic pluralism in regional governance and diasporas’ representation in regions.

■ In the October session, the Congress elected its new Secretary General, Mathieu Mori, for a five-year mandate and adopted, in addition to the monitoring and observation reports, thematic reports on:

- ▶ the impact of hate speech and fake news on the working conditions of elected representatives;
- ▶ smart cities and regions;
- ▶ reception of women and children refugees (following a study visit to Poland in June);
- ▶ regional identities.

■ It held debates on the future of the Council of Europe, regional finances and crisis (with the participation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)), on the Congress co-operation activities (with high-level representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Tunisia and Ukraine).

■ The Congress also adopted a report on “A fundamental right to the environment: a matter for local and regional authorities” proposing a “green” reading of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and the drafting of an additional protocol to the charter. A third volume of the “Human rights handbook” for local and regional authorities devoted to environment and sustainable development was also launched.

■ Citizen participation is a major and transversal feature of the Congress’ work. In June, the Congress marked the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the additional protocol to the charter on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority and promoted this legal instrument, which is key to citizen participation at the local level.

■ The Congress also organises every year in October the European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) to bring together citizens and local authorities to debate the most pressing issues and celebrate democracy in their home communities. The theme of the 2022 edition of the ELDW was “Protecting the environment: local communities take action”, focusing on local action to prevent environmental degradation, fight climate change, strengthen resilience and work towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

■ Concerning the implementation of the SDGs, the Congress advocates their localisation and the engagement of local and regional authorities in the design and implementation of national action plans. On several occasions, including during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the United Nations in New York in July, the Congress called for local and regional authorities and their national associations to be involved in structured and regular consultation with central governments and parliaments. The Congress also welcomed the inclusion of mayors in the preparation and presentation of the voluntary national reviews of Council of Europe member states.

■ In order to raise awareness and understanding of SDGs, the Congress produced a booklet entitled “How to make your town a better place” targeted at children aged 6 to 11 and complemented by guidelines for local and regional authorities on children’s participation in local sustainable development policies. The booklet was piloted by 200 children in six member states and developed and promoted in co-operation with the Children’s Rights Division of the Council of Europe (DG II).

■ As its contribution to the 10th World Forum for Democracy, held in Strasbourg in November under the theme “Democracy: a new hope?”, the Congress organised a working session (Lab) to address polarisation of society and promote greater democratic engagement. Six initiatives were presented which sought to respond, each in its own way, to these challenges.

## ENHANCED CO-OPERATION WITH INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

■ The Congress’s institutional partners are national and European associations of local and regional authorities. In 2022, co-operation with these partners was further developed, especially with the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). The Congress participated in the jury of the CoR Adamowicz Award, which rewards field action to promote solidarity, equality and non-discrimination. The high-level group between the Congress and the CoR met in November to discuss the thematic priorities for co-operation, including the efforts to support cities and regions in Ukraine.

■ Within the Council of Europe, the Congress worked in close co-operation with the Committee on Democracy and Democratic Governance; with the Parliamentary Assembly, especially via institutional dialogue at presidents’ level and thematic activities such as involving children in sustainable development, LGBTI and the future of the Council of Europe; with the Venice Commission, in particular via the Council for Democratic Elections and the Conference of Electoral Management Bodies; and with the European Court of Human Rights. As part of its work on the implementation of human rights at local level, the Congress Spokesperson for Human Rights is currently analysing a list of judgments concerning local and regional authorities, and it will make proposals of further activities to raise awareness of Congress members on their responsibilities in the field of human rights.

■ The Congress also co-operated with the Elections and Participatory Democracy Division of DG II and the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) to develop the BePART civil participation platform which was put online in June 2022. This compendium offers public authorities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) the opportunity to share best practices on the successful implementation of the Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the decision-making process.

■ The Congress worked closely also with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees (SRSG) on matters relating to the reception and integration of refugees (with the participation of the SRSG, Leyla Kayacik, in the October session).



Visit of **Michael D. Higgins** (centre), President of Ireland, to the European Court of Human Rights, meeting with **Síofra O'Leary** (left), Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights, and **Robert Spano** (right), President of the European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg, 11 October 2022)



**Síofra O'Leary**,  
President of the  
European Court  
of Human Rights  
(Strasbourg,  
28 November 2022)

# European Court of Human Rights

[echr.coe.int](http://echr.coe.int)

The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights in the 46 Council of Europe member states. Individuals can bring complaints of human rights violations to the Court once all possibilities of appeal have been exhausted in the member state concerned.

**Presidency of the Court: Robert Spano (Iceland, from May 2020 to October 2022), Síofra O’Leary (Ireland, since 1 November 2022)**

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION’S EXPULSION FROM THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Following the Russian Federation’s expulsion from the Council of Europe on 16 March 2022, the Court, sitting in plenary session, adopted a resolution on 22 March 2022 whereby it would retain jurisdiction to deal with applications against the Russian Federation in respect of acts and omissions which might constitute a violation of the Convention, provided that they had occurred up to 16 September 2022. This “residual” jurisdiction of the Court derives from Article 58 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court’s exercise of its residual jurisdiction reflects, above all, the fact that a state cannot take advantage of its expulsion from the Council of Europe to avoid responsibility for violations of the Convention. This is all the more essential as some cases pending before the Court against the Russian Federation are of great importance for Russia’s responsibility under international law. Furthermore, on 5 September 2022, the Court, again sitting in plenary session, took note of the fact that the office of the judge in the Court with respect to the Russian Federation also ceased to exist.

Since the Russian Federation’s expulsion from the Organisation, the Court has continued with the processing of Russian cases. Indeed, in 2022, some important judgments were delivered by the chamber formation, namely *Taganrog LRO and Others v. Russia* on the authorities’ crackdown on Jehovah’s Witnesses, *Ecodefence and Others v. Russia* on the application of the Foreign Agents Act to NGOs, *Carter v. Russia* concerning the assassination of Aleksandr Litvinenko and *Pavlov and Others v. Russia* and *Kotov and Others v. Russia* on industrial pollution.

The Court also continued to process applications against Russia in committee formations, where the complaints fell under the well-established case law of the Court (see, among others, *Novaya Gazeta and Others*; *Gasanova and Others*; *Navalny and Others* and *Vyatchin and Others*).

The processing of the eight pending interstate cases which concern the Russian Federation, as well as the associated individual conflict-related individual applications remained a top priority for the Court in 2022.

## UPDATE ON THE COURT’S IMPACT CASE-PROCESSING STRATEGY

2022 has seen the embedding and consolidation of the Court’s impact case-processing strategy, put in place in January 2021. The goal of the new strategy, which built upon and strengthened the priority policy adopted by the Court in 2009 and amended in 2017, is to ensure that the Court’s success is measured not only in numerical terms, namely the number of cases processed in a given period, but more importantly by reference to its adjudication of those cases which address core legal issues of relevance for the state in question and/or for the Convention system in general. Since the beginning of 2022, 200 such applications have now been processed, which is an encouraging start.

The new strategy is based on three principles: rapidly identifying the cases in question; monitoring them and simplifying the processing of all the remaining non-impact cases.

Impact cases concern a wide variety of topics, all of them crucial. In 2022, the Court adopted, among many others, judgments in impact cases on sexual harassment in the workplace (*C. v. Romania*); wheelchair access to public buildings (*Arnar Helgi Lárusson*

*v. Iceland*); judges' freedom of expression (*Žurek v. Poland*); shortcomings of a national minority voting system (*Bakirdzi and E.C. v. Hungary*); and failure to implement swift and comprehensive desegregation measures in an elementary school (*X and Others v. Albania*).

■ Not all "impact cases" result in findings of a violation of the Convention. The Court can also find the application inadmissible (see, for example, *Thevenon v. France* (dec.), which concerned the obligation to be vaccinated against Covid-19 imposed on health professionals on the basis of a national law).

■ By the end of 2022, approximately 472 impact cases were pending before the Court.

## FURTHERING DIALOGUE WITH CONVENTION PARTNERS

■ A cornerstone of judicial dialogue is the advisory-opinion mechanism provided by Protocol No. 16 to the Convention, which allows the Court to issue advisory opinions at the request of the highest domestic courts. Three opinions were adopted by the Grand Chamber of the Court during the year: one concerning the legislation on impeachment, at the request of the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania; another on limitation periods in relation to torture, at the request of the Armenian Court of Cassation; and a third on differences in treatment in national hunting legislation, at the request of the French Conseil d'État. In November 2022, the Court accepted a request from the Finnish Supreme Court for an advisory opinion on the procedural rights of a biological mother in adoption proceedings.

■ In 2022, the Court took part in a number of bilateral exchanges with the highest European and international courts. These included the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Court of Justice of the European Free Trade Association, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the African Court on Human and People's Rights. Equally, the Court continued to engage with national superior courts. In 2022, the Court received in Strasbourg: the President of the French Court of Cassation, the French Constitutional Council, the presidents of the Constitutional Court and Supreme Court of Armenia, the Supreme Court of Iceland and a high-level delegation of family law judges from the United Kingdom. The president, sometimes also accompanied by other judges and members of the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights visited the courts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway and the United Kingdom.

■ On 18 October 2022, the Court launched an external version of its Knowledge Sharing platform, which is now available to the public. This platform is designed to

further strengthen the subsidiary role of the European Convention on Human Rights, as it seeks to enhance the integration of the Court's case law into national legal systems, thereby emphasising the fact that primary responsibility for the protection of Convention rights lies with the national authorities. The launch is part of a wider programme implemented jointly with the Council of Europe Directorate of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DG I). This programme, partly funded by voluntary contributions from France, Ireland and the Human Rights Trust Fund, is also seeking to make the platform available in non-official languages.

■ Externalisation of the Knowledge Sharing platform is one example, an important one, of the Court's strategic policy of increased external communication. A modern court, not least an international court, must be an active participant in society, constantly ready to explain in the most transparent way possible its functions and its worth for the people it serves. In 2022, our communication policy was characterised by a more lively and attractive outreach, reporting on the Court's case law developments and news through photographs and videos.

■ By the end of 2022, the Court's Superior Courts Network reached the remarkable figure of 103 courts from 44 states. The Court welcomed the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the African Court on Human and People's Rights as observers to the network.

## GRAND CHAMBER CASE LAW HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022

■ In 2022, the Grand Chamber delivered nine judgments, one decision and three advisory opinions.

■ Under Article 3, the Grand Chamber dealt with three cases concerning extradition. In *Khasanov and Rakhmanov v. Russia*, it clarified the scope and nature of the risk assessment under Article 3 in removal cases, as well as the methodology for cases brought by members of vulnerable groups allegedly exposed to systematic ill-treatment. In *Sanchez-Sanchez v. the United Kingdom*, the Grand Chamber clarified whether the Convention compliance of a life sentence in a third country requesting extradition is to be assessed by reference to all of the standards which apply to serving life prisoners in the contracting states (as set out in *Vinter and Others*). In the decision in *McCallum v. Italy*, the Grand Chamber confirmed its approach of distinguishing between the substantive obligation under Article 3 and the related procedural safeguards, the latter not being applicable in the extradition context.

■ In *Grzęda v. Poland*, the Grand Chamber considered a novel issue: the applicability of Article 6 paragraph 1 (civil limb) to a dispute arising out of the premature termination of the term of office of a member of a judicial council (the National Council of the Judiciary) while he remained a serving judge.

In doing so, it developed and clarified the first and the second conditions of the Vilho Eskelinen test. The Grand Chamber also had regard to the overall context of the reforms of the judicial system, finding that, as a result, the judiciary had been exposed to interference by the executive and legislative powers, and its independence and adherence to rule-of-law standards had been substantially weakened.

■ Under the criminal limb of Article 6 paragraph 1, in *Vegotex International S.A v. Belgium*, the Grand Chamber clarified the criteria for assessing the compelling nature of the general-interest grounds which are advanced to justify the use of retrospective legislation designed to influence the judicial determination of a dispute in a tax-related case.

■ Under Article 10, in *NIT S.R.L. v. the Republic of Moldova*, the Grand Chamber developed its case law on pluralism in the media when dealing, for the first time, with restrictions imposed on a broadcaster with the aim of enabling diversity in the expression of political opinion and enhancing the protection of the free-speech interests of others.

■ In *Beeler v. Switzerland*, the Grand Chamber clarified, for the purposes of the applicability of Article 14, the relevant criteria to be applied to circumscribe

what falls within the ambit of Article 8, under its “family life” aspect, in the sphere of social welfare benefits. Also under Article 14, in *Savickis and Others v. Latvia*, the Grand Chamber dealt with the justification of a difference in treatment based on nationality, in the context of the restoration of a state’s independence after unlawful occupation and annexation.

■ In *H.F. and Others v. France*, the Grand Chamber ruled, for the first time, on the existence of a jurisdictional link between a state and its “nationals” in respect of a complaint under Article 3 paragraph 2 of Protocol No. 4 and examined the scope of this provision, including with regard to the extent of procedural obligations of the state in the context of a refusal to repatriate.

■ The Grand Chamber also delivered its second judgment in an infringement procedure (*Kavala*), finding that Türkiye had failed to abide by the Court’s final judgment explicitly indicating, under Article 46, the need for an applicant’s immediate release. In this connection, the Grand Chamber clarified certain matters concerning the roles of, and the institutional balance between, the Court and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.



**Dunja Mijatović**, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 22 June 2022)



**Dunja Mijatović**, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, received at the Vatican by **Pope Francis** (Vatican City, 8 April 2022)



**Dunja Mijatović** at the European Anti-SLAPP (strategic lawsuit against public participation) Conference 2022 organised by the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (Strasbourg, 20 October 2022)



# Commissioner for Human Rights

The Commissioner for Human Rights is an independent and impartial non-judicial institution established by the Council of Europe to promote awareness of and respect for human rights in the 46 Council of Europe member states.

Information on the Commissioner's work can be found at: [www.coe.int/commissioner](http://www.coe.int/commissioner).  
The Commissioner's Twitter account is [@CommissionerHR](https://twitter.com/CommissionerHR)

## Commissioner for Human Rights: Dunja Mijatović

### WAR IN UKRAINE

■ The Commissioner and her office have engaged in the response to the human rights consequences of the war in Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict. This engagement has notably included a [memorandum](#) on the human rights consequences of the war based on the findings of her [four-day visit to Kyiv](#) and its vicinities; [six emergency missions](#) to countries receiving people fleeing Ukraine; and direct exchanges with human rights defenders and authorities in Ukraine, as well as the Office of the International Criminal Court Prosecutor, international organisations and non-governmental organisations. It also included [several statements](#) on specific human rights issues and the situation of particularly vulnerable persons.

### COUNTRY WORK

■ The Commissioner's country work, which in addition to the visit and missions mentioned above included 3 country visits, led to the publication of 13 letters and 4 country reports, addressing various topics including children's rights, domestic violence, environmental protection, freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, human rights defenders, migration, labour rights, press freedom, transitional justice and women's rights.

■ In a [letter](#) published on 25 January, the Commissioner invited the President of Azerbaijan to use his authority to return a recently adopted media law to the Milli Majlis to proceed to its substantial revision.

■ On 11 February, the Commissioner published a [letter](#) in which she called on the Parliament of Spain to ensure that the review of the 2015 Law on Citizens' Safety be brought fully in line with European and international human rights standards, in particular as concerns the provisions impinging on the rights

to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly, the right to seek asylum and the prohibition of refoulement.

■ On 15 February, the Commissioner published a [report](#) on her visit to Malta. She called for justice for Daphne Caruana Galizia and urged for reforms to safeguard media freedom and better protect the rights of migrants and women.

■ On 12 May, the Commissioner published the [report](#) on her visit to Austria, in which she recommended improving the reception and integration of migrants and the protection of women's rights.

■ On 18 May, the Commissioner published a [letter](#) addressed to the UK Home Secretary, in which she called on the UK government not to extradite Julian Assange.

■ In a [letter](#) addressed to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice of Bulgaria published on 20 May, the Commissioner called on the Bulgarian authorities to improve the legal and institutional protection of victims of violence against women and domestic violence.

■ In a [letter](#) addressed to the President of the Estonian Parliament published on 23 May, the Commissioner called on parliamentarians to ensure that the bill amending the State Borders Act complies with human rights obligations.

■ In a [letter](#) addressed to the Hungarian Minister of the Interior published on 21 June, the Commissioner called on the authorities to establish a fair and effective asylum system.

■ In a [letter](#) addressed to the Spanish Minister of the Interior published on 13 July, the Commissioner urged the authorities to conduct an independent, full and effective investigation into the events leading to the deaths of more than 20 migrants who had attempted to cross the fence between Nador, in Morocco, and Melilla on 24 June.

