

34th GENERAL REPORT

Activities 2024



CPT EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION
OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING
TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

34th GENERAL REPORT

Activities 2024

European Committee for the
Prevention of Torture and Inhuman
or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

1 January – 31 December **2024**

Council of Europe

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“ Resolving prison overcrowding is key to the effective functioning of prisons and to ensuring that prisoners are not exposed to inhuman and degrading treatment.

Alan Mitchell
President of the CPT

Foreword

I am pleased to present to you the 34th General Report on the activities of the CPT, covering the year 2024 – a year in which the Committee carried out 20 visits, comprising 201 days of visits in the field, monitoring the conditions of detention and the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in respect of the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

In addition to the 20 visits carried out in 2024, the Committee held High Level Talks with ministers and senior officials in Albania, Italy, Montenegro, the United Kingdom, and in North Macedonia where it also met with the Prime Minister. In Strasbourg, discussions were held with the Minister of Justice of Poland. These talks permitted the CPT to further strengthen its relationship with these member states in the prevention of ill-treatment of those deprived of their liberty. The Committee also appreciates that at the end of most visits its delegations could provide feedback and engage with relevant ministers on the key issues arising from the visit. This is important for our dialogue with member states. It is also positive that almost all countries systematically authorise the publication of visit reports and their Government responses. In addition, the Committee is encouraged by the growing number of countries that are signing up to the automatic publication procedure. Currently 17 countries adhere to this procedure, with Andorra and Poland having signed up in 2024. This is a positive development, and I am convinced that this number will grow again in 2025.

During 2024, the Committee's visits covered a wide range of places of detention under its mandate. I would like to highlight two issues. The first is psychiatry, both forensic and civil, which was a focus in a number of countries (Denmark, Georgia, Ireland, Norway, Romania, Serbia and Spain). The Committee has observed many good practices during its visits in recent years in relation to the treatment of persons held involuntarily in psychiatric institutions. Nevertheless, there remain a number of important challenges, notably around consent to treatment and the use of restrictive practices, including seclusion and the use of mechanical or chemical restraint, which require more rigorous oversight. In many countries, it still remains the case that too much emphasis is placed on pharmacotherapy, with far too little invested in the psycho-social therapies required for effective modern psychiatric treatment. Such therapies are essential for the recovery of patients and their reintegration into the community. The Committee also encourages states to provide proper psychiatric care in the community to avoid the need to detain persons in psychiatric hospitals or the unnecessary extension of their detention.

The second, perennial, topic, which I also raised last year, is that of prison overcrowding. In 2024, prison populations in several European countries continued to rise significantly or remained beyond the prison's intended capacity. The Committee must repeat the nefarious

consequences of prison overcrowding in undermining the functioning of prisons – poorer living conditions, increased tensions and violence, fewer purposeful activities and less preparation for prisoners returning to the community. The evidence is unequivocal, as the CPT, the European Court of Human Rights and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe have repeatedly made clear in numerous reports, decisions and recommendations. Resolving prison overcrowding is key to the effective functioning of prisons and to ensuring that detained persons are not exposed to inhuman and degrading treatment. Structural reforms are required, and good practice on how to tackle prison overcrowding already exists in several member states of the Council of Europe. However, it requires political will and a minimum of investment. Discussions are ongoing within the Council of Europe and between member states to develop a multilateral project seeking practical solutions and sharing best practice in how to defeat the scourge of overcrowding. We stand ready to offer whatever assistance we may to help states grapple with prison overcrowding and ensure that persons in prison are not held in conditions of detention which may amount to inhuman and degrading treatment.

Prisons are also the focus of our 2024 standard and, more precisely, the question of the contemporary informal prisoner hierarchy. This phenomenon continues to exist, albeit to varying degrees of influence, in the prison systems of nine States Parties to our Convention, eight of which are member states of the Council of Europe. All nine countries were formerly a part of the Soviet Union. Indeed, it was a deliberate policy of the Soviet prison system, and the Gulag in particular, to delegate power to prisoners to manage the prisons and the production quotas they had to fulfil. This in turn further strengthened the informal prisoner hierarchy, the origins of which can be traced back to Tsarist Russia. The spread of the informal prisoner hierarchy was facilitated by the housing of prisoners in large-capacity dormitories. It is not surprising that, since the 1990s, the CPT has been advocating for the phasing out of large dormitories as they facilitate the development, maintenance and cohesion of criminal organisational structures, heightening the risk of intimidation and violence.

Regrettably, insufficient steps have been taken to eradicate the influence of the informal prisoner hierarchy. Large-capacity dormitories are still pervasive in many prisons and, with far too few staff in place, a number of prison administrations appear to have ceded control of prisons to the informal prisoner hierarchy. The recent judgments of the European Court of Human Rights on this issue serve to confirm and highlight practices which have been undermining the proper functioning of the prison system in these countries for many years. Some countries have, however, made real headway in addressing the informal prisoner hierarchy, investing in new prisons without large dormitories and engaging sufficient staff. Still other countries appear to have resigned themselves to letting the informal prisoner hierarchy flourish. The CPT considers that if the informal prisoner hierarchy is not directly challenged, not only are vulnerable prisoners at real risk of violence and exploitation, but the states concerned effectively permit the prisoner leaders to continue their criminal practices from inside the prison walls.

In other prison systems of Europe, where the informal prisoner hierarchy is not present in the all-encompassing form described above, the Committee has noticed that a lack of prison staff combined with overcrowding may result in prison life in the accommodation blocks being controlled by stronger groups of prisoners. Consequently, other prisoners are often subjected to violence and intimidation by these stronger groups, who appear to operate with impunity.

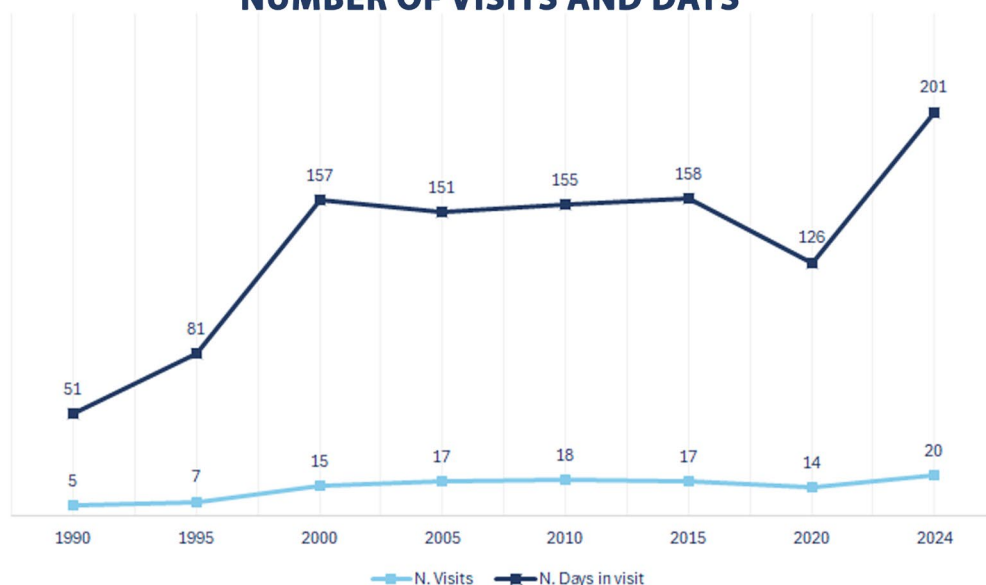
The mainstay of the Committee's work is its monitoring visits, the adoption of the subsequent visit reports and the ongoing dialogue with States Parties. Nevertheless, in the course of 2024, the CPT has once again been actively engaged in promoting the values of the Council of Europe and the work of the Committee in numerous *fora*. This outreach work is essential in ensuring that the standards advocated by the CPT are known, debated and applied. Likewise, we are constantly working to assure synergies with other monitoring bodies at the international and national levels, as well as with other relevant actors on the ground. Lastly, a word about the team; the work of the CPT is only made possible by the collective commitment of the members of the Committee, the experts who assist them and our dedicated Secretariat. I am grateful for their hard work and support. Together we will continue to strive to implement the mandate with which we are entrusted.

I trust that you will find the overview of the CPT's work in 2024, as outlined in this General Report, informative. As always, the Committee stresses the principle of cooperation and, in this vein, we welcome comments and suggestions on our work generally and on this report.

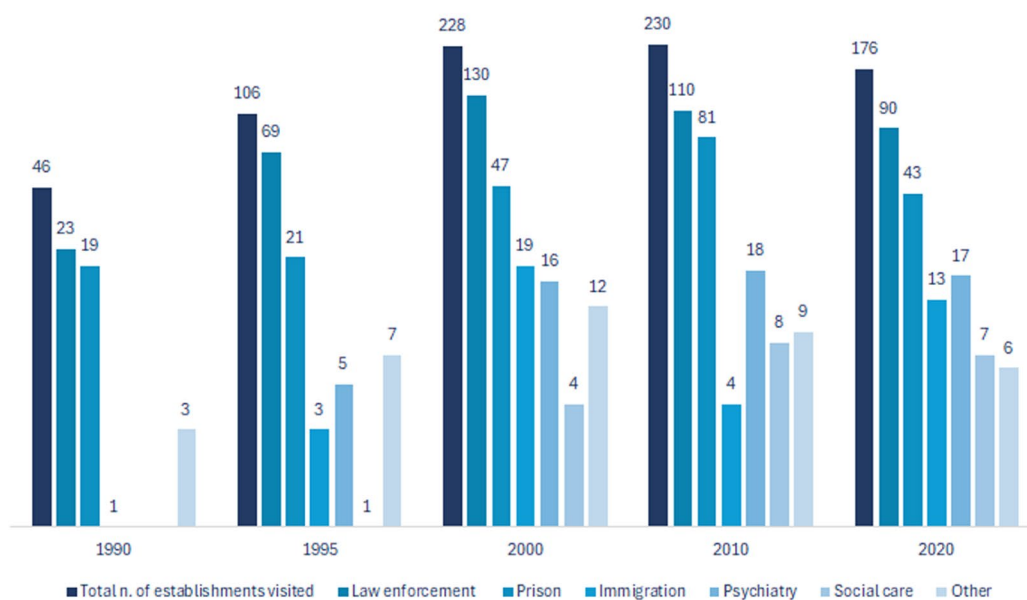
Alan Mitchell
President of the CPT

CPT'S ACTION SINCE 1989

NUMBER OF VISITS AND DAYS



TYPES OF ESTABLISHMENTS VISITED AND TOTAL NUMBER



2024 IN FIGURES

20 VISITS

8 PERIODIC & 12 AD HOC



201 DAYS

IN THE FIELD

**181 PLACES OF
DETENTION
VISITED**



75 POLICE
STATIONS

58 PRISONS

18 PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITALS

4 SOCIAL CARE
INSTITUTIONS

14 IMMIGRATION
DETENTION CENTRES

12 OTHER PLACES
OF DETENTION

Activities during the period 1 January to 31 December 2024

Visits

1. In the course of 2024, the CPT organised 20 visits in 19 countries (totalling 201 days), including eight periodic visits and 12 ad hoc visits. Details regarding the dates and establishments visited during these visits are set out in Appendix 6.

Periodic visits

2. Periodic visits were carried out to **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Denmark, France, Georgia, Ireland, Norway and Slovenia**. The main objective of these visits was to examine the treatment and conditions of detention of persons detained in various types of establishments and to review the measures taken by the relevant authorities to implement recommendations made by the Committee after previous visits to the countries concerned. In this regard, particular attention was paid to persons detained by police agencies, persons sentenced and remanded, residents in social care homes and persons held under migration legislation (Bosnia and Herzegovina); treatment and safeguards of persons held by the police and in prison, children placed in education institutions, and persons subjected to the measure of security detention (Czechia); treatment and safeguards of persons held by the police and in prison, detention of foreign national under migration laws, forensic psychiatric patients and persons under restricted regime or in solitary confinement (Denmark); consequences of prison overcrowding on the treatment of prisoners, the situation of women and children in prisons and detention conditions in law enforcement facilities (France); persons in police custody, including those detained during ongoing public demonstrations, persons held in prison and in psychiatric hospitals (Georgia); prison conditions and treatment including restricted regimes and women in prison, persons held in psychiatric hospitals, children in an educational institution (Ireland); persons detained in prison, by the police and held in an immigration detention centre (Norway); persons held in prison and residents in a social welfare establishment (Slovenia).

3. In March 2024, the CPT announced its programme of periodic visits for 2025. The following eight countries were chosen: **Azerbaijan, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Romania and Spain**.

4. The CPT continues to strive towards a policy of carrying out periodic visits to most countries within a timeframe of 4 to 6 years, with certain smaller jurisdictions being visited on a less regular basis. Periodic visits to certain countries may be postponed when one or more ad hoc visits have been carried out to the country in the intervening period.

Ad hoc visits

5. In the course of 2024, the CPT carried out ad hoc visits to **Bulgaria, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland** and Türkiye. In addition, two ad hoc visits were carried out to **Serbia**.



In the course of 2024, the CPT organised 20 visits in 19 countries (totalling 201 days), including 8 periodic visits and 12 ad hoc visits.