■ On 15 July, the Commissioner published the [report](#) on her visit to Georgia, in which she called for the effective implementation of the anti-discrimination legislation and to improve the protection of human rights in the fields of labour and the environment.

■ In a [letter](#) addressed to the Finnish Minister of Interior, published on 4 August, the Commissioner called for clear safeguards to ensure that recently adopted amendments to the Border Guard Act would not lead to human rights violations.

■ In a [letter](#) addressed to the Latvian Minister of the Interior published on 9 August, the Commissioner recommended investigating human rights abuses at the border with Belarus.

■ On 2 September, the Commissioner published a [letter](#) addressed to the Dutch Minister for Migration, expressing concerns about asylum reception conditions in the Netherlands.

■ In a [letter](#) addressed to the Prime Minister of Malta published on 6 October, the Commissioner underscored the importance of stepping up investigative efforts to identify and bring to justice all those responsible for Daphne Caruana Galizia's assassination and stressed that this is also necessary to uphold the rule of law and Malta's human rights obligations with respect to freedom of expression, which includes media freedom.

■ On 29 November, the Commissioner concluded a visit to Spain. In the [press release](#) containing her preliminary observations, she stressed that the country should advance social rights, better guarantee freedoms of expression and assembly and improve the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

■ On 9 December, the Commissioner published the [report](#) on her [visit](#) to the United Kingdom, in which she warned against regression on human rights and called for concrete steps to protect children's rights and to tackle human rights issues in Northern Ireland.

■ On 21 December, the Commissioner published a [letter](#) addressed to the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister for Public Order and Security and the Minister of Interior of Bulgaria seeking clarification on investigations into alleged pushbacks of migrants trying to cross the border into the country.

■ In a [letter](#) addressed to Belgium's State Secretary for Asylum and Migration, published on 21 December, the Commissioner recommended ensuring accommodation and material assistance for asylum seekers.

## THEMATIC WORK

■ As part of her thematic work, the Commissioner submitted three *amicus curiae* briefs to the European

Court of Human Rights and two communications to the Committee of Ministers and published a recommendation on the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

■ On 4 February, the Commissioner published her written [observations](#) to the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *R.A. and others v. Poland* concerning the situation of asylum seekers and migrants stranded at the border between Poland and Belarus.

■ On 24 March, she published a [third-party intervention](#) in the case of *Irina Borisovna Fedotova and Irina Vladimirovna Shipitko and 2 other applications v. Russia* concerning the absence of legal recognition of same sex relationships.

■ On 14 April, the Commissioner published her [written comments](#) concerning the infringement proceedings in the case of *Osman Kavala v. Turkey*. She stressed that by not releasing the applicant from detention, the Turkish authorities had failed to abide by the Court's judgment.

■ On 7 April, the Commissioner published a [recommendation](#) urging member states to stop the practice of pushbacks at land and sea borders across Europe.

■ On 31 August, the Commissioner published a [communication](#) in the context of the supervision of the execution of the McKerr group of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights related to several shortcomings in the investigation of deaths during the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

■ On the same day, the Commissioner published another [communication](#) concerning the case of *Ilias and Ahmed v. Hungary*, related to the expulsion of applicants from Hungary to Serbia.

## OTHER WORK

■ In a private [hearing](#) with His Holiness Pope Francis held on 8 April, the Commissioner discussed the human rights of migrants and the humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine.

■ On 26 April, the Commissioner published her [annual report](#) in which she stressed that trends undermining human rights protection had continued in 2021. The topics covered by the report vary from media freedom and journalists' safety to the protection of migrants, from freedom of peaceful assembly to the rights of women and girls, LGBTI people, persons with disabilities, human rights defenders and children, as well as transitional justice, the right to health and racism.

■ In a [memorandum](#) based on her [mission](#) to Kosovo\* published on 18 October, the Commissioner stressed the need to address shortcomings in the field of transitional justice and social cohesion, freedom of the media, and women's rights and gender equality.

■ Five [human rights comments](#) were published covering topics such as women's rights, the safety of journalists covering conflicts, the need to support

Russian and Belarusian civil society and human rights defenders, and missing migrants. The Commissioner also continued to engage with the press and the public at large with interviews, speeches, statements and an intense activity on social media platforms.

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\* All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



**Gerhard Ermischer**, President of the Conference of INGOs. Launching event of the "Democracy Here / Democracy Now" youth campaign of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 22 March 2022)

General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs (Strasbourg, 5 October 2022)



# Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs)

More can be found on [www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/home](http://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/home)  
Twitter: @CoE\_NGO – Facebook: @CONFINGO

## President of the Conference of INGOs: Gerhard Ermischer (Austria) CIVIL SOCIETY'S VOICE

The Conference of INGOs devoted its April session to the situation in and around Ukraine following the violent aggression of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. The Conference of INGOs shared its reflections on the future of the Council of Europe with the High-level Reflection Group. The General Assembly had an exchange of views on the conference's contributions to the strengthening of civil society dialogue in the Council of Europe, the challenges for the Organisation and consequences to the Russian Federation exclusion.

The Conference of INGOs resumed its fact-finding visits in 2022. The one to Finland, in April, aimed to understand the country context, to raise awareness of the civil society's role in the Council of Europe's work and develop its engagement whereas the country visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo, Mostar and Banja Luka) in September was to meet domestic NGOs and public authorities in order to introduce them to the Conference of INGOs and discuss NGO participation in the public decision-making process as well as freedom of association. On 21-23 November, a delegation of the Committee on the rights of persons who are migrants visited Greece to meet with local NGOs and visit several integration centres for migrants. The Conference of INGOs held its annual event with leading personalities of the Council of Europe to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October) on the subject "Putting an end to non-take-up

of rights: for effective access by everyone to rights and services". It also took an active part in the 10th World Forum for Democracy by sponsoring one lab and through the participation of several members and its youth delegates.

The Expert Council on NGO Law, a body of the conference which looks at specific aspects of NGO legislation and its implementation that pose problems of conformity with international standards, produced a [study on non-governmental organisations and the implementation of measures against money laundering and terrorist financing](#), a [study on the execution of judgments involving freedom of association](#) as well as a new [opinion on the compatibility with international and regional standards of recent amendments to the Belarusian legislation affecting NGOs](#).

The Conference of INGOs participated in the drafting of a practical guide for civil society stakeholders to be better informed about the possibilities of working with the Council of Europe, which has been published as a [handbook](#) and as a dedicated [web portal](#) on the Council of Europe's website. Representatives of the Conference of INGOs also participated in a workshop with pro-democracy civil society representatives from Belarus and the Russian Federation, made possible by a voluntary contribution from Finland, to explore possible co-operation with the Conference of INGOs and the Council of Europe.



Meeting between **Marija Pejčinović Burić**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and **Svetlana Tikhanovskaia**, leader of the Belarusian opposition (Strasbourg, 21 June 2022)

Meeting between **Marija Pejčinović Burić**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and **Helga Maria Schmid**, Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Strasbourg, 14 December 2022)



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



HUMAN RIGHTS,  
DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW

DROITS DE L'HOMME,  
DÉMOCRATIE ET ÉTAT DE DROIT



# Political Affairs and External Relations

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/dpaer>

## POLITICAL ADVICE

■ The regular 25th and 26th consolidated reports of the Secretary General on the conflict in Georgia were presented to, and debated by, the Committee of Ministers on two occasions, in May and November 2022. As on previous occasions, the reports notably took stock of the human rights situation of the conflict-affected populations and provided information on the relevant activities of the Council of Europe, including confidence-building measures. The Ministers' Deputies adopted a decision on the Council of Europe and the conflict in Georgia on 4 May 2022 following the discussion of the 25th consolidated report.

■ The Directorate of Political Affairs and External Relations (DPAER) and DG I jointly prepared the first annual report of the Secretary General on the human rights situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol (Ukraine). The report was debated by the Committee of Ministers on 15 June 2022 and was followed by a decision of the Ministers' Deputies. In the same context, a round table on the human rights situation in the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and City of Sevastopol, Ukraine – Developments in the aftermath of the Russian armed aggression, with Ukrainian human rights defenders, representatives of the Crimean Tatars and other stakeholders was held in Strasbourg on 20 December 2022.

## CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

■ Confidence-building measures (CBMs) in post-conflict, frozen or protracted conflict zones continued to be implemented despite the difficult political context in Europe. In 2022, this programme supported the dissemination of Council of Europe standards and contributed to dialogue and capacity building of professionals in the affected regions. The main beneficiaries of the programme were civil society representatives from Armenia and Azerbaijan, representatives from Tbilisi and Sukhumi, different local officials and population groups from Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as professionals dealing with war-related trauma of refugee women and children from Ukraine.

## Civil society representatives from Armenia and Azerbaijan

■ In 2022, the Council of Europe organised an exploratory meeting on confidence-building measures to restore dialogue between the civil societies of Armenia and Azerbaijan (Venice, 16-19 May 2022). The meeting gathered Armenian and Azerbaijani members of civil society, media professionals and educators, as well as experts from other member states. As a follow-up, civil society representatives from Armenia and Azerbaijan met in Tbilisi on 8-9 December 2022 to discuss ways to develop young journalists' skills in balanced reporting on sensitive issues. Participants were accompanied by journalists who cover conflicts as well as professors of journalism from France, Georgia and Israel.

## Intermunicipality co-operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

■ In the framework of the project on reconciliation through intermunicipality co-operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 11 projects were implemented in 2022. All projects involved the two divided municipalities on either side of the entity line and were implemented further to the project management training organised in 2021 by the Council of Europe for the aforesaid municipalities. The projects implemented addressed concrete topics for the benefit of everyday life of the people living in these areas, with the aim of building bridges and strengthening co-operation, for example intermunicipal cycling routes, the protection of inter-entity space from flooding, road rehabilitation, a joint football school for children and revival of culture and art.

## Dialogue between representatives from Tbilisi and Sukhumi

■ Concerning the Tbilisi-Sukhumi dialogue, the CBM programme in 2022 fostered the co-operation of archives professionals. Thanks to the common work on archive materials, the work "Mukhadjirstvo in the XIX century" in the region was finalised with a view to the presentation of this and previous publications in 2023. New research was advanced on new topics.

■ The Council of Europe continued to explore other avenues of dialogue, including joint artistic projects and dialogue between youth and civil society representatives from Tbilisi and Sukhumi.

### **Pilot training for specialists working with war-related trauma of women and children from Ukraine**

■ In 2022, the CBM Division, DPAER – jointly with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees – developed a pilot training on “Psychological support to refugees: strengthening professional capacities”. The aim of the training was to enhance the capacities of relevant professionals working on the ground to detect war-related trauma of women and children from Ukraine. In 2022, this initiative was implemented in the Republic of Moldova and Poland, in co-operation with and with the full support of the authorities of these countries.

■ A number of activities are already planned for 2023 and will be implemented provided the political context in Europe allows. Discussions are also ongoing for the dialogue and co-operation of professionals from both banks of the river Nistru/Dniester.

## **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

### **Interinstitutional co-operation and external relations**

#### **The Council of Europe’s contribution to global governance and the policy towards neighbouring regions**

■ In May 2022, the Committee of Ministers endorsed the outcome of the “Reflection process on the contribution of the Council of Europe to the international order and global governance, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. In this process, it was proposed to strengthen relations with observer states and with international organisations and non-member states which share the Council of Europe’s principles of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. It was also proposed to further promote Council of Europe instruments and bodies open to non-member states.

■ In the context of the policy towards neighbouring regions, co-operation activities were implemented with Morocco and Tunisia in the framework of their “Neighbourhood Partnerships” for the period 2022-2025. The Organisation’s relevant organs also followed closely developments in Tunisia. In addition, co-operation continued with Kazakhstan through “Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities”. Co-operation also continued through regional frameworks in the Southern Mediterranean region and Central Asia. Moreover, a multifaceted co-operation has further developed with

Israel. The policy towards neighbouring regions was carried out in close co-operation with the EU.

## **RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE OSCE AND THE UNITED NATIONS**

### **European Union**

■ On 20 May, the Committee of Ministers called, *inter alia*, for co-operation with the EU – as the main institutional partner of the Council of Europe in political, legal and financial terms – to be stepped up still further in view of the many challenges currently facing Europe. Accordingly, the strategic partnership with the EU was further strengthened through its three pillars – political dialogue, legal co-operation and programmatic co-operation. Negotiations on EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights continued throughout the year. As in previous years, a substantial part of joint activities was carried out through joint programmes in Council of Europe member states and in the neighbouring regions. The Council of Europe Liaison Office in Brussels and the Delegation of the EU to the Council of Europe facilitated the reinforcement of the co-operation described above. The EU and the Council of Europe also continued their co-operation on communication and on raising the visibility of the partnership.

### **OSCE**

■ Co-operation with the OSCE focused on a broad spectrum of human dimension activities at both headquarters’ level and “in the field”. This interaction covered the different Council of Europe and OSCE institutions and bodies. In June, the Secretary General participated in the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna and met her counterpart and the Polish OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on this occasion. The Secretary General also met the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in September in Strasbourg. The Council of Europe/OSCE Co-ordination Group met in Vienna in December to review progress in the four specially selected areas of co-operation: the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities; the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination; the fight against terrorism; and the fight against trafficking in human beings.

### **United Nations**

■ High-level political dialogue continued in 2022. The Secretary General participated in the High-Level Segment of the 77th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and held bilateral meetings in New York. The Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on Migration and

Refugees addressed the 73rd session of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Council of Europe also participated in the High-Level Dialogue on the Protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

■ In October, the Ministers' Deputies approved the draft biennial United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe, for adoption by the UNGA in 2023. Furthermore, on 19 October, on the occasion of an official visit of the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to the Council of Europe, the two organisations signed a new memorandum of understanding.

### **Relations with other organisations and non-member countries**

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■ The Council of Europe maintained regular or ad hoc contacts with other organisations active in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of

law. In the context of relations with observer states (Canada, the Holy See, Japan, Mexico and the USA), the Secretary General carried out visits to the Holy See, Japan and the USA.

### **European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)**

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■ The North-South Prize, awarded in October to the COVAX Mechanism and to an Afghan former mayor, highlighted challenges to safeguard human rights in times of crisis. On the occasion of the awards ceremony, the Council of Europe Secretary General also carried out an official visit to Portugal and visited the North-South Centre.



2022 HELP Network Conference - **Christos Giakoumopoulos**, Director General of the Human Rights and Rule of Law Directorate (Strasbourg, 30 June 2022)



**Marija Pejčinović Burić**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, presents the **Raoul Wallenberg Prize 2022** to the laureate, **Vincent Raj Arokiasamy**, at a ceremony held online (Strasbourg, 19 January 2022)



Visit to the Republic of Moldova of **Leyla Kayacik**, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees. At the Palanca border crossing point – meeting with the cross-border police and refugees (Palanca, 13 June 2022)

# Human Rights and the Rule of Law

[www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/home](http://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/home)

## HUMAN RIGHTS, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights

■ In 2022, the Committee of Ministers examined at its four annual Human Rights meetings 145 cases or groups of cases concerning 32 states; 53 of these cases were examined more than once. Despite the increase in the number of new judgments delivered by the Court in 2022, the cessation of membership of the Russian Federation (with more than 2 300 judgments pending for execution) and its subsequent non-participation in the execution process, the number of judgments pending before the Committee of Ministers was one of the lowest since 2007 (6 081).<sup>2</sup> The Committee of Ministers ended the supervision of execution of 880 cases (including 200 leading cases requiring the adoption by states of general measures to prevent recurrence of violations), following the adoption by respondent states of individual and constitutional, statutory and other general measures to execute the Court's judgments.

■ Among the significant advances reported by respondent states to the Committee of Ministers which led to the closure of relevant cases, Armenia proceeded to constitutional and statutory amendments concerning the government's competence to declare a state of emergency and judicial review of such decisions (*Dareskizb Ltd*), Bulgaria adopted legislative measures to align its parliamentary electoral law with the Court's case law (*Petkov and Others*), Croatia's laws were amended in order to enhance investigations into war crimes including disappearances (*Skendžić and Krznarić group*), Greece amended its criminal legislation to enhance investigations into racially motivated crime (*Sakir*), Lithuania amended its constitution to allow impeached politicians to stand for election to the parliament after a certain period of time (*Paksas*), Türkiye's prison administration practice has changed in order to enhance protection of LGBTI inmates (X).

■ Lastly, the Committee of Ministers received a new record number of communications from civil society organisations and national human rights institutions (217 concerning 29 states), indicating a further increase of transparency of the execution process and a reinforcement of its participatory character. During the same period, the Department for the Execution of Judgments continued its interaction with the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), notably through its participation in the ENNHRI High-Level Network Meeting on Joint Work on the Rule of Law.

### Raoul Wallenberg Prize

■ Vincent Raj Arokiasamy, founder of the organisation "Evidence" in India, was awarded the 2022 [Raoul Wallenberg Prize](#) for his outstanding determination and persistence in bringing meaningful change to the lives of the Dalits, historically known as "untouchables".

### Development and promotion of human rights

■ The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) finalised draft Committee of Ministers' recommendations on [human rights and protection of the environment](#) and on [preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation](#), as well as a draft Committee of Ministers declaration on the effective processing and resolution of cases relating to interstate disputes (accompanied by a report on the same topic) and draft Committee of Ministers' [guidelines on the prevention and remedying of violations of the European Convention on Human Rights](#). It also adopted a report on member states' practice in relation to derogations from the European Convention on Human Rights in situations of crisis.

■ The negotiations on the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights continued to make important progress. The ad hoc negotiation group ("46+1" group) held four meetings and reached a tentative agreement on a number of further issues. Other aspects are still under consideration.

2. Statistical data available as of 9 January 2023.

## Human rights national implementation

Co-operation activities aimed at supporting the national implementation of human rights and justice standards continued to be implemented by the Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-Operation standards (more than 75 bilateral and regional projects in member and non-member states). In Ukraine, co-operation activities were refocused to support the judicial system and rule of law machinery so as to safeguard their functioning in time of war and to ensure accountability for alleged human rights violations and crimes resulting from the Russian Federation's aggression. The project "Enhancing Subsidiarity: support to the ECHR knowledge sharing and superior courts dialogue" was launched.

The Council of Europe remained Europe's top provider of online judicial training on human rights, thanks to its "Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals" (HELP) courses. New courses on cybercrime, violence against women (for law enforcement), reasoning of judgments and human rights in the armed forces were published. The number of HELP users reached 115 000, with over 8 800 participants in tutored courses in 2022.

## Independent human rights bodies

Through a joint European Union/Council of Europe project, the Council of Europe fostered co-operation among European national torture prevention mechanisms (NPMs), notably through a conference on the rights of people with specific vulnerabilities while deprived of their liberty. NPMs were also supported in Morocco and Tunisia.

## Independence of justice and legal co-operation

The justice advisory bodies continued to remain mobilised in response to emerging issues concerning the functioning of the justice system. The Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) adopted [Opinion No. 25 \(2022\)](#) on freedom of expression of judges. The Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) issued its [Opinion No. 17 \(2022\)](#) on the role of prosecutors in the protection of the environment.

The European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) approved several studies and reports, including notably a [review](#) of the implementation of the Council of Europe Plan of Action on Strengthening Judicial Independence and Impartiality, a [comparative study](#) on administrative law and the use of artificial intelligence and other algorithmic systems in administrative decision making, and an [evaluation](#) of the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)7 on the protection of whistleblowers. It also completed a [comparative study](#) on access of persons conceived

by gamete donation to information on their origins, recognising the added value of drafting a recommendation on this topic in the future.

## Human rights and biomedicine

In the framework of its Strategic Action Plan on Human Rights and Technologies in Biomedicine (2020-2025), the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO) approved a [draft Committee of Ministers' recommendation on equitable access to medicinal products and medical equipment in a situation of shortage](#) and a [guide to health literacy: contributing to trust building and equitable access to healthcare](#). A first capacity-building project was completed in Armenia.

## SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

### Prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (CPT)

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) carried out 16 visits, including 7 periodic visits (Croatia, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and San Marino) and 9 ad hoc or rapid reaction visits (Azerbaijan, Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Türkiye and the United Kingdom), continuously giving priority to visits required in the circumstances.

High-level talks were held by the CPT with the authorities in Greece (prison situation), Croatia (treatment of migrants intercepted by the police), Bulgaria (follow-up to the 2021 public statement) and North Macedonia (prison reform).

The CPT published 10 reports on visits and 12 government responses, as well as its [31st Annual General Report](#), which included a substantive section on combating prison overcrowding. The CPT has welcomed the frequent steps taken to release low-risk prisoners and reduce the use of pre-trial detention, aimed at limiting the spread of Covid-19.

## Social rights

As a result of its brutal aggression against Ukraine and its exclusion from the Council of Europe on 16 March 2022, the Russian Federation ceased to be a party to the European Social Charter (ETS No. 35, the Charter). The [European Committee of Social Rights \(ECSR\)](#) – the Charter's monitoring body – promptly declared the inconsistency of a military aggression with the spirit and the commitments made by states under the [European Social Charter](#).

■ In March 2022, the [ECSR](#) presented its conclusions on the rights to health, social protection and social security following the 2021 examination of national reports on related [Charter](#) provisions. Particular attention was paid to the social protection of platform workers, excessive working hours linked to remote work and the right to disconnect. The focus of the 2022 scrutiny was labour rights; the [ECSR](#) will publish its conclusions in March 2023.

■ Growing numbers of trade unions and non-governmental organisations submit information to the ECSR in the framework of its monitoring activities. In 2022, more than 20 organisations provided substantial information or comments on national reports (labour rights) or on the follow-up undertaken by authorities when the ECSR found violations in collective complaints.

■ In 2022, the [Committee of Ministers](#) adopted decisions [reforming](#) and modernising the Charter's procedures. Reporting will be lighter but more incisive and targeted, and there should be more dialogue between the Charter organs (ECSR, [Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and European Code of Social Security](#)) and national authorities and other stakeholders.

■ The recently reinstated [European Committee for Social Cohesion](#) (CCS) examined current challenges to social cohesion in connection with post-pandemic recovery, the impact of the war in Ukraine and the transition to a green economy.

■ Country-specific technical assistance continued on social rights of [vulnerable groups](#) (in Ukraine) and on [strengthening the protection of labour rights \(in Georgia\)](#). Further projects have been developed for the Republic of Moldova and Armenia.

## Data protection

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■ For more than 40 years, the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108, Convention 108) has been the unique international key legally binding instrument on the protection of personal data and privacy. Its 55 parties continue to promote its modernised version, Convention 108+, which now counts 43 signatures and 20 ratifications. To support states' ratification procedure, the Committee of Convention 108 has been working on the interpretation of Article 11 of the convention (exceptions and restrictions) and held an international conference on Convention 108+, which notably enables to build a free data transfer area while preserving human dignity, which gathered over 170 participants from all continents.

■ It adopted guidelines on national digital identity, aiming at ensuring respect for human rights when setting up national digital identity systems. It works

on updating contractual clauses for transfers of personal data and focuses on the protection of personal data in the fight against money laundering and funding of terrorism. Furthermore, the Council of Europe published a ground-breaking report on Pegasus spy software and its impact on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

■ Next to Europe, several countries in the world (the region of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, the Gambia and Vanuatu) have benefited from Council of Europe expertise in the development or the reinforcement of their data protection legislation; this contributed to fostering the international dimension of this unique instrument and the influence of the Council of Europe.

■ On 28 January, Data Protection Day, the 2022 Stefano Rodotà Award was granted to Teresa Quintel and Sabrina Nucciotti for their innovative works, respectively on the management of migration flows through processing of personal data and on the sharing of health data.

## European Audiovisual Observatory – Partial agreement

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■ The observatory celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2022, having been created in 1992. It was a year for looking back and celebrating 30 years of observing the immense changes which have taken place in cinema, television and video-on-demand over this period. However, it was also a year of looking forward to new challenges and monitoring, in particular hot media questions such as how cinema exhibition can recover from the pandemic, how audiences' viewing habits have changed from large to small screens and the development of the European Media Freedom Act to protect independence and pluralism in the media.

■ The observatory was under Estonian Presidency in 2022 and this was the occasion to organise a conference in Tallinn in June on creative forces in the European screen sector. It was also a chance to celebrate Estonian cinema with a joint observatory/Eurimages screening of the Estonian-Georgian Oscar-nominated co-production *Tangerines* in Strasbourg in November in the presence of the film's producer.

■ The observatory produced its yearly digest of economic and market reports on the audiovisual sector in Europe. In 2022, its research work covered subjects as diverse as the films and programmes being offered in the streaming services' catalogues (origin and visibility), fiction film financing in Europe, female professionals in film and TV production and investment in European fiction.

■ The legal team continued to cover key areas and developments in European media law, reporting on themes such as the transparency of media ownership,

EU sanctions against Russian media outlets RT and Sputnik, the new players and risks in online advertising and the legal obligations of the streaming services operating in Europe to invest in producing European films and TV series.

■ The year 2022 saw the observatory returning to “in-person” events and launching not one but two new annual conferences. The first was a partnership with the Series Mania event in Lille to launch the *Key Trends* publication. This new short informal discussion format proved to be informative and successful. A second new conference format was launched at the Cannes Film Market. In addition to the observatory’s traditional Saturday morning conference (in 2022 the organisation examined the availability of European films on the market), the observatory also presented its *FOCUS – World Film Market Trends* publication, again in a short informal discussion format. Both events took place before packed houses.

## Protection of freedom of expression and media and internet and digital governance

■ In 2022, new Council of Europe normative instruments developed by the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) and its specialised expert committees were adopted by the Committee of Ministers:

- ▶ Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)13](#) on the impacts of digital technologies on freedom of expression;
- ▶ Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#) on combating hate speech;
- ▶ Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)4](#) on promoting a favourable environment for quality journalism in the digital age;
- ▶ Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)11](#) on principles for media and communication governance;
- ▶ Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)12](#) on electoral communication and media coverage of election campaigns.

■ Under the Council of Europe Digital Partnership, the CDMSI pursued its co-operation with tech companies, notably by holding two rounds of exchanges with Meta – on the impacts of the metaverse on human rights, the rule of law and democratic values and on Meta’s policy on users’ rights.

■ Moreover, in the aftermath of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, a [web page](#) dedicated to freedom of expression in times of conflict was launched gathering relevant Council of Europe and international principles for safeguarding the role of journalism and the media in times of conflict and aggression, notably [“Journalism in situations of conflict and aggression:](#)

[Principles from the relevant Council of Europe and other international standards”](#). Several events were dedicated to this topic:

- ▶ the webinar “Mariupol: [testimony of a journalist](#)” with journalist Anna Murlykina, on the consequences of the war on the media in Ukraine (31 March 2022);
- ▶ the regional conference “Media in times of war”, Tbilisi (12-13 October 2022);
- ▶ the webinar “Electronic evidence of war crimes”, on challenges and possible solutions for storage and usage of war-crimes evidence collected by the media (25 November 2022).

■ The conference entitled “[Public Service Media for Democracy](#)”, co-organised by the Council of Europe and the European Broadcasting Union in Vilnius on 22 November 2022, discussed the key role of credible, independent, impartial, well-funded and innovative public service media in safeguarding people’s right to freedom of expression and information.

## Co-operation on freedom of expression

■ Co-operation on freedom of expression and media freedom in 2022 included the provision of customised inputs through technical assistance, support and legislative and policy advice to 15 countries/beneficiaries (11 member states) of the Council of Europe. More specifically, involving Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo\*, Libya, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye and Ukraine. In 2022, the co-operation on freedom of expression managed 15 country and regional interventions (projects) with a total budgetary envelope of about €9.4 million.

■ Support actions count up to 357 technical co-operation, capacity building as well as policy and legislative initiatives ensured through inputs aimed at approximation of national legislation to the Council of Europe standards, support and strengthening of public broadcasters, ensuring and promoting the safety of journalists and fighting impunity of crimes, professional coverage of elections, reforms of printed media, countering disinformation and hate speech, access to public information, personal data protection, improving medial literacy frameworks and addressing disinformation, legal education on freedom of expression, journalistic ethics.

■ Overall, achievement and results in the form of different sectoral deliverables contained about 35 policy and strategy advisory papers guiding reforms; provision of legal advice and support to 8 legislative processes (reforms) affecting mainly primary legislation related to media and freedom of expression; 96 training events aimed at capacity and institutional

support for the enhancement for more than 30 partner institutions with a direct nexus to media and freedom of expression derivatives enabling them to carry out work even during pandemics; training and capacity building of 336 certified trained participants (journalists, media regulatory authorities, law-enforcement officials, judiciary members, legal professionals and legal training institutions, public administrations, audiovisual regulators, other media stakeholders, national press council, youth organisations, NGOs, students and academia). Overall, 4 161 participants benefited from co-operation actions, activities and support initiatives during 2022.

■ Examples of sustainable deliverables and tools for impact (reforms) include but are not limited to: legal opinions on the draft law on broadcasting (Georgia), on the draft law on media (Ukraine), on the alignment of the Audiovisual Media Services Code with European standards (Republic of Moldova), on media sector needs assessment and recommendations, on campaigns aimed at counteracting fake news, on the contribution to the joint opinion with the Venice Commission on false or misleading information provisions; support and advice to policy and strategic framework[s] for media literacy and infrastructure training judiciary and law-enforcement members in different countries on freedom of expression and the European Court of Human Rights' case law application into domestic legislation.

■ The development of new programme interventions included the launch of four in-country follow-up projects in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; and the start of the South Programme V (SPV), as a multicountry programme in the MENA region.

## Digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI)

■ In 2022, the Committee on Artificial Intelligence took up its tasks and initiated the process of drafting and negotiating a [framework] convention on AI, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, in accordance with the CAI's Terms of Reference.

■ In addition to the standard-setting work, the Digital Development Unit, with the generous support of the Government of Japan, organised a series of well-attended online events on the margins of the plenary meetings of the CAI on subjects in relation to artificial intelligence. This activity will continue in 2023.

■ The Digital Development Unit is also responsible for ensuring the co-ordination of the cross-sectoral and transversal comprehensive approach of the Council of Europe to issues related to artificial intelligence. To this end, an AI Co-ordination Group composed

of relevant committees and entities of the Council of Europe was established in 2022. This group meets regularly to exchange information which is, *inter alia*, used to keep the Committee of Ministers informed about progress of work in the Organisation on artificial intelligence issues.

■ The Digital Development Unit also serves as a focal point for co-operation and co-ordination with other intergovernmental and supranational organisations on artificial intelligence, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the OECD and the European Union, through in particular the Globalpolicy.AI, an online platform for co-operation between intergovernmental organisations with complementary mandates on artificial intelligence.

■ The Digital Development Unit represents the Council of Europe in other international fora, such as the Internet Governance Forum, the RightsCon and the EuroDIG. This year, the unit also ensured participation in the OECD Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting in Gran Canaria, Spain, entitled "Driving long-term recovery and economic growth by building a trusted, sustainable and inclusive digital future".

## ACTION AGAINST CRIME

### Counter-terrorism and criminal law

■ The Committee of Ministers adopted two recommendations prepared by the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC). These recommendations concern the assessment, management and reintegration of persons accused or convicted of a sexual offence as well as the protection of witnesses and collaborators of justice.

■ The 26th Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services "Gaining an Edge over the Pandemic" took place in Funchal. The Council of Europe [Annual Penal Statistics](#) (SPACE) on prisons and on probation were published. During the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, a [Conference of the Ministers of Justice](#) "Crime and Criminal Justice – The Role of Restorative Justice in Europe" was held in Venice. The Ministers adopted a [final declaration](#) on the role of restorative justice in criminal matters.

■ The Committee of Ministers adopted a recommendation on the measures aimed at protecting children against radicalisation for the purpose of terrorism prepared by the Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT).

## **MONEYVAL and the Conference of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention CETS No. 198**

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■ MONEYVAL adopted the mutual evaluation reports of Bulgaria, Estonia, Liechtenstein and Monaco and 10 follow-up reports, notably of Albania, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, the Isle of Man, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia and Slovenia, with a continued focus on the sector of virtual currencies. MONEYVAL marked its 25-year anniversary with the successful completion of its first strategy for 2020-2022 and developed its strategic outlook for the next five-year period.

■ The Conference of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS No. 198) adopted a thematic report assessing the management of seized and confiscated assets in its states parties. It held a landmark joint session with the Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC) resulting in the proposal to develop an Additional Protocol to the CETS No. 198 Convention covering issues of asset sharing, management and use.

### **Fight against corruption (GRECO)**

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■ The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) adopted 41 reports focusing on the prevention of corruption of top executive officials and law-enforcement agencies (fifth evaluation round) and of MPs, judges and prosecutors (fourth evaluation round). Nine on-site visits were carried out.