6. The primary objective of the visit to **Bulgaria** in September was to review the implementation of the CPT's long-standing recommendations concerning the treatment and conditions of detention of foreign nationals held under immigration legislation.
7. During the visit to **Italy** in April, the treatment, conditions of detention, legal safeguards and quality of healthcare provided to foreign nationals held in four of the nine closed pre-removal centres throughout the country were examined.
8. The primary objective of the visit to **Latvia** in May was to consider the issues of inter-prisoner violence, the influence of the informal prisoner hierarchy, and the provision of healthcare in prisons. The measures taken by the authorities in response to these long-standing CPT recommendations were examined.
9. The visit to **Lithuania** in February primarily focused on widespread inter-prisoner violence, the abundance of illegal drugs in prisons and the lack of targeted strategies to help the large numbers of prisoners with substance use problems. These issues have been the topic of long-standing recommendations from the CPT.
10. The visit to the **Netherlands** in October examined the treatment of children in closed residential youth institutions (*Jeugdzorg Plus*). The visit took into account the 2024 report *Eenzaam Gesloten (Solitarily Enclosed)* by Jason Bhugwandass, and earlier reports on the effective protection against violence of youth placed in these institutions, including the 2019 report *Onvoldoende beschermd, geweld in de Nederlandse jeugdzorg van 1945 tot heden (Insufficiently protected, violence in Dutch youth care from 1945 to the present)*, by the De Winter Committee.
11. The primary objective of the visit to **Portugal** in November was to examine the implementation of the long-standing CPT recommendations concerning the prevention of police ill-treatment. It also looked again into the effectiveness of investigations relating to allegations of ill-treatment by law enforcement officials.
12. The visit to **Romania** in September/October focused on the treatment and living conditions of forensic psychiatric patients in the four Psychiatric and Safety Measures Hospitals, as well as examining the measures taken by the authorities to implement the CPT's recommendations from its 2022 visit.
13. The visit to **Serbia** in November reviewed the treatment of adult and child patients deprived of their liberty in several psychiatric facilities. It also examined the treatment and conditions of children and young persons held in the Juvenile Educational-Correctional Facility of Kruševac. An additional follow-up visit to **Serbia** was carried out in December to examine the treatment of and safeguards afforded to children and adolescents deprived of their liberty in psychiatric facilities.
14. The primary objective of the visit to **Spain** in November/December was to examine the treatment of persons held in police and prison establishments in the autonomous community of Catalonia (*Generalitat de Catalunya*). The conditions of detention of persons detained in closed regime departments (*Departaments Especials de Règim Tancat*) were reviewed, along with resort to measures of restraint. The visit also considered the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty by law enforcement agencies, notably the *Mossos d'Esquadra*, as well as the treatment of children and young adults at the Els Tiller Juvenile Detention Center, all in the Barcelona region.

15. The visit to **Switzerland** in March focused on the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty by the police and in remand detention, in four cantons. Particular attention was paid to the implementation of long-standing CPT recommendations concerning strengthening the safeguards against ill-treatment by the police, the illegal detention of persons in two police stations, and overcrowding in remand detention facilities in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

16. The visit to **Türkiye** in February examined the treatment of persons held in high-security prisons. A further focus of the visit was the situation of LGBTI and women prisoners. The delegation also raised with the authorities certain issues related to the situation of the prisoners currently held at Imralı F-type High-Security Prison, in particular as regards their contact with the outside world.

High-level talks with national authorities

17. The CPT continued its standard practice of holding talks between visiting delegations and national authorities at the beginning and end of each visit. The end-of-visit talks, often attended by Ministers, serve as an opportunity to share the CPT's preliminary observations from the visit and to indicate immediate measures required in order to remedy specific, urgent issues. Over the past year, the CPT has intensified the ongoing dialogue and strengthened its engagement with several states by conducting high-level talks outside the usual framework of visits, as outlined below.

18. On 29 January, the CPT, led by its President Alan Mitchell, held high-level talks in **Albania**. The discussions involved Ulsi Manja, Minister of Justice, and Albana Koçiu, Minister of Health, and focused on the treatment and care of individuals within the forensic psychiatric system. Discussions were also held on the transfer of the responsibility of care and treatment for forensic patients from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Health, as well as on the relocation of female patients from Tirana Prison Hospital to another premises in the near future. The Albanian authorities engaged in a constructive dialogue with the CPT.

19. The CPT led by its President Alan Mitchell visited **Montenegro** on 15 and 16 February and met with Aleksa Bečić, Deputy Prime Minister, and Danilo Šaranović, Minister of the Interior. The talks focused on the longstanding concerns regarding the treatment of persons held by the police, accountability and the effectiveness of investigations into allegations of ill-treatment. The system of remand detention in Montenegro was also discussed, notably the poor regimes and restrictions on the rights to visits and telephone calls of persons held on remand. The authorities announced their firm intention to enhance cooperation on prevention of police ill-treatment.

20. On 8 October, the CPT, led by its President Alan Mitchell and accompanied by Tomáš Boček, Vice-Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank, held high-level talks in **North Macedonia**. The delegation met with Prime Minister Hristijan Mickoski and Igor Filkov, Minister of Justice, to discuss pushing through prison reform in the country. Discussions focused on the dire situation in Idrizovo Prison and the need to implement the Road Map for prison reform. Systemic issues within the penitentiary system should be addressed. The need to improve the provision of healthcare in prisons was addressed with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Bleta Rama. It was agreed that offering equivalence of care for persons in prison required sufficient healthcare staffing and adequate premises.



High-level talks underscore the CPT's commitment to fostering constructive dialogue with member states, to supporting reforms and to improving the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty.

21. High-level talks led by Vice-Presidents Hans Wolff and Therese Rytter were held in the **United Kingdom**, on 16 and 17 October. The CPT delegation met with Shabana Mahmood, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, and held an extensive exchange of views with Lord James Timpson, Minister of State for Prisons and Probation, to address urgent issues such as prison overcrowding, staff shortages, violence, safety and the need to develop meaningful activities. Discussions touched on the proposed Sentencing Review and comparative approaches across Europe to tackle overcrowding, as well as the specific challenges facing women and children in prison, and the high number of prisoners recalled to prison every year.

22. The Italian prison system has been confronted with serious challenges to its proper functioning, notably due to the steady increase in prison overcrowding and its detrimental effects on living conditions, provision of regime, violence and relations with staff. The spike in the number of suicides of both prisoners and staff in 2024 is an extreme symptom of the crisis. During high-level talks with Carlo Nordio, Minister of Justice, held in **Italy** on 29 October, the CPT led by its President Alan Mitchell presented proposals for effectively addressing these issues.

23. During the course of these high-level talks, the CPT also engaged with relevant stakeholders, including members of Parliament, National Preventive Mechanisms, diplomatic missions, prison administrations, senior officials from relevant Ministries, and representatives of the civil society. These high-level talks underscore the CPT's commitment to fostering constructive dialogue with member states, to supporting reforms and to improving the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty across Europe. Further, in the case of Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia round table discussions involving the authorities, civil society and relevant international organisations were held to discuss the main findings of the CPT reports. These events were organised in cooperation with the Council of Europe's Cooperation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty Division in Albania and North Macedonia and with the NGO Human Rights Action in Montenegro.

Plenary meetings and activities of subgroups

24. The CPT held three plenary meetings in 2024 (in March, July and November), during which much of the agenda was taken up with the adoption of 16 visit reports.

25. In the course of the year, the CPT decided to make two public statements in relation to Azerbaijan (police ill-treatment) and the Russian Federation (lack of cooperation to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate). The report on the 2022 visit to Azerbaijan features in the "Publications" section below. The public statement regarding the Russian Federation is also highlighted in this section.

26. In addition to continuing its discussion of the ongoing intergovernmental activities of the Council of Europe on matters within the CPT's mandate, and of its own internal working methods, during the November plenary meeting the CPT organised a training event for its members and staff on interviewing techniques. The Committee welcomed eight new members during its March plenary, the re-election of one member in July, and another new member during the November plenary.

27. The two standing subgroups of the CPT, the Working Group on Health and the Working Group on the CPT's Jurisprudence, met either before or during the week of the plenary meetings. The Working Group on Health examines substantive issues of a medical nature related to the CPT's mandate. In 2024 it worked extensively on the revision of two CPT's standards, on Confidentiality in Medical Examination Rooms, and Healthcare Services in Prisons. The task of the Working Group on the CPT's Jurisprudence is to advise the CPT on developments in the Committee's standards as reflected in visit reports and to identify areas where there is room for development of those standards. It also contributed substantially to the revision of the two standards mentioned above. The CPT decided to create a third standing subgroup, the Working Group on Impact, which had existed for several years as an ad hoc group. The Working Group on Impact is tasked inter alia to seek ways to enhance the efficiency of the Committee's working methods and the effectiveness of the implementation of its recommendations.