■ GRECO pursued its co-operation with other international organisations, including the UN, the OECD, the OSCE and the EU.

### **Criminal law co-operation activities**

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■ The Criminal Law Co-operation Unit supported more than 20 member states in their efforts to adhere to the Council of Europe standards on prisons, the police and probation.

■ Radicalisation in prisons remained in the focus in the Western Balkans, where important results were achieved, including the establishment of a web-based collaboration platform for prison and probation professionals in the region. A web site for the general public has also been set up.

### **Economic crime co-operation activities**

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■ The Economic Crime and Co-operation Division continued to build the anti-corruption capacities in a large number of beneficiary jurisdictions by supporting

their specialised anti-corruption bodies (Armenia, Georgia and Montenegro), advising on protection of whistle-blowers and developing institutional measures to introduce reporting channels and procedures (Kosovo\*), advising on introducing and strengthening the application of integrity systems and principles at different levels of public service regarding lobbying (Albania, Armenia and Montenegro).

■ In the anti-money laundering and countering of the financing of terrorism area, the focus was placed on increasing the capacities for preventing the misuse of non-financial businesses and professions for money laundering and terrorist financing. Competent authorities responsible for anti-money laundering supervision and private sector entities in the Eastern Partnership region, the Western Balkans and Türkiye, as well as EU member states, such as Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Romania, were the beneficiaries of structured support to enhance their understanding and capacities to apply risk-based measures in the supervision and prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing.

■ Considerable efforts were devoted to improving national confiscation systems for more successful recovery, management and reuse of proceeds from crime by the public authorities, including through introducing advanced asset recovery mechanisms (Albania, Kosovo\*, Montenegro and North Macedonia), developing the existing capacities to use innovative tools to target illicit proceeds and encouraging effective international co-operation in this area.

### **Cybercrime**

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■ The Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185, Budapest Convention), which opened for signature in 2001, is currently the only global standard of reference on cybercrime and e-evidence. Two important states acceded to the Convention on Cybercrime in 2022, that is Nigeria (6 July 2022) and Brazil (30 November 2022), bringing the number of parties to 68. In addition, several states requested accession, and the Côte d'Ivoire and Timor Leste were invited to accede to this treaty.

■ On 12 May 2022, within the framework of an international conference held in Strasbourg, the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on Enhanced Co-operation and Disclosure of Electronic Evidence was opened for signature. It provides for innovative and more effective tools – with a strong system of safeguards – to obtain electronic evidence across jurisdictions in order to protect individuals and their rights against crime and to bring offenders to justice. By December 2022, it had been signed by 30 states.

■ With this protocol, the Convention on Cybercrime will remain the most relevant international agreement on this topic for years to come.

■ The Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY), *inter alia*, adopted a guidance note addressing ransomware offences and initiated the fourth cycle of assessments.

■ The Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe (C-PROC) in Bucharest, Romania, supported more than 350 activities in all regions of the world to strengthen criminal justice capacities in line with the Convention on Cybercrime and its protocols. The Russian aggression against Ukraine raised further challenges related to cybercrime and e-evidence, including evidence of war crime. C-PROC supported capacity-building activities for Ukrainian authorities to address some of these challenges. By December 2022, C-PROC was one of the largest external offices of the Council of Europe, with a cumulative budget of over €39 million for active projects and 40 staff members.

## Drug use and illicit trafficking

■ The Pompidou Group celebrated its 50th anniversary bringing together 140 participants from 46 countries. Ukraine joined the group. It now has 42 member states, including three non-European ones.

■ The Committee of Ministers adopted the Pompidou Group's revised statute. Its mandate was extended to deal with all forms of addictions and a strong focus on human rights. Its name is thus now changed to the Council of Europe International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions.

## JUSTICE AND LEGAL CO-OPERATION

### Venice Commission

■ In 2022, the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) adopted three opinions for Serbia on five draft laws on the judiciary and the prosecution service, which implement the long-awaited, recently adopted constitutional amendments that have brought the Serbian judiciary closer to European standards. Two opinions on the constitutional reform of Belarus criticised the over-concentration of powers in the hands of the president of the republic.

■ The Venice Commission examined legislation on the vetting of judges and prosecutors in Croatia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and reiterated that vetting could only be a one-time measure of the last resort. The opinion on the competitive selection of Judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine assessed the introduction of an international component in this selection designed to ensure independence and public trust in that court. The Venice Commission's opinion on Montenegro addressed the stand-off between the president and the parliament. The opinion on

constitutional reform in Chile analyses the results of a very inclusive and innovative process and focused on the features of bicameralism. The forfeiture of unjustified assets was the topic of an opinion for Kosovo\*.

■ The Venice Commission provided opinions on the electoral legislation of Georgia, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Tunisia and Türkiye, an opinion on democratic institutions in Serbia dealing with legislation on and the practice of elections, on the legislation on the local referendum in Ukraine and on political parties in Mongolia.

■ On the basis of its Principles on the Protection and Promotion of the Ombudsman Institution (the Venice Principles), the Venice Commission prepared opinions on the legislation on the ombudsman institutions of Andorra and Kazakhstan.

■ It adopted the revised Code of Good Practice on Referendums and a report on national procedures for ratifying and denouncing international treaties.

■ *Amicus curiae* briefs were prepared for the constitutional courts of the Republic of Moldova (declaring unconstitutional a political party, illicit enrichment and combating extremist activities), Armenia (forfeiture of assets of illicit origin) and Ukraine (on the election and discipline of the judicial council and on the a posteriori review of constitutional amendments).

## Justice and legal co-operation

■ The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, launched its [Action Plan 2022-2025 on "Digitalisation for a better justice"](#); it created an Artificial Intelligence Advisory Board tasked to develop a resource centre on cyberjustice and artificial intelligence. It published its [CEPEJ evaluation report – European judicial systems, cycle 2022](#), containing data and analyses on the functioning of the judicial systems of 44 European states and 3 observer states allowing to measure their efficiency and quality. The CEPEJ also adopted [guidelines on gender equality in the recruitment and promotion of judges](#).

■ Co-operation activities on human rights and justice were swiftly refocused to support the judicial system and rule of law machinery in Ukraine. The CEPEJ provided support to the Ukrainian Supreme Court in implementing remote court hearings in the judicial system in line with European standards, based on recent CEPEJ guidelines on videoconferencing in judicial proceedings. The Council of Europe, in coordination with the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), also set up asylum/migration HELPe-Desks for lawyers supporting those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

## **SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON MIGRATION AND REFUGEES**

■ In response to the largest human displacement crisis in Europe since World War II triggered by the ongoing aggression by Russia against Ukraine, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees (SRSR) published four reports following her fact-finding missions to the Slovak Republic (2-4 May 2022), the Czech Republic (4-6 May), Poland (30 May to 3 June) and the Republic of Moldova (13-14 June). She also carried out a fact-finding mission to Romania (12-14 December).

■ The reports focused on the protection of persons, in particular women and children, including unaccompanied and separated children, in a vulnerable situation, from abuse, exploitation and trafficking, and determined the needs in terms of their access to healthcare, including to mental health services, education, the labour market and linguistic integration.

■ As a follow-up to these reports and in the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Vulnerable Persons in the Context of Migration and Asylum in Europe (2021-2025), two pilot trainings on “Psychological support to refugees: strengthening professional capacities” were organised in the Republic of Moldova (15-16 June) and in Poland (19-20 December) alongside a fully fledged project in the Republic of Moldova, aimed at strengthening the human rights protection of refugees and migrants by building resilient migration, asylum and reception systems in the long term. Finally, an online event on strengthening the protection against abuse and exploitation of women and children was also organised in co-operation with the UNHCR, with the participation of the Slovak authorities.

■ Under her mandate, the SRSR co-ordinated the migration-related actions both within the Council of Europe and with international partners.



World Forum for Democracy 2022.  
**Ankourao Kalla**, Vice President of the National Assembly of Niger, **Oleksandr Kornienko**, First Deputy Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, **Ben Phillips**, United Nations, author of *How to fight inequality*, **Olivier Véran**, Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister, in charge of Democratic Renewal, government spokesman, France, and **Salomé Zourabichvili**, President of Georgia (Strasbourg, 7 November 2022)



Annual Conference of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe – **Marja Ruotanen**, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity and **Joao Marques da Costa**, minister of education of Portugal (Strasbourg, 2 December 2022)



# Democracy

[www.coe.int/democracy](http://www.coe.int/democracy)

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

### Democratic governance

■ The European Committee on Democracy and Governance, the intergovernmental forum for standard setting and exchange in the field of democracy and governance, prepared a draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on principles of good democratic governance, which could become a benchmark for a well-functioning democracy and provide orientation for the public-sector reforms in the member states. It also adopted a report on deliberative democracy, a subject receiving increasing attention from member states concerned with public distrust in democratic institutions and low voter turnouts; and prepared a draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on deliberative democracy, which was opened for public consultation.

■ The Centre of Expertise for Good Governance (CEGG) continued working to promote respect for the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance across Europe. It implemented 10 large-scale and 15 smaller-scale projects in member states. The projects included provision of legal and policy advice on the implementation of public administration reforms in the member states. Over 200 capacity-building activities were organised in 25 member states ensuring that over 10 000 participants developed their capacities in all aspects of good democratic governance, including performance management, resilience building, strategic planning, leadership, local finance and human resource management. The CEGG also invested in updating its toolkits, reinforcing its current repertoire of 25 toolkits, all available on the CEGG web page. European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) projects were implemented in 15 member states and Kosovo\*, all contributing to the strengthening of democratic governance in Europe.

### Elections and participatory democracy

#### Elections and electoral support

■ The Council of Europe provided technical support to national, regional and local authorities and institutions to improve electoral processes following the recommendations and guidelines from the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly,

the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Venice Commission.

■ The first all-inclusive website on elections, “Electoral Cycle”, bringing together all the Council of Europe’s stakeholders and activities involved in election work, was set up.

■ In Albania, a strategic plan of the Central Election Commission (CEC) was drafted, for the first time since the creation of the institution.

■ In Bosnia and Herzegovina, ahead of the 2 October general elections, the Council of Europe trained and certified 302 trainers from within the 143 municipal election commissions. These trainers are now in charge of training the 20 000 members composing the 5 903 polling station commissions. In view of preventing electoral misconduct, the conference on “Criminal justice sector response to the threats to fairness and integrity of elections” brought together for the first time the electoral administration and prosecutorial authorities.

■ In Georgia, election officials from the Election Administration and representatives of major political groups agreed on non-regulatory options and joint efforts improving electoral processes with regard to countering hate speech. The newly developed toolkit and curriculum on combating hate speech in elections served as a road map for electoral stakeholders.

■ In the Republic of Moldova, an in-depth analysis was provided to the CEC and used to draft the new electoral code adopted by the parliament on 8 December, which addresses many of the prior recommendations and shortcomings identified by the Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE/ODIHR’s observation missions as well as the Venice Commission’s opinions. The supervision and control of political financing was improved through the development of two methodologies on oversight and control of political parties, and on electoral campaign financing, and on electoral campaign financing for the newly set up specialised division with the CEC. It was followed by the delivery of a two-day tailored training in Chisinau and a specific study visit to the State Electoral Commission of Croatia on 12-13 December.

■ In Ukraine, the Council of Europe conducted a needs assessment and analysis of war and post-war challenges and perspectives for political and electoral

processes in Ukraine, including in light of gender-balanced participation and representation. A high-level multilateral conference, bringing together members of government, parliament, the CEC and regional authorities, reached an agreement to start preparing the legal and logistical grounds for holding post-war elections in Ukraine.

### **Participatory democracy**

■ The interactive online platform **BePART** jointly developed by the Division of Elections and Participatory Democracy, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Conference of INGOs to share good practice examples on civil participation attracted more than 5 000 practitioners from Council of Europe member states, who shared their experience or got inspiration from their peers.

■ An overview on more than 80 most innovative participatory and deliberative initiatives in Council of Europe member states and a checklist for practitioners on how to organise a deliberative initiative respecting democratic ground rules was provided through the study “Mapping deliberative democracy in Council of Europe member states”.

■ Around 500 representatives from public institutions and civil society organisations from Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Kosovo\*, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine have trained their practical competences to engage effectively citizens in decision-making processes through Council of Europe deliberative and participatory tools.

■ In Ukraine, 14 local and regional authorities developed participatory processes to formulate policies and measures for recovery and reconstruction of communities affected by war, including citizens and in particular IDPs in decision making.

■ In Georgia, groundwork to organise deliberative citizens engagement through a citizens’ assembly has been laid, including an information campaign for citizens and municipalities interested in this method and a series of trainings of experts and co-ordination teams to facilitate a citizens’ assembly. The first two citizens’ assemblies in Georgia will be organised in the first quarter of 2023 in Rustavi and Ozurgeti.

### **World Forum for Democracy**

■ The 10th edition of the World Forum for Democracy “Democracy: a new hope?” took place in Strasbourg from 7 to 9 November. More than 1 000 participants attended the event in person. Heads of government, ministers and other high-ranking personalities debated with experts, young people and activists about the main factors contributing to the decline of democracy, discussed how to remedy it and explored what kind of democratic future is desirable – and possible – for people around the world. Some 40

initiatives were invited to compete for the Democratic Innovation Award, won by Astrea Justice (Zimbabwe) – the Justice Code Foundation Trust, which uses modern and innovative ways to ensure that citizens’ rights are protected, promoted and adequately remedied.

### **Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists**

■ In 2022, the platform posted 289 alerts on serious threats to media freedom in 37 Council of Europe member states, a further increase from 2021. Some 61 alerts (21.1%) were responded to by the member state concerned or resolved by the end of the year.

■ The 2022 annual report by the platform partners addresses the impact of the Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine on press freedom and highlights major media freedom issues – impunity following the killing of journalists, physical attacks, strategic lawsuits against public participation, harassment and intimidation, abusive lawsuits or prosecution designed to intimidate, public service media, restrictive legislation, media capture and the abuse of spyware. The platform partners addressed a set of recommendations to the Council of Europe, its member states and the institutions of the European Union.

### **Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) – Partial agreement**

■ In 2022, the CEB approved 36 projects for an overall amount of approximately €4.2 billion. Twenty of the projects approved (51%), for a total of €2.2 billion, were for the benefit of Target Group countries. Six projects for a total of €1.3 billion, nearly a third of the total lending volume for the year, aimed at supporting member states’ efforts in hosting and looking after refugees, a consequence of the Russian aggression in Ukraine. Grants were also provided to assist neighbouring countries to cope with the migration flow.

■ The CEB’s Governing Board unanimously welcomed Ukraine’s intention to join the CEB. Given the extraordinary circumstances that Ukraine is facing, the Governing Board approved the exceptional financial conditions upon which the CEB membership was offered at no cost for Ukraine.

■ Against this background, the Governing Board approved the new Strategic Framework 2023-2027 that sets a path for the CEB to initiate activities in Ukraine, continue to assist migrants and their host communities as well as to address other social challenges across Europe. In order to strengthen the CEB’s financial resources, for the first time in the CEB’s history, the Governing Board also approved an overall capital increase of a maximum of €4.25 billion, with a paid-in capital increase amounting to €1.2 billion.

The capital increase subscription period will run until 31 December 2023.

■ The European Commission and the CEB signed an InvestEU guarantee agreement worth up to €159 million, making the CEB an InvestEU implementing partner and mobilising around €500 million in additional loans for social projects. It represents an important milestone, as this is the first time InvestEU supports the investments of a multilateral development bank with an exclusively social mandate.

■ In order to leverage social bonds to support the member states to address pressing social issues, the CEB joined the Nasdaq Sustainable Bond Network (NSBN), a global information and data collection tool for issuers, investors and other stakeholders in green, social or sustainability bonds.

■ Art agency Artscape from Lithuania was the winner of the 2022 CEB Award for Social Cohesion. Artscape received a €25 000 prize for its “Creative missions”. This project aimed at providing a safe space to foster imagination and resilience for children, women and men who spend months in refugee reception and registration centres.

## HUMAN DIGNITY, EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

### Gender equality

■ The year 2022 was the fifth year of implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023. The ongoing war in Ukraine has had a devastating impact on women, including those fleeing war. Implementation of the strategy was therefore adjusted in light of the war, particularly as regards co-operation projects on combating violence against women and domestic violence.

■ The Committee of Ministers adopted a recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls. It contains provisions on horizontal issues (non-discrimination, information, girls, access to justice, civil society), protection and support, arrival, including asylum, residence and integration, detention and returns. The recommendation was especially timely in the context of the war in Ukraine, where a majority of refugees were women and children.