28. The Rapporteurs on Gender Equality and Environment continued to monitor the activities of the Committee and to propose improvements in their respective portfolios.

Contacts with other bodies

29. In 2024, the CPT strengthened its cooperation with other Council of Europe bodies, at both the political and technical levels. This included collaboration with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees (SRSG), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the Penological Council (PC-CP), and the Division for Cooperation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty.

30. The CPT President presented the 33rd General Report to the Ministers' Deputies at a hearing which took place on 24 April. The following day he gave a press conference on the General Report in Brussels and in particular on its substantive section on the protection of transgender persons in prison. The President had an exchange of views with the Ministers' Deputies on 11 September regarding the situation in Azerbaijan, which was triggered by the CPT public statement of 3 July, made in application of Article 10 (2) of the Convention, addressing the persistent lack of cooperation by the Azerbaijani authorities with the CPT. He also participated in the 29th Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS), on 24-25 June.

31. The CPT intensified its cooperation with ECRI in 2024, with an exchange of views, held on 11 April, between the CPT, ECRI and the Chairperson of the United Nations Working Group on People of African Descent in relation to police behaviour and training as well as other issues of common interest. The CPT also participated in the round table – implementation of ECRI's recommendations by France, in Paris on 25 April. The CPT actively contributed to the European National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) Forum, organised by the Council of Europe, on 4-5 June, on exchanges of best practice on the rights of vulnerable persons in pre-trial detention facilities and on 24-25 September concerning persons deprived of their liberty with substance use disorders as well as to the Council of Europe multilateral meeting on solitary confinement in prisons, on 24-25 September. Other Council of Europe activities in which the CPT participated included, *inter alia* two meetings of the PC-CP and a meeting with the Chair of the PACE Migration Committee.

32. During its November plenary, the Committee held a constructive exchange of views with Tomáš Boček, Vice-Governor of the CEB. Discussions focused on the role of the CEB in financing the construction and renovation of detention facilities in Target Group Countries and the possibilities for further cooperation in implementing CPT standards in this context.

33. Regarding interlocutors **outside the Council of Europe**, the CPT had fruitful exchanges with Judge Graciela Gatti Santana, President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT). It maintained close contacts with the United Nations, in particular with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), with which a meeting between the respective Bureaus took place on 6 June 2024 in Geneva to discuss cooperation in Europe. It also regularly exchanged information with United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) offices in Strasbourg and in the countries visited by the Committee.

34. The CPT intensified its dialogue with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), regarding issues and territories of common interest. Additionally, the CPT engaged with various European Union (EU) bodies and agencies: meetings were held with EU Heads of Delegations and officials, particularly during country visits, and fruitful exchanges with

DG NEAR officials were held, notably in light of the fundamental rights and rule of law chapters of the annual European Commission enlargement assessment reports for candidate states. Mention should also be made of the CPT Executive Secretary providing a training session to DG NEAR staff at the Fundamental Rights Network Meeting in Brussels in December 2024 on the CPT, Article 3 of ECHR, the deprivation of liberty and implications for potential programming. The CPT also contributed to the DG JUST process in drafting a questionnaire for EU member states on the 2022 European Commission Recommendation on “Procedural Rights of Suspects and Accused Persons subject to pre-trial detention and on material detention conditions” which largely reflects CoE and CPT standards.

35. The CPT further maintained regular exchanges with the Fundamental Rights Officer of the European Coast and Border Guard Agency (Frontex) and his team, as well as with the EU Agencies for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and Asylum (EUAA).

36. Contacts with other external bodies also included, *inter alia* participation in: a workshop on forced return monitoring organised by the Greek Ombudsman, with the participation of the Cypriot Ombudsman (Athens, 22-23 January); the High-Level conference “Of Unsound Mind: Convention-compliant approaches to the execution of judgments concerning involuntary detention and treatment on mental health grounds” (Strasbourg, 27 March); the UK National Preventive Mechanism Annual Conference 2024 (Cardiff, 24 April); the second Summer School on the Law of the Council of Europe (Liverpool, 9 July); a Europris workshop on Sustainability in Prisons (York, 24-25 September); a seminar on Medical Matters in Detention organised by the International Criminal Court (the Hague, 19-20 September); a Mojust Foundation conference on LGBTQI+ Rights in Incarceration and Beyond (Geneva, 21 September); a conference on Structural Problems in Prisons: Prospects for European Intervention organised by the European Prison Litigation Network and the European Implementation Network (Strasbourg, 18-19 November); and the ninth annual conference of the *Instance Nationale pour la prévention de la Torture* (INPT) on Best Practices on Torture Prevention (Tunis, 25-26 November). An exchange of views was also held on 21 November with the Board members and staff of the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT).

37. Seminars on CPT activities and standards were also presented to groups of judges, medical doctors, lawyers, civil servants and students from Armenia, Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Publications

Introduction

38. In 2024, the CPT published 18 visit reports. As of 31 December 2024, out of 16 reports adopted during the year, nine have been made public. A state-by-state table showing the situation as regards publication of CPT visit reports is set out in Appendix 5.

39. Additionally, the CPT adopted two public statements, in application of Article 10 (2) of the Convention, in relation to Azerbaijan on 3 July, and the Russian Federation on 18 November.

Selected publications

40. This section takes a closer look at some of the visit reports and related government responses published in 2024.





Prisoners in the special detention regime were subjected to a very impoverished regime and were offered barely any meaningful human contact for months on end.

Albania

Report on the May 2023 periodic visit to Albania

(treatment and conditions of detention of persons held in police custody and in prisons, with a focus on the situation of forensic psychiatric patients and prisoners with a mental health condition, as well as the treatment of residents with developmental disabilities in social care institutions)

41. The CPT visited a number of **police establishments** and remand prisons in various parts of the country and interviewed a large number of persons who were, or had recently been in police custody. The vast majority of these persons indicated that they had been treated correctly by the police. However, the delegation received credible allegations of recent ill-treatment by the police in the Malësia region, consisting of slaps, punches and kicks during apprehension. The delegation also received a credible allegation that at Koplik Police Station a wooden club had been used to hit detainees on various parts of the body, including the soles of the feet (*falaka*). The report concludes that, although the positive trend observed during the most recent CPT visits to Albania as regards the treatment of persons detained by the police appears to be maintained, additional vigorous action is still required to eradicate police ill-treatment.

42. Concerning **prisons**, the CPT notes that, despite a slight decrease in the number of prisoners since its previous periodic visit in 2018, Albania continues to have one of the highest incarceration rates of the Council of Europe's member states. As a consequence, overcrowding continues to affect some pre-trial establishments in the country and, as acknowledged by the authorities, remains a major challenge for the prison administration in providing satisfactory living conditions throughout the penitentiary system.



Structural shortcomings, leading to mixed gender rooms and minors being placed together with adults, resulted in a level of staff supervision incompatible with the severity of the disability of the residents.

43. The vast majority of the prisoners interviewed in Prison No. 313 in Tirana and the prisons in Fier, Peqin and Tepelena stated that they were treated correctly by staff. Further, inter-prisoner violence did not constitute a major problem in the prisons visited.

44. Material conditions of detention remained generally satisfactory in regular accommodation units at Fier and Peqin Prisons. By contrast, given its major structural deficiencies, Tepelena Prison is barely suitable for use as a penitentiary institution.

45. Prisoners subject to the special detention regime (so-called “41-bis”) were subjected to a very impoverished regime and were offered barely any meaningful human contact for months on end; measures should be taken to avoid situations of prolonged *de facto* solitary confinement.

46. As regards the provision of healthcare to prisoners, relevant staffing resources should be reinforced at Fier and Peqin Prisons, to ensure regular visits by a psychiatrist to most of the prisons visited, and to reinforce the provision of psychological care to inmates.

47. Over the years, the CPT has expressed grave concerns as to the detention conditions and treatment of detainees on whom either a court-ordered compulsory treatment measure under Section 46 of the Criminal Code, or temporary placement in a **forensic psychiatric institution** is imposed (Section 239 of the Code of Criminal Procedure). The visit focused on the establishments where forensic psychiatric patients are held: the Tirana Prison Hospital (female patients) and the temporary facility at Lezha Prison (male patients).

48. The vast majority of patients interviewed made no allegations of ill-treatment by staff. However, the delegation did receive a number of allegations of physical ill-treatment of patients at the temporary facility by custodial staff, mainly, but not solely, by the rapid intervention team. The alleged physical ill-treatment consisted primarily of punches to various parts of the body.

49. Despite marked improvements made at Tirana Prison Hospital since the CPT's previous visit in 2021, the living conditions offered to patients remain inadequate due to its carceral layout. As concerns the temporary facility at Lezha Prison, which accommodates male forensic patients previously detained at the Zaharia Special Institution for Mentally Ill Inmates in Kruja, the CPT has no doubt that the Albanian Prison Service firmly wishes to do away with the prison culture prevalent at the Zaharia Special Institution. However, the overcrowding, the lack of medical and therapeutic staff and the inadequate building would have undone most, if not all, of whatever positive input could have been made since the transfer in 2021.

50. The CPT visited the Development Centres in Durrës and Shkodra. It was the first time that the CPT visited **social care homes** in Albania after the entry into force of the 2016 Law on Social Care Services. The delegation received no allegations, and found no other indications, of ill-treatment of residents by staff in the residential care centres visited. In both institutions, the mix of residents of different ages and needs, with physically capable residents and those with slight intellectual disabilities sharing accommodation with residents unable to express themselves verbally, posed a real risk of tensions, irritations and misunderstandings. Further, structural shortcomings in both centres, including low numbers of orderlies and cramped living conditions (leading to mixed gender rooms and minors being placed together with adults) resulted in a level of staff supervision incompatible with the severity of the disability, both physical and intellectual, of several of the residents, and with the vigilance required to prevent violence.

51. While the Durrës Development Centre was in a reasonable state of repair, the Shkodra Centre was in poor condition, with extensive water damage due to leaking bathroom pipes resulting in walls partially covered with bright green and black mould. Efforts were made, at both establishments, to maintain a regime with a structured programme. However, in both centres there was a limited range of occupational, rehabilitative, and recreational activities on offer.

*Report published in January 2024 (CPT/Inf (2024) 01) and
response of the Albanian authorities in October 2024 (CPT/Inf (2024) 28)*

Azerbaijan

Report on the December 2022 ad hoc visit to Azerbaijan

(treatment of persons in police custody, situation of female and juvenile sentenced prisoners)

52. Many of the interviewed persons who were, or had recently been in police custody stated that they had been treated correctly by the **police**. However, the CPT again received numerous allegations of severe physical ill-treatment/torture of persons currently or recently detained by the police as criminal suspects. The alleged ill-treatment/torture was mostly said to have occurred upon apprehension and, subsequently, during initial interviews by operational police officers. The aim of the physical ill-treatment/torture during initial interviews was reportedly to force the persons to sign a confession, provide other information or accept additional charges. The types of ill-treatment/torture alleged mainly included slaps, punches, kicks and blows by truncheon or wooden sticks to the person's head and/or body, often while handcuffed. The delegation also received a few allegations of truncheon blows on the soles of the feet ("falaka").



||| The CPT has called for the “unholy alliance” between the continued resort to physical ill-treatment/torture by the police, and the pervasive practice of forcing confessions and extortion to be broken.



53. Further, the delegation received allegations of threats (including of insertion of a bottle into the rectum and of electric shocks), as well as threats of reprisals, including of criminal prosecution, against the persons' relatives. In addition, several allegations were received of police officers planting evidence and demanding payments in exchange for dropping or reducing charges. The alleged physical ill-treatment was reportedly routinely accompanied by verbal abuse.

54. The CPT has called upon the Azerbaijani authorities to make genuine efforts to break this "unholy alliance" between the continued resort to physical ill-treatment/torture by the police, and the pervasive practice of making threats, planting evidence, forcing confessions, and extortion.

55. As regards the fundamental legal safeguards against ill-treatment by the police, especially notification of custody, access to a lawyer, access to a doctor and information on rights, the CPT's conclusion after the 2022 ad hoc visit was, most regrettably, exactly the same as after the 2020 periodic visit (and preceding visits), namely, that those safeguards remained largely a dead letter and were mostly inoperative in practice.

56. On the positive side, the delegation had not received a single allegation of physical ill-treatment of sentenced female or juvenile prisoners in the two **penitentiary establishments** visited, namely the Penitentiary Establishment No. 4 and the Correctional Establishment for Juveniles. In general, staff-prisoner relations appeared to be fairly relaxed and the delegation heard many words of praise from the detained persons regarding the Director of both establishments. This is indeed an important and welcome finding. It is also noteworthy that the transfer from the old sites has had a clearly positive impact on the general atmosphere in both establishments.

57. The new facilities in Zabrat represented a major improvement as compared with the old sites visited by the CPT in the past. The Committee congratulated the Azerbaijani authorities on this important achievement.

58. Efforts were made to engage prisoners in work, vocational training and general secondary education (in the case of minors), and to offer them a range of leisure activities. The impression was that any prisoner who wished to participate in such activities could do so. This was very positive; nevertheless, the Committee has invited the Azerbaijani authorities to continue their efforts to involve more female detained persons in work and vocational training.

59. The healthcare services of the two penitentiary establishments visited appeared to be sufficiently staffed, equipped and supplied with medication and materials. By contrast, the number of both custodial and other staff was grossly insufficient at the Penitentiary Establishment No. 4, as was their presence in the accommodation and communal areas, and the range of specialties. The situation was better in this respect at the Correctional Establishment for Juveniles.

60. Regarding contact with the outside world, the delegation observed that both female and juvenile detained persons could receive visits in accordance with the existing legal provisions. They also had access to a telephone and had recently been granted the possibility to have video meetings, which is a welcome improvement. However, the CPT has once again called upon the Azerbaijani authorities to amend the relevant legislation so as to ensure that all adult prisoners, irrespective of the category and regime, have the same possibility of contact with the outside world; that is, at least the equivalent of one hour of visiting time per week (and more frequently in the case of juveniles).

61. The CPT decided, in application of Article 10 (2) of the Convention establishing the Committee, to issue a public statement in respect of Azerbaijan, due to the persistent lack of progress of the Azerbaijani authorities on the implementation of long-standing recommendations of the CPT, with particular regard to the deliberate ill-treatment of persons in police custody. In this context, it also decided to publish the report of its 2022 visit.