■ The Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers hosted a high-level side event to the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women on “STEM<sup>3</sup> education as a stepping stone towards gender transformative climate change policies” (New

York, 15 March) and the Gender Equality Commission’s annual thematic conference on “Work–life balance as a leverage for women’s empowerment and promoting gender equality” (Rome, 12 April).

■ Convened to a ministerial conference in Dublin on 29-30 September by Ireland’s Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, 38 Council of Europe member states committed to a “Dublin Declaration” on the steps needed to promote gender equality and prevent domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

■ Work on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women gained momentum in 2022, with the adoption by the Gender Equality Commission of guidelines on this topic.

■ Co-operation projects on gender equality and combating violence against women were implemented in nine member states and Kosovo\*.

■ Following the expanded outbreak of war in Ukraine, the Council of Europe project in the country shifted its focus to emergency measures, especially to [enhance emergency professionals’ response](#) to victims of sexual violence, with the objective of protecting and promoting women’s and girls’ rights in the context of armed conflict and displacement.

### Istanbul Convention

■ Three more countries ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210, the Istanbul Convention): the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the United Kingdom, bringing the total number of ratifications to 37. In April 2022, the Committee of Ministers invited Israel to accede to the Istanbul Convention, alongside Kazakhstan and Tunisia who were invited in 2020, following expressions of interest by the authorities.

■ The Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) adopted an unprecedented number of baseline evaluation reports in 2022 (nine), in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Romania and Switzerland. By the end of 2022, GREVIO had completed 29 baseline evaluation reports and conducted evaluation visits to Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Iceland, Luxembourg, North Macedonia and Switzerland. The Committee of the Parties, the political body of the Istanbul Convention’s monitoring mechanism, met twice in 2022 and adopted recommendations in relation to nine states parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Romania and Switzerland). The Committee of the Parties also adopted conclusions on the implementation of

3. STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

previously issued recommendations in respect of three countries (Montenegro, Portugal and Sweden).

■ In October 2022, GREVIO adopted a questionnaire, entitled “Building trust by delivering support, protection and justice”, for its first thematic evaluation procedure, launched in early 2023. The fruitful cross-fertilisation between GREVIO and the European Court of Human Rights led, in 2022, to a number of references to the Istanbul Convention and/or GREVIO evaluation reports in Court judgments on violence against women and domestic violence.<sup>4</sup>

## Trafficking in human beings

■ The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) carried out 13 country evaluation visits and published 10 new reports (Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway and Portugal). The Committee of the Parties adopted recommendations with respect to 10 countries.

■ GRETA published a general report highlighting the key findings of a study on online and technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings, which assesses the extent to which technology impacts human trafficking, the operational and legal challenges and what should be done to address them.

■ In the first days following the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, there were worrying reports concerning risks of human trafficking of Ukrainian women and children. GRETA reacted by issuing a statement “States must act urgently to protect refugees fleeing Ukraine from human trafficking”. Furthermore, GRETA issued a guidance note on addressing the risks of trafficking in human beings related to the war in Ukraine and the ensuing humanitarian crisis. It provides practical advice to ensure that public agencies, NGOs, the private sector and the general public minimise the risks of human trafficking created by the war in Ukraine.

■ The Committee of Ministers adopted a recommendation to member states on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation (CM/Rec(2022)21).

■ Co-operation projects linked to GRETA’s recommendations were implemented in four member states,

as well as in Kosovo\*, providing training on detecting and combating trafficking for labour exploitation and child trafficking, and improving protection of victims’ rights. A regional conference “Combating Labour Trafficking in Europe – Standards, Realities and New Strategies for Action” took place in Belgrade in September 2022.

## Sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and sex characteristics equality

■ The thematic report on legal gender recognition in Europe was adopted as the first annual review of a thematic dimension of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5. The second thematic review, on combating hate crime based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics equality in Europe, culminated in a [European round table](#) held in Ireland.

■ The International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia [IDAHOT+ Forum](#) was co-hosted in Cyprus by the governments of the Republic of Cyprus and the United Kingdom, with the support of the Council of Europe.

■ Country-specific co-operation activities were carried out, notably in support of the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

## Children’s rights

■ The Council of Europe [Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2022-2027\)](#) was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 23 February 2022 and launched at the High-level Conference “[Beyond the horizon: a new era for the rights of the child](#)” held in Rome on 7-8 April 2022. The new strategy was developed through an inclusive process and in close co-operation with numerous internal and external partners, and with the [consultation of 220 children](#) in 10 member states.

■ In 2022, the Committee of Ministers adopted [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2022\)22 on human rights principles and guidelines on age assessment in the context of migration](#), together with its explanatory memorandum. The Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) adopted the [explanatory memorandum](#) of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration. It made substantial progress towards the finalisation of a draft recommendation containing guidelines on strengthening reporting systems on violence against children and continued its work on the protection of the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings and on promoting children’s participation in health-related decisions.

4. *Y and Others v. Bulgaria*, Application No. 9077/18, 22 March 2022; *Landi v. Italy*, Application No. 10929/19, 7 April 2022; *De Giorgi v. Italy*, Application No. 23735/19, 16 June 2022; *M.S. v. Italy*, Application No. 32715/19, 7 July 2022; *C. v. Romania*, Application No. 47358/20, 30 August 2022; *J.I. v. Croatia*, Application No. 35898/16, 8 September 2022; *I.M. and Others v. Italy*, Application No. 25426/20, 10 November 2022; *Malagic v. Croatia*, Application No. 29417/17, 17 November 2022; and *G.M. and Others v. the Republic of Moldova*, Application No. 44394/15, 22 November 2022.

## Lanzarote Committee – Sexual violence against children

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■ The Lanzarote Committee concluded its work on several important issues with the adoption on 10 March 2022 of:

- ▶ its implementation report on “[The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communications technologies \(ICTs\) – Addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos](#)”;
- ▶ compliance reports concerning the [follow-up given by parties](#) to “consider” recommendations of the Special report “[Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#)”;
- ▶ a “[Statement on protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse resulting from the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine](#)”.

■ The 2022 edition of the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (18 November) was dedicated to “[Getting it right: ensuring child-friendly justice through Barnahus structures in Europe](#)” with, in particular, the organisation under the Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of a high-level event “[Towards Barnahus in All European States; Ensuring the Rights of Every Child](#)”.

## Co-operation

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■ Within the framework of its co-operation projects with the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM), the Council of Europe supported the development of a legal review analysis of Finnish legislation concerning child sexual exploitation and abuse cases and an analysis of current practices and identification of training gaps and needs of target groups. It also carried out a gap analysis of the key weaknesses of the existing legislation in Slovenia, and a comparative study based on other comparable countries’ good practices to fill in the gaps with viable solutions tailored to the national context is in progress. Recommendations will be produced on how to ensure that all children who have committed or are accused of having committed an offence in Slovenia receive adequate protection, treatment and individualised measures to be successfully reintegrated into society.

■ Under the European Union (Directorate-General of Justice and Consumers)/Council of Europe joint project “[CP4EUROPE – Strengthening National Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe](#)”, several key resources around child participation were developed with the valuable participation of children:

the child-friendly version of the Child Participation Assessment Tool and the Handbook on children’s participation for professionals working with and for children.

■ In Ukraine, regardless of the dire conditions, the Council of Europe developed several resources aimed at ensuring child rights during the conflict: guidelines and methodology for documenting child rights violations resulting from sexual abuse; guidelines for monitoring children’s right to protection from violence and abuse during armed conflict for the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights; a training for trainers’ manual on “[Psychological support and assistance to children who have experienced traumatic events](#)” along with an educational and methodical manual, accompanied by training courses for social workers on social support of children in armed conflict. A training course for NGOs and hotline professionals was attended by over 700 professionals.

■ In the Republic of Moldova, activities were focused on supporting the harmonisation of the legal, policy and practices framework in line with standards on child-friendly justice and rights of the child in the digital environment. In addition to various guiding documents, an important achievement was the establishment of a specialised commission for the co-ordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS No. 201).

## Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI)

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■ The Committee of Ministers adopted two recommendations prepared by CDADI: [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2022\)16 on combating hate speech](#) and [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2022\)10 on multilevel policies and governance for intercultural integration](#).

■ The CDADI and its substructures started the work on three Committee of Ministers’ recommendations on combating hate crime, on political participation of national minority youth and on equality for Roma and Traveller women and girls.

■ The CDADI adopted a capacity-building programme for migrant integration supporting the implementation of [CM/Rec\(2022\)10](#) as well as the first thematic implementation review report on [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2010\)5](#) on the topic of legal gender recognition.

■ The Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers adopted two thematic reports, on legislation and policies related to begging, with a special focus on children, and on how to stimulate governments to employ

Roma and Travellers in governmental institutions and public administration. The CDADI also adopted the mid-term review report on the Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025).

■ The CDADI embarked, together with the Gender Equality Commission, on the preparation of a study on the impact of artificial intelligence, its potential for promoting equality and non-discrimination.

## European Commission against Racism and Intolerance

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■ ECRI adopted a [statement](#) on the consequences of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine as well as its [annual report](#), focused on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on groups of concern to ECRI; racism in policing; and the situation of LGBTI persons.

■ It carried out eight visits, published six reports and nine conclusions.

■ ECRI published its [General Policy Recommendation No. 5](#) (revised) on preventing and combating anti-Muslim racism and discrimination and co-organised an [annual seminar](#) dedicated to intersectionality.

## No hate speech and co-operation programmes

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■ Capacity-building work for equality bodies and ministries and support for civil society resulted in improved responses to racism, homophobia and transphobia, hate speech and hate crime in the Western Balkans and Eastern partnership countries.

■ Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#) on combating hate speech was introduced in ongoing projects.

■ The project “WE CAN for human rights speech” produced an [online toolkit](#) for civil society to promote human rights and democratic principles, while the “[Block the hatred. Share the love](#)” campaign was running regionally and locally in the Western Balkans.

■ In Georgia, the work on [promoting equality and non-discrimination](#) resulted in an exemplary Equality Week.

## Roma and Traveller issues

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■ A feasibility study on a possible Committee of Ministers’ recommendation on desegregation and inclusion policies and practices in the field of education, including of Roma and Traveller children, is in progress.

■ In the framework of the Roma Political Schools, training sessions on political and public participation

were organised in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, the Iberian Peninsula, Italy and Kosovo\*.

■ The joint European Union/Council of Europe ROMACT programme published a report on [children left behind: between labour migration, institutional standards and extended family in Bulgaria](#).

■ The joint European Union/Council of Europe ROMACTED Phase II Programme continued to address the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic through the development of post-Covid recovery actions in 60 municipalities in the Western Balkans and Türkiye.

■ The third phase of the European Union/Council of Europe joint project “Inclusive Schools – Making a Difference for Roma Children” (INSCHOOL) was launched in the Czech Republic, Portugal, Romania and the Slovak Republic.

■ The 13th Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society took stock of violations of the rights of Roma and Traveller children in member states and of states’ responses to these infringements.

## National minorities and minority or regional languages

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■ The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities carried out nine visits and adopted nine opinions. The Committee of Ministers adopted six resolutions on the implementation of the convention.

■ The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages adopted six evaluation reports and one mid-term report; it carried out six visits and adopted a [statement](#) on the promotion of regional or minority languages through artificial intelligence.

■ Members of both committees held [consultations](#) with representatives of national minorities and other stakeholders from Ukraine.

■ A [statement](#) was issued to mark the 30th anniversary of the opening for signature of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

## SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES

### Education

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■ On 2 February 2022, the Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)1](#) on the importance of plurilingual and intercultural education for democratic culture, which challenges the dominance of English at the expense of other languages and the populist belief that proficiency in minority or migrant languages is detrimental to social cohesion.

The publication of a reference guide for language professionals focusing on the specific needs of illiterate and low-literate adult migrants, as well as a series of case-studies highlighting successful examples of plurilingual and intercultural education in practice, was announced.

■ The Committee of Ministers adopted a recommendation to combat education fraud on 13 July 2022 (CM/Rec(2022)18). This is a direct response to combating the fraudulent activities of education service providers, including diploma mills, essay mills, accreditation mills, visa mills, essay banks and plagiarism. A survey distributed via the Council of Europe Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education (ETINED) delegates served to collect member states' legislation and practices and draft research studies on, among other topics, legal responses and case law, digital solutions and the role of ethical codes.

■ Dublin hosted the 2022 Global Forum "Higher education leadership for democracy, sustainability and social justice" on 16-17 June 2022. It is the seventh global forum and the first official gathering co-hosted by the partners of the Global Co-operation for the Democratic Mission of Higher Education, and it will result in a new volume in the Council of Europe's higher education series. The Global Co-operation for the Democratic Mission of Higher Education initiative aims to build a global movement to fulfil higher education's democratic mission and to strengthen the role of higher education in developing, maintaining and sustaining democracy on campus, in the community and in society at large. Four pillar organisations make up the co-operation: the Council of Europe, the International Association of Universities, the International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility, and Democracy, and the Organization of American States.

■ The Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (ETS No. 165, Lisbon Recognition Convention) marked its silver jubilee. With 54 contracting parties, this joint Council of Europe/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization convention is among the most ratified. In November 2022, the Committee for the Implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention adopted its second monitoring report. This report focused on articles pertaining to the right of appeal, information provision, transnational education, automatic recognition and digital solutions. The 54 contracting parties to the convention responded to the monitoring survey at a rate of greater than 96%. Comparing the results of the first monitoring report from 2016 to the current state of implementation, a significant improvement was observed at all levels (particularly with regards to the right to appeal and information provision).

■ A Council of Europe ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence has completed its report entitled *Artificial intelligence and education – A critical view through the lens of human rights, democracy and the rule of law*. The report provides an overview of key topics and issues identified in the field of education, complements the work of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence, elaborates on the connections between artificial intelligence and education, and their effect on human values, and lays the groundwork for future work in this area.

■ The reform of the Schools of Political Studies has been completed, and the project proposals of 16 European organisations focusing on political education and the development of competencies for democratic culture have been accepted for 2023-2025.

■ The Education Department continued to provide assistance to member states through large-scale co-operation programmes in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye, as well as in Kosovo\*, to promote democracy through education.

■ Education in times of emergency is a new initiative designed to support robust and resilient education systems that can continue to provide quality education regardless of the type of crisis. To support the linguistic integration of Ukrainian refugees, guidelines for policy makers and teaching tools were developed; these were linked to existing resources from the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) for teachers and employers via a dedicated website, and their application was demonstrated via a webinar.

■ Albania, Andorra, Croatia, Ireland, Latvia, the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Portugal joined the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) in 2022, bringing the total number of countries using the EQPR to 20. Rapidly responding to the conflict in Ukraine, a Task Force on Ukrainian qualifications was established to assess the impact of the conflict on Ukraine's educational sector and assist credential evaluators in their recognition efforts. A new European Union/Council of Europe project entitled "Supporting an efficient national mechanism of recognition of refugee qualifications in Italy" was launched in order to apply the EQPR methodology and establish pathways for EQPR holders in Italy's regulated professions.

■ Following the project's launch in 2021, a compendium of best practices in promoting academic integrity was published and, on 5 October 2022, the Council of Europe and Erasmus University Rotterdam co-hosted a conference on promoting academic integrity.

■ The LEMON Learning Modules Online platform has added a three-level course on competences for democratic culture to its list of available courses. The new courses are gaining traction; in Albania, for

example, they are now an official part of the national teacher training curriculum.

■ At a launch conference in Strasbourg, the reference guide *Literacy and second language learning for the linguistic integration of adult migrants*, which focuses on the specific educational needs of low-literate migrants, was introduced.

■ In addition, the ECML delivered 40 capacity-building activities to over one thousand language professionals in 36 Council of Europe member states, as well as the first-ever summer academy for language teacher educators in collaboration with the European Commission.

■ At its second annual conference, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTÉ) presented its first thematic report, *Pandemics and natural disasters as reflected in history teaching* (Strasbourg, 1-2 December 2022). The quality of the report was recognised by representatives of member states, education professionals and partners; it is the first tangible result of the OHTÉ. In 2023, the first regular report on the state of history education in Europe will be published. Throughout numerous events and webinars organised by the OHTÉ in 2022, the 16 member states and two observer states also had the opportunity to discuss a variety of history education-related topics.

■ The Transnational History Education and Co-operation Laboratory (HISTOLAB) was launched in May 2022 as a joint project between the Council of Europe and the European Union. The collaborative project focuses on innovation and the potential for evolution in history education and highlights innovative initiatives in research, academia and teaching methods. The HISTOLAB team spent 2022 conceptualising and launching the project's activities, which include the March 2023 first European Innovation Days in History Education and a digital hub containing a directory of HISTOLAB contacts and a repository of relevant resources for history education.