The report was made public in July 2024 (CPT/Inf (2024) 23), together with the public statement concerning Azerbaijan (CPT/Inf (2024) 24)

Cyprus

Report on the May 2023 periodic visit to Cyprus, and response of the Cypriot authorities

(Nicosia Central Prisons, immigration facilities and police establishments)

62. The CPT found that the situation for persons held in the **prison** had significantly deteriorated since the previous visit in 2017. Increased levels of overcrowding had led to poor living conditions and increased levels of inter-prisoner violence. The lack of front-line operational prison staff only exacerbated the situation. The overcrowding was a result of a number of factors, including the accommodation of significant numbers of persons held for short sentences and high numbers of persons on remand. The report recommends that an urgent review of the grounds for imprisonment of these groups be undertaken, along with the application of many more alternatives to detention in order to decongest the prison.

63. The vast majority of prisoners did not complain about ill-treatment by staff. However, a number of allegations were received of staff slapping prisoners as an informal punishment for being late back to their cells. Further, various allegations were received of verbal, including racist, abuse towards foreign national prisoners by staff. Equally, there were several cases of serious inter-prisoner violence, including the murder of a prisoner in October 2022, and many prisoners feared for their own safety. The CPT found that insufficient measures were being taken to effectively discharge the prison's obligation to keep prisoners – and staff – safe and to reduce inter-prisoner violence. Also, the lack of front-line prison staff in some areas created a breeding ground for the development of informal prisoner hierarchies allowing certain prisoners to maintain control and enforce discipline over other prisoners. The CPT recommends the swift recruitment and training of more front-line prison staff and for more emphasis to be placed on promoting a dynamic security approach with increased personal interaction between staff and prisoners. Lastly, prisoners had nothing meaningful to do to structure their day and large numbers of prisoners were sleeping on mattresses on the floor, under the bunk beds, under the tables and in every available space within the cells. A lack of ready access to toilets at night, linked to the lack of staff available to let prisoners out of their cells to use the toilets, resulted in prisoners urinating in bottles. In the CPT's view, these appalling material conditions and lack of regime can cumulatively only be described as amounting to inhuman and degrading treatment. The report underlines that concerted action is urgently needed to address these problems.

64. The CPT found that **police stations** across Cyprus were holding administratively detained persons held pursuant to aliens legislation, criminal suspects, and even some sentenced prisoners. Length of stay at police stations ranged from a few days to months. The report reiterates that persons should not be detained in police custody for prolonged periods. The majority of persons with whom the CPT delegation spoke said that they had been treated correctly by the police. While the delegation received no allegations of physical



Increased levels of overcrowding had led to poor living conditions and increased levels of inter-prisoner violence. The lack of front-line operational prison staff only exacerbated the situation.

ill-treatment by police officers during their custody in police stations, it did receive a few allegations relating to the period of apprehension and questioning by police investigators. The CPT highlights the need to reinforce a zero-tolerance approach as regards ill-treatment.

65. At the **Menoyia Immigration Detention Centre**, no allegations of physical ill-treatment by staff were received. The overall living conditions, however, remained too carceral for the nature of the Centre. Detained persons had nothing to structure their days and were only allowed one and a half hours of daily access to the fresh air. The **Pournara Registration Centre** was accommodating more than 1 000 foreign nationals at the time of the CPT visit, many of whom were waiting for several weeks and months before they were allowed to leave the Centre. Foreign nationals were accommodated in severely overcrowded living conditions in either prefabricated plastic containers, shelters or tents. Much of the accommodation was in a dilapidated condition, with broken doors and earth floors, and was poorly ventilated, mouldy and humid. Persons placed in containers, including children, were often forced to share beds and dirty sheets. Some residents refused to use the filthy toilets and showers and instead used the communal outside areas for their toilet needs, resulting in piles of excrement and rivulets of urine. In the CPT's view, such living conditions may well amount to inhuman and degrading treatment. In its report, the CPT urges the Cypriot authorities to take immediate action to provide appropriate and decent living conditions, to unaccompanied and separated children in particular, as well as to other vulnerable categories of persons.

66. In their response, the Cypriot authorities provide information on the measures taken to implement the recommendations made in the CPT report regarding the prison, police custody and immigration establishments visited.

Report and response published in May 2024
(CPT/Inf (2024) 18 and CPT/Inf (2024) 19)

Greece

Report on the November/December 2023 ad hoc visit to Greece, and response of the Greek authorities

(treatment of foreign nationals deprived of their liberty under immigration legislation)

67. The findings of the visit indicate that deliberate physical ill-treatment of detained foreign nationals by police officers remains a problem in certain police stations in Athens and in the pre-removal detention centres of Amygdaleza, Corinth and Tavros (Petroli Ralli). Several persons also alleged that they were ill-treated by coast guard officials when intercepted at sea. Allegations mainly concerned blows with batons and the butt of a rifle, kicks, punches and slaps, as well as verbal abuse and racist insults. The Greek authorities must take more vigorous steps to end ill-treatment of foreign nationals deprived of their liberty.

68. Foreign nationals often continue to be held in poor conditions of detention. Most police stations were inappropriate for stays exceeding 24 hours. In particular, the Greek authorities should take Drapetsona Police Station out of service and end the detention of children at Athens Airport Special holding facility. The conditions in parts of these two facilities could be considered as amounting to inhuman and degrading treatment. The living conditions and treatment of foreign nationals held in the country's pre-removal detention centres should also be reviewed. For example, at the centre in Corinth, persons were being held in a state of forced idleness for periods of up to 18 months, in extremely poor material conditions. The facilities lacked maintenance, hygiene and cleaning, and were infested with cockroaches and bed bugs, requiring urgent action. As a result of the catastrophic healthcare situation at this centre, an open tuberculosis infection had started spreading among large parts of the detained population.

69. The CPT is also critical of the new EU-funded **Closed Controlled Access Centres** on the Aegean Islands. At the time of the visit, these centres did not meet the basic reception and protection needs of applicants for international protection. A great number of persons remained deprived of their liberty there way beyond the time limits provided by law and without benefiting from the legal safeguards related to detention, including access to a lawyer and interpreters. The living conditions for many of the persons met by the CPT could only be described as inhuman and degrading, especially at the centres of Kos and Samos. For instance, in some accommodation areas, up to eight persons were held in 10 m² rooms, many of whom had to sleep on the floor without even a mattress. Several containers and tents were unfit for human habitation, with no functioning sanitary facilities, electricity or heating. Many foreign nationals did not even have winter clothing and shoes. All persons held in these centres must be offered decent living conditions.

70. Further, the CPT considers that the excessive security and unnecessary barbed wire fencing make the Closed Controlled Access Centres unsuitable for accommodating children and persons in a situation of vulnerability. Large numbers of persons with special needs and vulnerabilities were being held without a proper assessment or medical screening upon



Several persons also alleged that they were ill-treated by coast guard officials when intercepted at sea. Allegations mainly concerned blows with batons and the butt of a rifle, kicks, punches and slaps.

arrival. A few allegations were received from these persons that they were subjected to sexual violence or harassment by other foreign nationals. Steps should be taken to swiftly identify persons in a situation of vulnerability and improve access to healthcare and the quality of care. This will require significantly reinforcing the understaffed healthcare teams and preventing violence. The Greek authorities should end the detention of unaccompanied and separated children in these centres.

71. The CPT again received many consistent and credible allegations of informal, often violent, forcible removals of foreign nationals across the Evros river or at sea to Türkiye (“pushbacks”). This occurred without consideration of their individual circumstances, vulnerabilities, protection needs or the risk of ill-treatment when pushed back. The complaints received, some as recently as early November 2023, related to alleged pushback operations of foreign nationals, including of unaccompanied and separated children. The report describes in detail two patterns that emerged relating to alleged pushbacks at land and at sea. For the Committee, there is sufficient information to conclude that violent pushbacks to Türkiye continue to take place. The focus must now be on ending violent, dangerous and illegal pushback operations. The Greek authorities must also carry out effective investigations into all complaints of such allegations.

72. In their response, the Greek authorities underline that the conditions of detention of foreign nationals in the country’s police stations and pre-removal detention centres are in line with international standards and that large-scale renovation works are being planned in three detention centres. They also provide information on the steps being taken to

improve the conditions of detention for detained migrants in the Closed Controlled Access Centres and to increase capacity for registration and healthcare staffing levels. According to the Hellenic Police and the Hellenic Coast Guard, all officers are acting in full compliance with their international obligations, in particular the principle of *non-refoulement* and the protection of human life and dignity.

Report and response of the Greek authorities published in July 2024
(CPT/Inf (2024) 21 and CPT/Inf (2024) 22)

Hungary

Report on the May 2023 periodic visit to Hungary, and response of the Hungarian authorities

(treatment of persons in police custody and in several prisons, persons placed in the Judicial Observation and Psychiatric Institute (IMEI) and patients in two civil psychiatric facilities)

73. The majority of persons interviewed by the delegation made no complaints about their **treatment by police officers**. Nevertheless, a number of credible allegations of physical ill-treatment of detained persons were received. The delegation also received several allegations of excessively tight handcuffing, sexual harassment of female detainees by male police officers, verbal abuse, including remarks of a racist nature, of detained persons by police officers, and of mocking remarks in respect of transgender persons and persons who were being stripsearched.

74. As regards the situation in **prisons**, the CPT received no allegations of physical ill-treatment by staff at Székesfehérvár Prison, and a few isolated allegations of physical ill-treatment by staff at Nyíregyháza Prison. In contrast, at Tiszaölök Prison, numerous credible allegations of physical ill-treatment by staff were received, such as slaps, punches, kicks and truncheon blows to the head and body; in some instances, such treatment was meted out while the prisoner was hand- and ankle-cuffed.

75. Moreover, inter-prisoner violence appeared to be particularly problematic at Tiszaölök Prison. Not only do the findings of the visit suggest that staff did not always intervene promptly, but the delegation also heard credible allegations that certain prisoners were allowed or even instructed by staff to mistreat their cellmates.

76. Overcrowding and limited resources continued to affect the prison regime adversely, with most prisoners, in particular remand and high security prisoners, having no or limited access to work, education or other out-of-cell activities.

77. Persons held at **IMEI** who were interviewed by the delegation made no allegations of recent physical ill-treatment by staff.

78. Material conditions in the establishment were adequate in many respects. However, most premises remained austere and impersonal. It continued to be the case that dormitories accommodated up to 16 persons. Further, the CPT considers that IMEI is unsuitable for holding underaged patients, and urgent steps should be taken by the Hungarian authorities to end the policy of placing this age category of patient in the establishment.

79. Positively, the treatment of patients was provided by multidisciplinary teams and, in addition to pharmacotherapy, a range of individual and group therapeutic sessions and activities was offered. However, there were a number of patients who were not involved in any organised activity. Further, there were no staff to provide psychosocial activities tailored to the specific needs of patients with intellectual disabilities.



Patients' rooms were accommodating up to nine patients, which compromised their privacy and prevented the creation of a therapeutic and caring environment.

80. As for the use of means of restraint, patients were strapped to their beds in view of other patients and there was no continuous supervision by staff. Moreover, restrained patients were provided with adult nappies to comply with the needs of nature. The CPT considers that putting patients in adult nappies or having them use a bedpan in view of other patients may amount to degrading treatment.

81. Legal safeguards surrounding the court-imposed measure of compulsory psychiatric treatment and its review were generally followed in practice. However, it is a matter of particular concern that patients placed in the IMEI under this measure who no longer required psychiatric treatment could not be discharged as they were unable to cater for their own needs and there was no place for them in social welfare establishments.

82. In the two civil **psychiatric establishments** visited, that is, the psychiatric departments of Flór Ferenc Hospital in Kistarcsa and of Gróf Tisza István Hospital in Berettyóújfalu, the delegation received no allegations of physical illtreatment of patients by staff.

83. Material conditions in both establishments were adequate in many respects. However, the premises were generally austere, impersonal and unwelcoming, and lacked colour and decoration. Further, patients' rooms at Gróf Tisza István Hospital in Berettyóújfalu were accommodating up to nine patients, which compromised their privacy and prevented the creation of a therapeutic and caring environment. In both establishments, patients accommodated on closed wards had in practice virtually no access to outdoor areas, which is unacceptable.

84. Patients accommodated on the open ward of Flór Ferenc Hospital were provided, in addition to pharmacotherapy, with a wide range of therapeutic and psychosocial rehabilitative activities. However, despite the efforts made by staff, the majority of patients from the open wards at Gróf Tisza István Hospital did not participate in any organised activity. The situation was even more problematic on closed wards in both establishments, where treatment was in principle limited to pharmacotherapy and patients spent their days in idleness, with TV watching and walking along the corridors being their only activity.

85. The number of various categories of nursing staff was low in both establishments, which negatively impacted on several areas of their functioning, most notably the staff's inability to intervene in all episodes of inter-patient violence, the lack of access to outdoor exercise, the involvement of patients in the provision of care to other patients, and the frequent use of means of restraint.

86. As regards safeguards, at Gróf Tisza István Hospital, formally voluntary patients were routinely placed on closed wards and even when they wanted to leave the establishment, were prevented by staff from doing so if staff considered that their condition required hospitalisation. The CPT considers that these patients were *de facto* deprived of their liberty, without benefiting from the legal safeguards accompanying involuntary admission into a psychiatric establishment and its regular review.

87. In their response, the Hungarian authorities provide additional clarifications and outline certain measures taken in response to the recommendations made by the CPT.

Report and response of the Hungarian authorities published in December 2024

(CPT/Inf (2024) 36 and CPT/Inf (2024) 37)

Italy

Report on the April 2024 ad hoc visit to Italy

(treatment of foreign nationals detained under immigration legislation, excessive use of force and administration of unprescribed psychotropic drugs, material conditions, regime of activities, and healthcare)

88. The report describes several cases of physical ill-treatment and excessive use of force by police staff against persons detained in the four closed pre-removal centres (*Centri di permanenza per il rimpatrio*, or CPRs) visited. These notably concerned interventions in the detention modules of a CPR following a critical event. Shortcomings were identified pertaining to the absence of rigorous and independent monitoring of such interventions, and the lack of accurate recording of injuries sustained by detained persons or of any assessment as to the origin of such injuries. The report is also critical of the widespread practice of the regular administration of unprescribed psychotropic drugs to the detained population at the Potenza CPR, as well as the prolonged handcuffing of persons apprehended on the territory during their transfer to a CPR.