## Youth

■ While celebrating 50 years of engaging young people with Council of Europe values in 2022, the youth sector launched the "Democracy Here | Democracy Now" youth campaign to revitalise democracy, as a means of addressing young people's concern for the state of democracy in Europe. The campaign focused on meaningful youth participation and good governance in public institutions and was based on activities undertaken with young people and youth organisations at local, national and international levels, supported by national contact points and European partners. Forty-one of these projects were supported financially by the European Youth Foundation. Some 450 young people gathered in Strasbourg for a Youth

Action Week, the flagship event of the campaign, which resulted in a call for action addressed to national governments to step up action and policies to revitalise democracy with the full participation of young people.

■ This concern for democracy and young people's fear of reprisals for exercising their rights was addressed by the Committee of Ministers in a series of recommendations to member states on protecting youth civil society and young people and supporting their participation in democratic processes.<sup>5</sup>

■ Youth continued to feature in the presidencies of the Committee of Ministers, both Italy and Ireland showing their strong commitment to Europe's young people. A forum to strengthen the quality, recognition and outreach of education in democratic citizenship and human rights was held in Turin (Italy), while Ireland's belief in the power of deliberative democracy and youth participation underpinned its support to the Youth Action Week. Iceland continued this trend as the tenth member state to place high importance on young people and the Council of Europe's youth policy.

■ To support Ukrainian youth centres – many severely damaged, even destroyed in the war but vital to support young Ukrainians – the Youth Department brought together, in Strasbourg, Ukrainian youth workers and their counterparts from youth centres holding the Council of Europe quality label to develop their competences and share expertise. The European Youth Foundation launched a special call for projects to support young people from Ukraine affected by the war through civil society and youth work interventions, grounded in the Council of Europe's values.

■ Keen to develop the situation of their younger generations, Andorra and Bosnia and Herzegovina received expert assistance, the former to develop a new legal framework for youth, the latter to facilitate youth participation in decision-making processes and the implementation of youth policies. Thanks to an invitation from Malta, a European University on youth policies helped familiarise newer representatives of the statutory committees with the values, objectives and programmes of the Council of Europe and its Youth Department.

■ Despite restrictions imposed by the health crisis and the impacts of the war in Ukraine, the two European youth centres in Strasbourg and Budapest continued to further international understanding among young people, in a spirit of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, by hosting 6 723 youth activists and representatives in various activities throughout the year. Following the Russian Federation's

5. Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on protecting youth civil society and young people, and supporting their participation in democratic processes.

aggression against Ukraine, from early March to June, the two European youth centres provided a safe haven for colleagues from Ukraine and their families as they fled the conflict and until more sustainable solutions for accommodation were found.

■ In 2022, the European Youth Foundation supported 168 youth projects for a total of €3 448 138. The majority addressed the youth sector's priorities of revitalising pluralistic democracy, young people's access to rights, contributing to more inclusive societies, improving youth participation in decision-making processes and combating discrimination.

■ In June, the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg played host to a royal visit when His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands engaged in a lively exchange with a delegation of young people on what motivates them to participate in decision-making processes, about the unique co-management system in the Council of Europe and about the obstacles they encounter to their participation.

## Human rights in and through sport

■ The Council of Europe's [strategic priorities in the field of sport for 2022-2025](#) aim at strengthening sport as a value-based activity and ensuring that human rights are embedded in the governance and practice of sport. In order to achieve these objectives, the Council of Europe relies on the co-ordinated action of its two driving forces – the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and the sport conventions.

■ During the [17th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport](#) (26 October), the Ministers reaffirmed their dedication to enabling access to sport for all and to promoting sport as a trailblazer for a healthy and sustainable future, and adopted two resolutions in this respect: "Sport for all: uniting us for stronger societies" and "Rethinking sport: leading the way for a healthy and sustainable future".

■ The Committee of Ministers adopted [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2022\)14 on general principles of fair procedure applicable to anti-doping proceedings in sport](#), aiming to ensure that the essential safeguards of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights fully apply to anti-doping proceedings. The recommendation guarantees the independence of investigation and the court, access of the accused to the documents and evidence, as well as to an effective defence, and the publication of the court's decisions among other principles, while taking into account the specificity of sport and the uniqueness of the anti-doping system.

■ The [Network of Magistrates/Prosecutors Responsible for Sports \(MARS\)](#) was set up by the Council of Europe, involving magistrates and prosecutors specialised in sports integrity from member and

other states. The network will become the international reference body promoting effective investigation and criminal proceedings relating to sports integrity.

■ The Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention published the ["Recommendation on the Protection of Whistleblowers in the Context of the Fight Against Doping in Sport"](#), which seeks to reaffirm the Council of Europe's principles on the protection of whistle-blowers and adapt them to the sport and anti-doping context. Specifically, the recommendation calls on national authorities to establish an overarching system that balances between encouraging athletes and other persons to speak out about violations of human rights and dignity, while protecting them and ensuring that the information provided is circulated and used appropriately.

■ The Follow-up Committee on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions developed data protection guidance to further assist supervisory authorities, national platforms, their individual members and other stakeholders in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of the manipulation in sport as well as in facilitating the implementation of the high-level data protection principles contained in the [Data Protection Standard](#) (2020).

■ The Committee of the Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (CETS No. 218, Saint-Denis Convention), through its principles and standards, contributes to combating racism, hate speech and hate crime in and around sports events. It published the ["Recommendation on a Model Structure of a National Strategy on Safety, Security and Service at Football Matches and other Sports Events"](#) and the ["Recommendation on a Model national legislative and regulatory framework on safety, security and service at football matches and other sports events"](#), aiming to support states parties to implement the convention.

■ The joint European Union/Council of Europe ["Combating Hate Speech in Sport"](#) project was launched in order to provide technical assistance to public authorities in six partner countries and support stakeholders in the development of innovative strategies addressing hate speech in sport, notably online.

■ EPAS held the second edition of the [Forum on Sport and Human Rights](#) (30 November), focusing on freedom of expression and delving into its various dimensions in a sport environment, such as the freedom of expression of athletes, freedom of the press, gender equality in the media and hate speech in sport, addressing challenges in these areas and solutions for moving forward.

■ The efforts in ensuring that sport becomes a safer place for all, especially children continued through the work of the [Start to Talk](#) project. A [round table](#) on

child participation in child safeguarding policy making aimed at identifying ways for the effective inclusion of children's voices in policy making (6 December).

■ On the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March), EPAS held the "Breakfast Roundtable: Women in Sport" to address persisting inequalities and act on steps to take to improve women's position in sport.

■ The Consultative Committee of EPAS hosted a webinar "Physical education and school sports: a creative approach to human rights and democracy" (21 February) to address the relevance of school sport and physical education as a tool for promoting human rights and democracy.

## Intercultural Cities

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■ The Intercultural Cities (ICC) programme monitored the situation of the Ukrainian network, as well as of the Polish ICC members directly confronted with welcoming people fleeing Ukraine; an extraordinary gathering of the ICC network concluded with the adoption of a declaration of mayors containing programming measures for peer support to cities confronted with the war emergency.

■ The ICC programme developed three policy briefs on: rethinking welcoming policies from an intercultural perspective; data collection for refugee reception at the community level; and long-term sustainable housing solutions for the intercultural city.

■ Seven cities joined the programme, while a new national network was set up in Australia and five regional networks were launched in Cyprus.

■ The programme continued to implement the joint European Union/Council of Europe project to build structures for intercultural integration in Cyprus and launched a joint European Union/Council of Europe project in Finland.

## Culture and cultural heritage

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■ The year was marked by the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture held on 1 April leading to the adoption of a recommendation on the role of culture, cultural heritage and landscape in addressing global challenges. Four new national contributions to the Council of Europe digital #exhibition "Free to Create – Create to be Free" were received and a report on freedom of artistic expression in Europe was produced. A report on access to archives was produced facilitating the implementation of the Council of Europe recommendation of 2000. Belgium, Poland and Spain ratified the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (CETS No. 199), while Italy's ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (CETS No. 221) triggered its entry

into force. The European Heritage Days celebrated a successful season under the theme of "Sustainable Heritage" with events taking place throughout 45 countries, including Ukraine.

## Council of Europe Landscape Convention

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■ The Landscape Award 2020-2021 was conferred to "Biodiversity in the city: Bergamo and the Astino Valley, Foundation della Misericordia Maggiore of Bergamo", Italy. The National Symposium on the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) in Greece dealt with the landscape as a reflection and project of civilisation (Kastraki Kalampaka, Trikala, Greece, 6-8 April 2022).

■ The National Conference on the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention in Armenia focused on landscape education activities for primary schools (Yerevan, Republic of Armenia, 8-10 June 2022).

## Cultural Routes Enlarged Partial Agreement

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■ Albania, Lebanon and North Macedonia joined the Cultural Routes Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) in 2022 and three new Cultural Routes were certified: the Women Writers Route, the Historic Cafés Route and the European Fairy Tale Route.

■ On 18 February 2022, the international conference "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Italy: a European heritage" took place in Venice and was organised by the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Council of Europe Office in Venice and the EPA on Cultural Routes.

■ From 31 May to 3 June, the 9th Training Academy on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe took place in Fontainebleau (France) as an official event within the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It was organised by the Impressionisms Routes network in association with the European Institute of Cultural Routes and in co-operation with the District of Seine-et-Marne and the Ministry of Culture of France.

■ From 5 to 7 October, the 11th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe was held in Chania, Crete, Greece, attended by over 400 participants.

■ The Statutory Committee approved a significant increase in the EPA budget, thus strengthening the future of the programme.

## Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

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■ The Committee of Ministers decided to establish a fund for the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (ETS No. 104, Bern Convention) to collect voluntary contributions to promote biological diversity and assist contracting parties in implementing policies and strategies to prevent environmental degradation. Following the adoption of a vision for the Bern Convention in 2021, the development of a complementing strategic plan was initiated in 2022 to help guide the work of the convention during the next decade. New standards were set in the fields of the control and eradication of invasive alien species and the combating of the illegal killing of birds. The Case-File Dashboard was launched, which contains information on more than 200 case files of the Bern Convention, with the aim of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the system.

## European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA Partial Agreement)

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■ Projects implemented in 2022 within the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement's Network of Specialised Scientific Centres addressed issues relating to hazards amplified by climate change. Notably, the BeSafeNet, managed by the European Centre for Disaster Awareness in Cyprus, continued to share valid information on the nature, causes and consequences of natural and technological disasters through the internet and promote a global risk culture among populations, particularly young people. A total of 212 teams from 122 secondary schools in 11 countries participated in the 2022 BeSafeNet Olympiad.

## Eurimages Enlarged Partial Agreement

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■ New decision-making processes were implemented at Eurimages in 2022. Sixty independent film and audiovisual experts selected from a pool of 509 candidates analysed 193 applications for support received over the year. These experts recommended 71 feature film co-production projects for a support award.

■ Seven Eurimages Co-production Development Awards and the Audentia Award for a female filmmaker were presented at film industry events across Europe and Canada. In addition, many of the films supported by the fund were selected at major international film festivals; 11 at the Berlin Festival, among which was the winner of the Golden Bear, *Alcarràs*, a co-production between Spain and Italy directed by Carla Simón, and 22 Eurimages films at the Cannes Film Festival, among which was the winner of the Palme d'Or, Ruben Östlund's *Triangle of Sadness*, a co-production between Sweden, Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Denmark.

■ In the light of the conflict in Ukraine, the Eurimages Board of Management implemented a series of exceptional measures to support the Ukrainian film industry. These included two special Co-production Development Awards for Ukrainian filmmakers at the Sarajevo Film Festival and the TorinoFilmLab, three bursaries for Ukrainian female filmmakers and support for the international promotion of Ukrainian films in collaboration with the Ukrainian Institute.

■ At the European Film Awards in Reykjavik, the annual Eurimages Co-production Award was presented exceptionally to all the film producers of Ukraine, as a sign of ongoing support for an industry that no longer has access to public funding for film production.



"Collaboration, Innovation and Scientific Excellence"  
 international conference to mark the launch of 11th edition of  
 the European Pharmacopoeia (Strasbourg, 19 September 2022)

Visit of **Marija Pejčinović Burić**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe,  
 to the EDQM. Speech by **Petra Doerr**, Director of the EDQM (Strasbourg,  
 12 December 2022)



# European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM)

[www.edqm.eu](http://www.edqm.eu)

**T**he EDQM's mission is to protect public health. The protection of health and the right to health, as enshrined in the European Social Charter and in a number of human rights treaties, are fundamental rights and constitute an essential element of sustainable development.

■ The EDQM's scope of activity has continuously expanded since its creation in 1964, along with the impact of its contribution to public health. Today, its programme of activities encompasses work in the areas of medicines, substances of human origin and consumer health products.

■ EDQM standards are regarded as benchmarks in Europe and worldwide.

■ In 2022, the EDQM continued to build on its scientific competences and to leverage on its treaty-based and intergovernmental structures and expert networks (comprising over 2 000 experts) with its institutional partners, to fulfil its mission.

■ These efforts enabled the EDQM to accomplish the following key achievements in 2022.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ As part of its European Pharmacopoeia activities, more than 200 new or revised documentary official standards and over 330 reference standards for the quality control of medicines were developed. This contributes to ensuring that medicines marketed throughout Europe and globally are of good quality and safety.
- ▶ More than 450 new and 1 500 revised Certificates of suitability to the monographs of the EDQM (CEPs) were issued to manufacturers of active substances or excipients. CEPs attest the quality and safety of substances which are used in the production of medicines.
- ▶ The European Network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories, responsible for conducting market surveillance of medicines and the release of biological medicines (such as Covid-19 vaccines) continued to increase its capacity

through the conduct of 16 audits and 10 proficiency studies.

- ▶ In pharmaceutical care, the EDQM issued 37 recommendations on the classification of medicines and their supply conditions, helping to make the medication process safer and more accessible.
- ▶ Two new editions of benchmark guides on substances of human origin (SoHO) were published: the *Guide to the quality and safety of organs for transplantation* and the *Guide to the quality and safety of tissues and cells for human application*. They reflect the most recent scientific and medical advancements and help ensure the best possible outcomes for patients.
- ▶ Seven proficiency studies and six educational training sessions and audits were conducted to increase the capacity building and resilience of European blood establishments.

## PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF PATIENTS

### Quality and use of medicines

■ The EDQM held an international conference ("Collaboration, Innovation and Scientific Excellence: the European Pharmacopoeia 11th Edition") in Strasbourg in September 2022. This event brought together almost 300 participants from all over the world, including representatives of European institutions, the World Health Organization (WHO), the national pharmacopoeias of Japan, the United States and India, national competent authorities, industry and academia. The event looked to the future, addressing matters such as big data, reducing animal testing, harmonising global pharmacopoeial quality standards and the potential of nanomedicines.

■ Work was initiated on a number of areas to enable the European Pharmacopoeia to respond to new medical needs and keep pace with new developments such as monoclonal antibodies and nanoparticle formulations.

Work also continued to streamline and modernise the certification procedure with the “CEP of the future” (CEP 2.0). This project advanced significantly and will roll out in 2023, modernising the certification process and making it more transparent.

The EDQM Good Manufacturing Practice inspection programme for active substance manufacturers continued to suffer the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2022. On-site inspections only recommenced in September. The ground-breaking Real-Time Remote Inspections (RTEMIS) programme is now routinely used for inspecting manufacturing sites. Nine such inspections were carried out, in China and India.

### Quality and safety of substances of human origin

The Committee of Ministers adopted two recommendations in the field of organ transplantation and tissues and cells: Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)3 and Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)19. The first recommends that states develop programmes for organ donation after circulatory determination of death to increase the number of available organs. The second encourages member states to harmonise the collection of data on the availability and use of tissues and cells to ensure rational, fair, timely and equitable access to safe tissues and cells for human application.

The human body and its parts must not give rise to financial gain. The EDQM therefore published a position statement on the related risks and put forward several proposals aimed at ensuring that the ethical principles of voluntary and unpaid donation and the non-commercialisation of the human body are respected and that patients have access to SoHO when necessary.

The EDQM co-ordinates the Blood Supply Contingency and Emergency Plan (B-SCEP) project, which aims to strengthen national plans to ensure continuity of the blood supply in emergency situations (for example a pandemic or earthquake). A model preparedness plan was published, allowing national authorities to devise action and mitigation plans to ensure the blood supply in crisis situations.

### PROTECTING CONSUMER HEALTH

The cosmetics and food contact materials work programmes of the EDQM aim to protect human health across Europe by establishing common product quality and safety requirements, co-ordinating official controls and developing control methods.

The EDQM undertook revision of a number of guidance documents, including “Safe Cosmetics for Young Children” and “Guidance on essential oils in cosmetic products”. Revision of the practical guide “Metals and alloys used in food contact materials

and articles”, in consultation with manufacturers and regulators, is also currently ongoing.

Market surveillance studies conducted by the Network of Official Cosmetics Control Laboratories make it possible to assess cosmetics available on the market for compliance with health and safety regulations. Studies were initiated on skin-whitening products and nail varnishes.

### HEALTH CRISES: ONGOING ROLE OF THE EDQM

The EDQM played an essential role throughout the Covid-19 pandemic in allowing health authorities to roll out successfully vaccination campaigns – a key factor in inverting the curve – at the earliest possible date. The complex processes of developing effective vaccines, seeking regulatory approval and ensuring their widespread distribution had to be co-ordinated to bring vaccines to market as quickly as possible, reconciling mandatory quality requirements with the urgency of the situation. The EDQM co-ordinates a key element of this process, the EU Official Control Authority Batch Release network, which is designed to ensure that only vaccines of approved quality reach the public.

This network was pivotal for the release of billions of doses of vaccines used within the European Union/ European Economic Area (EEA). Many non-EU/EAA countries also rely on this process, allowing more than half of batches released to be exported to over 160 non-EU countries.

The EDQM also participated in a global initiative to ensure equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines, Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), along with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance), WHO and the United Nations International Children’s Fund.

### CO-OPERATION WITH EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

The Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group which brings together the European Pharmacopoeia, the United States Pharmacopoeia and the Japanese Pharmacopoeia, with the International Pharmacopoeia (WHO) as an observer, welcomed the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission as part of a pilot expansion project in 2022, to broaden efforts towards global pharmacopoeial convergence.

The EDQM and WHO continued to co-operate extensively. Both organisations participate in each other’s respective meetings and initiatives and WHO leverages on the EDQM’s expertise, as the EDQM establishes and distributes WHO International Standards for Antibiotics and International Chemical Reference Substances.

■ The EU remains a strategic, long-standing partner for the EDQM in the field of medicines and SoHO, with regulatory and technical co-operation and mutual representation stretching back several decades. In 2022, the Council of Europe/EDQM and the EU concluded a significant agreement, expanding the scope of their co-operation in the field of SoHO. It will contribute to providing all Council of Europe member states with a coherent European regulatory SoHO framework and strengthen their national SoHO systems. The European Commission also issued its draft legislative proposal for a new EU regulation on blood, tissues and cells, which references EDQM guidance and the EDQM as an expert body.

## GLOBAL OUTREACH

■ The EDQM's activities benefit a wide range of professionals working in the health sector: manufacturers of medicines and consumer care products, healthcare institutions and professionals, along with national health authorities from around the globe.

■ The EDQM continued to expand its network and outreach in 2022. It organised 26 events, attracting over 10 000 participants from over 100 countries worldwide and registered over 7 200 views of recorded events.

■ Over 880 experts, were appointed to the European Pharmacopoeia's expert groups and working parties from a wide variety of scientific and technical backgrounds. Eighty-four applications were received from non-member states, attesting to its international scope and outreach.

■ The European Pharmacopoeia Commission (EPC) granted observer status to the Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration, whose representatives can now participate in the EPC's scientific work and other EDQM activities.



Signing of a voluntary contribution agreement with **Franc Weerwind**, Minister for Legal Protection of the Netherlands, in the presence of **Marija Pejčinović Burić**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and **His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands** (Strasbourg, 23 June 2022)



The Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019-2022 and the Council of Europe Action Plan for Georgia 2023-2026: signature by Ambassador **Domenik Wanger**, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the Council of Europe, of a voluntary contribution with **Björn Berge**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 14 December 2022)

# Actions in the field and resource mobilisation

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## GLOBAL ACTIONS

■ The Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe (C-PROC), based in Romania, managed a multiannual portfolio of over €39 million in active projects – co-funded by the European Union and voluntary contributions and implemented more than 350 activities globally. Nigeria and Brazil acceded to the Convention on Cybercrime, bringing the number of parties to 68. The Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on Enhanced Co-operation and Disclosure of Electronic Evidence, which opened for signature in May, received 30 signatures by December. Following the Russian aggression against Ukraine, which raised further challenges related to cybercrime and e-evidence, including evidence of war crime, C-PROC supported capacity-building activities for the Ukrainian authorities.

## EU MEMBER STATES

■ In 2022, the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the DG REFORM of the European Union was enhanced through a new framework agreement of 14 new projects tailored to the needs of EU member states in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

### Eastern Europe<sup>6</sup>

■ In the Republic of Moldova, the flexibility of the action plan helped to adapt Council of Europe co-operation to the challenges stemming from the Russian aggression against Ukraine. In particular, the needs which emerged as a result of the refugee crisis were immediately considered in ongoing projects and a new specific project was launched. Following the Venice Commission's recommendations, legislative changes strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the Ombudsperson were passed by the parliament.

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6. Some of the activities below have been implemented in the framework of the European Union/Council of Europe Partnership for Good Governance.

Two storytelling articles, part of a Council of Europe's awareness-raising campaign on hate speech, received the Tulip Press Award 2022, while its campaign counteracting false news reached 800 000 people.

■ Following Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the Council of Europe focused its ongoing support on the most urgent priorities with the adoption and implementation of the priority adjustments to the action plan. Work with the authorities on the definition of priorities as of 2023 led to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers on 14 December 2022 of the new Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" (2023-2026). In order to support Ukraine in addressing the consequences of Russia's aggression and the subsequent war, the Council of Europe provided, *inter alia*, support to the Office of the Prosecutor General on investigating and prosecuting gross human rights violations, and to the Ministry of Justice and judicial bodies on derogation from certain articles of the European Convention on Human Rights and on functioning of judiciary in times of war. The Council of Europe further supported the authorities in addressing sexual violence and monitoring children's rights in the context of war. The parliament ratified the Istanbul Convention in July 2022 following long-standing support by the Council of Europe in this area.

### South Caucasus<sup>7</sup>

■ A new Action Plan for Armenia 2023-2026 was prepared jointly between the Council of Europe and the Armenian authorities and adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 3 November 2022. The Armenian government adopted the Strategy 2022-2026 on judicial and legal reforms. Following the entry into force of the new Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes, the Council of Europe provided assistance to build criminal justice professionals' capacities on the new legislation. The integrity system of Armenia was further developed with Council of Europe support

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7. Some of the activities below have been implemented in the framework of the European Union/Council of Europe Partnership for Good Governance.

through the introduction of a first-of-its-kind Model Code of Conduct for public servants. Support from the Council of Europe continued towards enhancing the human rights standards in the armed forces, as well as to enhance the capacity of police officers in dealing with domestic violence and violence against women.

■ The Secretary General launched the new Action Plan for Azerbaijan for 2022-2025 in Baku on 5 April. Under this action plan, Council of Europe activities have continued in the fields of training legal professionals, civil servants and civil society representatives as regards enhancing the effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights, strengthening the efficiency of justice on the basis of CEPEJ tools and methodology and fighting corruption and money laundering. The Council of Europe developed a gap analysis of Azerbaijani legislative and policy framework on fighting violence against women and domestic violence and promoted it during the campaign “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence”.

■ In Georgia, the Council of Europe provided support to a strengthened legal framework for judicial accountability leading to the adoption of the Code on Judicial Ethics. The Constitutional Court’s hearings are now publicly accessible thanks to the updating of its electronic infrastructure and systematic broadcasting with the support of the Council of Europe. The adoption of the Strategy of the Prosecution Service of Georgia for 2022-2027 set out specific steps for strengthening the institutional independence of the prosecution. Two monitoring instruments are now used by the National Prevention Mechanism. The first public consultation was held using the Council of Europe civil participation methodology CivicLab.

## South-East Europe and Türkiye<sup>8</sup>

■ In Albania, the courts established online platforms for managing human resources in the judiciary, judicial notification and measurement of the satisfaction of court users. The Central Electoral Commission developed an online platform with the Council of Europe’s support to facilitate the monitoring/reporting on political parties and electoral campaign financing. The new Electronic System of Declaration of Assets and Conflict of Interests became operational. The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination developed its Strategic Plan for 2022-2026 with the assistance of the Organisation.

■ The year 2022, which marked the 20th anniversary of the membership of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Council of Europe, saw the adoption of the

first-ever LGBTI Action Plan. Know-how acquired with capacity building provided by the Council of Europe was demonstrated notably in the law-enforcement and anti-trafficking sectors – and was reflected in a more consistent application by domestic courts of the Court’s case law on defamation. Five out of nine violent extremist prisoners participated in vocational training and education programmes, with the Council of Europe’s assistance.

■ Montenegro saw a 113% increase in the number of requests for free legal aid in cases of domestic violence following the Council of Europe’s awareness-raising initiative [#TellTheWholeStory](#). An electronic reporting application enhanced professionalism and transparency of the police and the parliament adopted amendments to the Criminal Code taking into account recommendations from the [second ECRI report](#) on the protection of vulnerable groups in case of instigation and hate crime. The newly amended rules on calculation and reporting of in-kind donations, prepared with the Council of Europe’s assistance strengthened the supervision framework over political expenditure.

■ In North Macedonia, Council of Europe expertise resulted in the adoption of the amendments to two key by-laws improving the protection of the rights of incarcerated persons, the adoption of the law on state compensation for victims of violent crimes and of the law on civil liability on insult and defamation. The new prosecutor appointed to monitor cases concerning journalists started its work. Ten out of 15 municipalities adopted the local action plans for Roma for 2023-2026, developed with the support of the Council of Europe.

■ In Serbia, the Council of Europe supported the drafting of five key laws regulating the functioning of the judiciary to implement the new constitutional reform and provided assistance to the alignment of amendments to the law on the national DNA registration with international standards in view of the execution of Court judgment *Zorica Jovanović v Serbia*. The government adopted a new 2022-2027 strategy for the development of criminal sanctions execution system and an accompanying action plan, drafted with the Council of Europe’s support. The Council of Europe also contributed to the drafting of the new action plan for the exercise of the rights of national minorities and supported the implementation of the action plan for the strategy for combating money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation.

■ In Türkiye, various Council of Europe’s recommendations for legislative changes regarding civil monitoring boards were adopted by the parliament, and the Organisation made contributions to enhance the capacities of the monitoring mechanisms for prisons and prevention of ill-treatment in places of deprivation of liberty. The Council of Europe further supported the improvement of women’s access to justice by developing a training programme and [handbook](#) for lawyers on strategic litigation. To strengthen democratic culture in basic education the Ministry of

8. Some of the activities below have been implemented in the framework of the Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye and other European Union/Council of Europe programmes.

National Education adopted the “Whole School Model”. The Council of Europe prepared a “Road Map for an Improved Administrative Justice System 2020-2023”. A human rights e-Library with more than 1 100 e-books is available on the web page of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations.

■ GREVIO adopted the first report assessing the alignment of measures on violence against women with the Istanbul Convention for Kosovo\*. The Basic Court of Pristina piloted a system of electronic issuing of summonses. The Municipal Assembly of Prizren recognised Romani as an official language of the municipality following the local support provided by the Council of Europe to the Roma community. The parliament adopted the law on the implementation of targeted financial sanctions based on expertise provided by the Council of Europe.

## Southern neighbourhood

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■ South Programme V<sup>9</sup> supported democratic reforms in the Southern Mediterranean in collaboration with its partners in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\*\* and Tunisia through the establishment of a common legal space between Europe and this region. In 2022, particular attention was paid to combating trafficking in human beings in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

■ The Council of Europe Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes involving Threats to Public Health (CETS No. 211, Medicrime Convention) and the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism entered into force for Morocco on 1 August 2022. Morocco signed the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on Enhanced Co-operation and Disclosure of Electronic Evidence.

■ Judges and prosecutors acquired a better knowledge of the international human rights protection system, including through HELP courses. The Congress provided expert support to women elected representatives at territorial level and to the National Anti-trafficking Commission. The platform to report violence against children in the digital environment has permitted to report and process 100 cases in 2022.

■ The Venice Commission adopted two opinions with regard to Tunisia in 2022, including an urgent opinion requested by the EU Delegation in Tunis on the constitutional and legislative framework for the referendum and elections and Decree Law No. 22 amending and supplementing the organic law on the independent body on elections (ISIE), as well as an opinion on the draft State Property Code, which was requested by the Tunisian authorities.

## Central Asia

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■ The Council of Europe continued to provide assistance to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the framework of the joint European Union/Council of Europe “Central Asia Rule of Law Programme” (2020-2023). The Venice Commission facilitated regional exchanges between high-level civil servants. In 2022, the Committee of Ministers invited Kazakhstan to accede to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS No. 173) and Kyrgyzstan to accede to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (ETS No. 112). The Council of Europe presented recommendations to improve the legislation on fighting domestic violence and violence against women to the Kazakh authorities. Uzbekistan launched a HELP course on the rights of persons with disabilities. Practitioners of law-enforcement agencies in Kyrgyzstan learned more about the management of confiscated and seized assets.

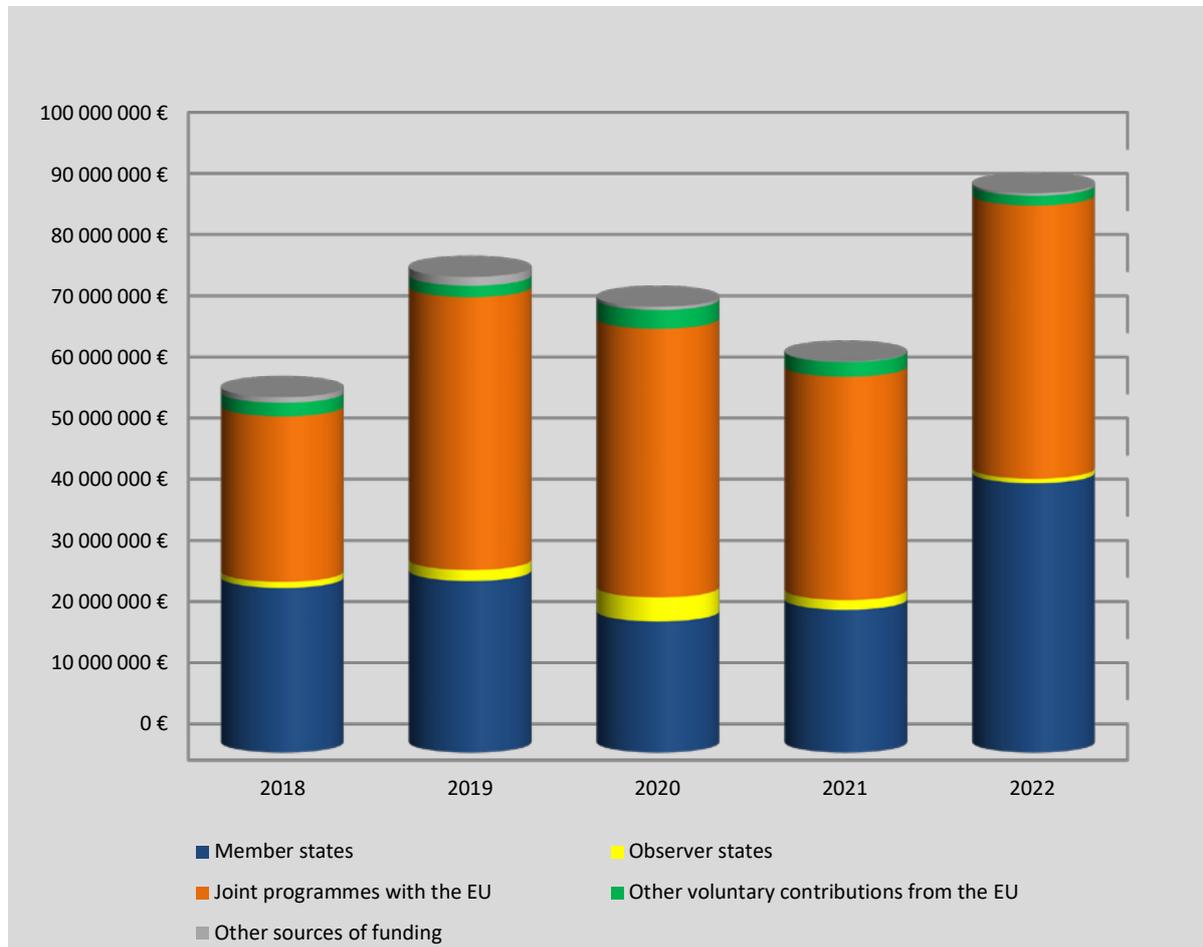
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9. The joint European Union/Council of Europe South Programme V “Protecting human rights, rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean” was launched in September 2022 with a budget of €5.556 million for a period of three years (2022-2025).

\*\* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member states on this issue.

## RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND DONOR RELATIONS

### Extra budgetary receipts 2022







Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law. Current issues relating to public international law – Introductory remarks on the “Use of force in public international law – The case of Ukraine” by Professor **Dapo Akande**, Blavatnik School of Government (University of Oxford) (Strasbourg, 25 March 2022)



63rd meeting of the CAHDI in Bucharest. Seminar on states' obligations under public international law in relation to the immunity of state officials (Bucharest, 21 September 2022)

# Public international law

[www.coe.int/en/web/cahdi](http://www.coe.int/en/web/cahdi)

**T**he Council of Europe facilitates exchanges and co-ordinates views of its member states in the field of public international law through the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI), an intergovernmental committee which brings together the legal advisers of the ministries of foreign affairs of the 46 member states of the Council of Europe, the 5 observer states to the Council of Europe, 4 further observer states to the CAHDI and 10 participating international organisations. In 2022, over 100 experts participated in each of the two CAHDI meetings held in Strasbourg and Bucharest respectively, organised in hybrid format.

■ In its flagship function as “The European Observatory of Reservations to International Treaties”, the CAHDI examines reservations and declarations subject to objection in international treaties prepared within the Council of Europe, but also concerning United Nations conventions. This activity, involving 28 reservations and/or declarations in 2022, contributes to an important dialogue at the international level and has an impact on the subsequent actions of states with regard to their respective reservations and/or declarations.

■ One of the main roles of the CAHDI is to provide legal advice to the Committee of Ministers. In this respect, the CAHDI prepared a legal opinion on Recommendation 2231 (2022) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe “The Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine: ensuring accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian law and other international crimes”.

At the request of the Committee of Ministers, the CAHDI prepared a “Guidance note to the Committee of Ministers – Continued participation of the Russian Federation in ‘open’ conventions elaborated in the framework of the Council of Europe”.

■ The CAHDI also exchanged views on the consequences of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. In addition, in relation to 2021, other new topics have been added to the CAHDI agenda in 2022 (new technologies and non-legally binding agreements).

■ An expert seminar on “States’ obligations under public international law in relation to immunity of State officials” organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, was held on 21 September 2022, on the occasion of the 63rd CAHDI meeting in Bucharest.

■ Over the year, CAHDI continued and strengthened its co-operation and collaboration with international organisations and international tribunals. It held exchanges of views with Professor Dire Tladi, President of the International Law Commission. Furthermore, the Chair and the Secretariat of the CAHDI participated in the debates of the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly. On this occasion, the Chair of the CAHDI held a speech at an event co-organised by the African Union Commission.

■ Furthermore, the CAHDI was represented by an observer in the work of the ad hoc group “46+1” on the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights.



132nd Session of the Committee of Ministers. Press conference after the handover of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers from Italy to Ireland (Torino, 20 May 2022)

# Communications

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## DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND EDITORIAL DIVISION

■ The Council of Europe's presence on social media continued to grow in 2022, reaching almost 1 million followers on the Organisation's main channels alone. Centrally led or co-ordinated action resulted in good social media coverage around important political moments linked to the war against Ukraine and topics such as the fight against gender-based violence, European values, languages and heritage, the impact of the European Convention on Human Rights, Roma, Holocaust Remembrance and Equality.

■ This was also the year when we took a decisive step towards a more streamlined communication on social media as a network of Council of Europe-related accounts, with a shift towards thematic communication, more internal co-ordination, harmonised branding and reducing the overall number of accounts associated with the Council of Europe. Thirteen thematic Twitter accounts now help our audiences to easily follow the Council of Europe's work on their respective themes.

■ Web projects launched by the division over the year included the creation of an online timeline and web dossier to reflect the Organisation's response to the war in Ukraine. A full interface based on the handbook for civil society stakeholders seeking to work with the Council of Europe was prepared in time for the 132nd Session of the Committee of Ministers in Turin in May. A dedicated site to reflect and present the work of all parts of the Organisation involved in elections was created together with the Secretariat group on elections and presented to delegations at a working breakfast to mark International Democracy Day on 15 September. A voluntary contribution was used to translate news and other content into Spanish for the hub. A full proposal for reform of the Council of Europe web presence was also drafted, costed and presented for comments. The division collaborated with the Directorate for Information Technology on user-experience aspects of a portal for intergovernmental committee work and continued to provide significant support to preparations for migration to the new Liferay DXP Platform.

■ In 2022, the Digital Communication and Editorial Division completed 200 individual web, social media, editorial and audiovisual communications projects with major administrative entities, moderated events and

training sessions, and issued general guidelines on the taking, use and storage of photographs and video. The division gave editorial, visual and design support to the preparation of the Secretary General's annual report "Moving forward 2022". The division produced communication media, including design of posters, roll-ups, lawn panels, logos, leaflets, greeting cards, specific visuals and banners for websites, and ensured the correct use and application of the graphic charter of the Council of Europe. It regularly gave advice on the communications activities to field offices, regarding messaging, videos and visuals produced in the context of campaigns, co-operation projects, programmes and local activities.

■ The internal communication unit responded quickly and supported staff members whose private and professional lives were affected by the war in Ukraine. Dedicated intranet web pages were created to host the initiatives put in place by the Organisation and audiovisual recollections of the conflict of staff from the Kyiv office were gathered. Videos and podcasts contributed to acknowledged improvements in raising awareness of organisational culture, staff development, mobility and employee well-being. In addition to some 600 news items published across the year, the Internal Communications Unit supported the major administrative entities' commitment to improving its dialogue with staff and the Directorate General of Administration's ongoing reform process.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

■ The identity and values of the Organisation were promoted among target audiences via public relations activities and events, with information and awareness initiatives in Strasbourg (Educap City, the Strasbourg Road Races) and in Ireland (for example the National Ploughing Championships with over 18 000 people visiting the stand in three days) during the Irish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The European Prize for Eloquence contest in March and participation in more specialised events, such as the conference of the European Society for International Law, the Salon du Livre Juridique in Paris and the Frankfurt Book Fair in October, provided an opportunity to reach more targeted audiences. In all, participation in 11 events in 5 countries enabled us to share information and connect with over 21 500 participants from 25 countries.

■ Visitor and awareness programmes have resumed at an ever faster pace. More than 24 300 people from 67 countries (689 groups) took part in Council of Europe study tours and guided visits in Strasbourg and online. Over 275 customised lectures were given during personalised tours. A Spanish version of the virtual guided visit videos of the Council buildings was published. Visitors to the European district can now download an interactive game on their mobile phones to learn more about how the Organisation works and its achievements to date.

■ The partnership with the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) network continued with the holding of the 10th Human Rights Moot Court Competition in English on the European Convention on Human Rights: 59 teams from 26 European countries pleaded in a fictitious case concerning natural disasters and environmental protection. The final took place in May 2022, with 19 teams competing. ELSA Day focused this year on humanitarian law, and the work of the Council of Europe was showcased at some 20 events in 10 countries.

■ Commercial publications highlighted the Organisation's priorities, in particular the publications entitled *Defending athletes, players, clubs and fans* and *The European Convention on Human Rights – Principles and law*. In total, 190 new titles and complimentary documents were published in digital or paper format

in 40 languages. In addition, 135 reproduction or translation agreements were finalised.

■ The online publications platforms continue to expand their range of digital products, with over 2 500 files available in pdf and ePub formats. Material for the general public (such as leaflets, posters and documents for teachers) can all be consulted and downloaded free of charge from [edoc.coe.int](http://edoc.coe.int). Other publications can be ordered online at [book.coe.int](http://book.coe.int), the online bookshop, where excerpts from books can also be found. The two sites totalled more than 843 000 visits over the year and there were more than 33 000 subscribers to the publication information. Moreover, over 2 500 digitised titles are available on Google Play, with nearly 870 000 books consulted in 2022.

■ New information material (such as leaflets, booklets, posters and exhibition panels) was designed and produced. In addition, some 30 items of information material were revised, mainly to reflect changes in the number/names of member states and the map. In addition, 84 reproduction or translation agreements were finalised.

■ The visual identity was strengthened throughout the Organisation with the revision of the visual identity manual and the translation of the logos for the joint identity with the European Union. All the institutional identity material in the field offices and in video conferences was revised.



# 2022 contributions of Council of Europe member states (in euros)

MEMBER STATES	
Albania	576 107.97
Andorra	286 020.02
Armenia	577 627.09
Austria	6 578 054.44
Azerbaijan	1 253 182.47
Belgium	9 234 830.48
Bosnia and Herzegovina	650 128.51
Bulgaria	1 484 151.66
Croatia	1 275 151.13
Cyprus	597 464.39
Czech Republic	4 143 697.51
Denmark	5 397 008.74
Estonia	613 286.55
Finland	4 088 867.65
France	43 596 954.41
Georgia	640 074.62
Germany	41 629 272.69
Greece	3 732 086.6
Hungary	2 809 792.52
Iceland	610 911.2
Ireland	5 454 238.36
Italy	40 771 223.77
Latvia	697 425.26
Liechtenstein	434 437.24
Lithuania	988 912.38
Luxembourg	1 416 017.62
Malta	460 871.68
Republic of Moldova	418 790.35
Monaco	415 206.45
Montenegro	575 784.63
Netherlands	13 216 208.58
North Macedonia	577 038.93
Norway	6 233 762.88
Poland	10 274 751.82
Portugal	3 905 402.58
Romania	4 771 713.06
Russian Federation*	6 962 877.69
San Marino	157 607.58
Serbia	1 347 414.59
Slovak Republic	1 934 304.23
Slovenia	996 030.1
Spain	21 770 031.05
Sweden	8 192 298.04
Switzerland	10 176 652.68
Türkiye	16 178 600.66
Ukraine	4 926 933.87
United Kingdom	38 082 230.12
<b>TOTAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>331 111 436.85</b>

\* The contribution of the Russian Federation corresponds to its share from 1 January 2022 to 16 March 2022.

# 2022 voluntary contributions to the Council of Europe (in euros)

MEMBER STATES			
Germany	14 074 983.89	Czech Republic	119 547.38
Norway	7 948 664.17	Liechtenstein	125 920.91
Finland	3 305 499.67	Belgium	90 450.00
Sweden	2 937 931.19	Malta	82 500.00
Switzerland	2 426 830.95	Slovak Republic	65 000.00
Human Rights Trust Fund <sup>1</sup>	2 085 000.00	Romania	52 000.00
Austria	1 811 650.00	Lithuania	35 000.00
France	1 636 241.01	Estonia	28 000.00
European Economic Area <sup>2</sup> (EEA)	1 352 573.15	Slovenia	22 698.10
Netherlands	1 283 859.40	Bulgaria	20 000.00
Italy	870 000.00	Latvia	20 000.00
Ireland	817 411.16	Albania	10 000.00
United Kingdom	639 161.66	Serbia	7 000.00
Luxembourg	607 078.40	Hungary	5 000.00
Cyprus	400 847.08	Türkiye	5 000.00
Portugal	375 442.67	Andorra	4 300.00
Iceland	305 000.00	Croatia	2 000.00
Poland	168 141.10	Greece	2 000.00
Spain	157 500.00	Azerbaijan	1 300.00
Monaco	130 000.00	<b>TOTAL MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>44 031 531.89</b>

1. Finland, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

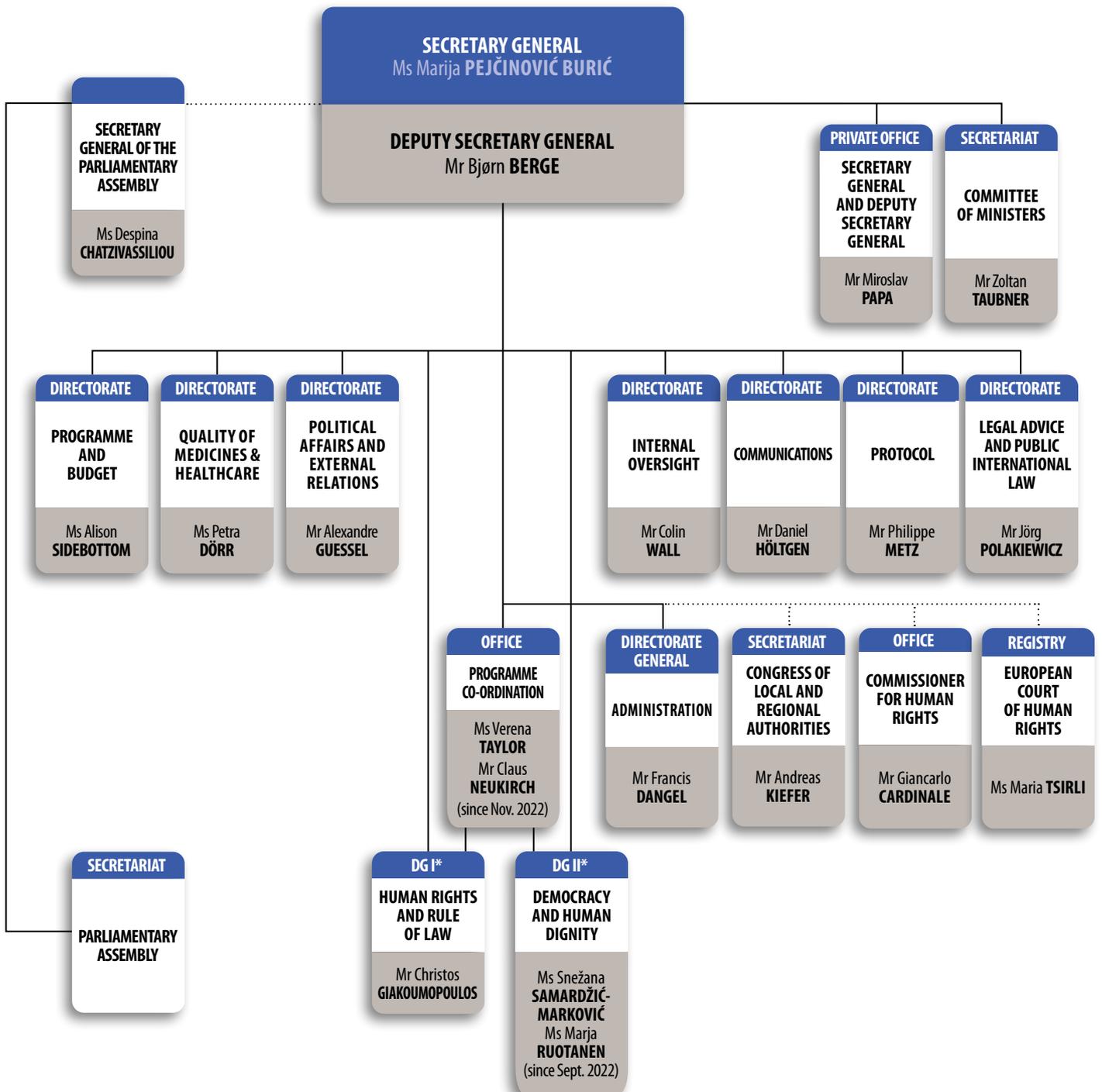
2. Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.

<b>OBSERVER STATES</b>	
United States of America	662 877.77
Japon	77 665.00
<b>TOTAL OBSERVER STATES</b>	<b>740 542.77</b>

<b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>	
Joint Programmes	44 686 587.25
Other voluntary contributions	1 604 580.00
<b>TOTAL EUROPEAN UNION</b>	<b>46 291 167.25</b>

<b>OTHERS</b>	
Australia	162 432.88
United Nations	94 661.83
World Lottery Association	84 593.37
Francaise des jeux	16 412.50
Republic of Korea	10 000.00
Vàclav Havel Library	7 500.00
Charta 77 Foundation	7 500.00
Faroe Islands	5 000.00
Russian Federation	72.51
<b>TOTAL OTHERS</b>	<b>388 173.09</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL 2022</b>	<b>91 451 415.00</b>

# Organisation chart of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe in 2022



\* DGI DGII report to the Secretary General

This publication presents the work carried out in 2022 by the different bodies and sectors of the Council of Europe, highlighting its particular strengths and achievements.

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.