89. The physical layout of CPRs should be reviewed, as should the overall conditions of detention in relation to carceral aspects, such as metal bars and grilles on windows, and cage-like outdoor facilities which should be removed. Proper maintenance of the infrastructure, notably the sanitary facilities, should be ensured. Other shortcomings identified relate to the poor quality of food provided to detained persons and the shortage of stocks of toiletries and pillows.



||| The CPT found very poor material conditions, absence of regime of activities, disproportionate security approach and variable quality of healthcare provision.



90. In terms of the regime of activities offered to persons detained in the CPRs visited, the CPT considered that they were effectively being warehoused and the relevant contractors were only investing minimal efforts to offer a few activities of a purposeful nature. In particular, the imbalance between the activities envisaged in the relevant tender specifications and the impoverished regime provided in practice has led to the opening of several criminal investigations. The report advocates for a full range of purposeful activities to be introduced, particularly in light of the extension of the period of detention up to a maximum of 18 months.

91. The report also notes the need to provide better healthcare to detainees. In order to achieve this, the current system of doctors certifying a person as fit for detention should be reviewed, to ensure that doctors with prior experience and knowledge of the conditions in a secure setting are involved. The report also recommends improving the medical screening of detainees on admission to CPR, reviewing the practice of widespread administration of psychotropic drugs, and strengthening the interface between contractors and national health authorities.

92. The report concludes that the CPT's findings, notably in relation to the very poor material conditions, absence of regime of activities, disproportionate security approach, variable quality of healthcare provision and lack of transparency of the management of CPRs by private contractors, call into question the application of such a model by Italy in an extra-territorial setting, such as in Albania.

93. In their response, the Italian authorities provide detailed information on the operation of the extraterritorial efforts to detain migrants in centres on Albanian territory, with particular reference to the assessment of their vulnerability. Further, the Italian authorities indicate that the cases of physical ill-treatment described in the report have not been the subject of criminal investigations, and that several inspections have been carried out by the health authorities at the Potenza CPR in relation to the practice of allegedly widespread over-medication of detained persons. Detailed information is also provided on the design and layout of the CPRs and certain carceral and security elements are justified in light of the high rate of vandalism by the detained population.

*Report and response of the Italian authorities published in December 2024
(CPT/Inf (2024) 34 and CPT/Inf (2024) 35)*

Lithuania

Report on the February 2024 ad hoc visit to Lithuania, and response of the Lithuanian authorities

(situation in prisons with a focus on inter-prisoner violence and informal prisoner hierarchy)

94. The findings of the visit indicate that the Lithuanian authorities have taken a number of steps to address widespread inter-prisoner violence, and the abundance of illegal drugs in prisons combined with a lack of targeted strategies to help the large numbers of prisoners using drugs. However, the situation observed in the four prisons visited demonstrates that with legal and organisational changes alone, only partial progress can be made.

95. The report describes in detail the shortcomings in the recording and investigation of inter-prisoner violence as well as the multi-faceted causes of such violence – illicit drug use, informal prisoner hierarchy, and totally inadequate custodial staff presence in accommodation areas. The Committee emphasises that, due to the persistence of these root causes,



The situation of the prisoners belonging to the lowest caste of the informal prisoner hierarchy could be considered to constitute a continuing violation of Article 3 of the ECHR.

as well as a lamentable lack of trust by the prisoners in the staff's ability to guarantee their safety, the Lithuanian authorities are still far from fulfilling their responsibility to protect prisoners in their charge from other prisoners who might wish to cause them harm, and to conduct effective investigations into all credible allegations of ill-treatment, including when inflicted by fellow prisoners.

96. Furthermore, the CPT expresses its view that the situation of the prisoners belonging to the lowest caste of the informal prisoner hierarchy, which in some cases could amount to modern slavery in the form of forced labour, could be considered to constitute a continuing violation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which prohibits, *inter alia* all forms of degrading treatment and obliges state authorities to take appropriate measures to prevent such treatment.

97. Without a carefully thought-out strategic approach dedicated to combating the informal prisoner hierarchy and its malignant activities and effects, and a radical and urgent increase in the numbers of custodial staff (who must be adequately remunerated, appropriately trained, and motivated), the dire situation found in Lithuanian prisons will persist, with very harmful consequences for many individuals and for society more generally.

98. The Lithuanian authorities shall need to demonstrate concrete and sustained efforts to tackle these challenging issues if they are to persuade the Committee not to resort to a public statement under the procedure enshrined in Article 10, paragraph 2 of the Convention establishing the CPT.¹

1. "If the Party fails to co-operate or refuses to improve the situation in the light of the Committee's recommendations, the Committee may decide, after the Party has had an opportunity to make known its views, by a majority of two-thirds of its members to make a public statement on the matter."

99. In their response, the Lithuanian authorities set out the measures taken and envisaged to implement the recommendations made by the Committee in the report. Among these are steps to further reduce the prison population, conversion of the remaining dormitory-type buildings to cellular-type accommodation, adoption of the Plan on the elimination of the criminal subculture in prisons, and a range of measures to strengthen addiction prevention and treatment in prisons, in cooperation with the Republican Centre for Addiction Disorders.

Report published in July 2024 (CPT/Inf (2024) 25) and

response of the Lithuanian authorities published in October 2024 (CPT/Inf (2024) 30)

Ukraine

Report on the October 2023 periodic visit to Ukraine, and response of the Ukrainian authorities

(situation of persons held in police custody, prisons and military detention facilities)

100. This was the first visit to Ukraine by the CPT since the beginning of the full-scale military aggression by the Russian Federation in February 2022, and the Committee acknowledges the considerable efforts of the Ukrainian authorities in providing adequate conditions to persons deprived of their liberty in these extremely difficult times.

101. The main objective of the visit was to examine the treatment and safeguards afforded to persons deprived of their liberty by the police and to look into the situation of persons held in prison establishments, including life-sentenced prisoners. The CPT also examined the situation of persons held in military detention facilities.

102. The vast majority of the persons interviewed who were being, or had recently been held in **police custody** indicated that the police had treated them correctly. The Committee takes note of this positive finding, illustrating the results of efforts deployed by the Ukrainian authorities in recent years to improve the treatment of persons detained by the police. Nevertheless, the delegation did receive some allegations of physical ill-treatment and excessive use of force upon apprehension, and the report highlights that the authorities should remain vigilant and pursue their policy of “zero tolerance” of police ill-treatment.

103. Regarding the fundamental legal safeguards against ill-treatment (notification of custody, access to a lawyer and a doctor), the CPT’s findings suggested that the situation had generally improved compared to its previous periodic visit to Ukraine in 2017. In particular, it is positive that persons in police custody were almost systematically questioned in the presence of (usually *ex officio*) lawyers.

104. In the **military detention facilities** (*hauptvakhtas*) visited, no allegations were received of ill-treatment of detained military servicemen by staff. Material conditions of detention in these establishments were acceptable on the whole. However, it is of particular concern that there were no organised activities for servicemen on remand, who were obliged to spend 23 hours per day inside their cells, often for months and sometimes even years.

105. Whilst welcoming the continued efforts made by the Ukrainian authorities over the past 25 years to reduce the country’s **prison** population, the report noted that the proportion of remand prisoners remained high and that many continued to be held in overcrowded conditions for prolonged periods of time.

106. The delegation received no allegations of recent ill-treatment by staff in any of the prisons visited. However, the visit revealed that the long-standing phenomenon of informal



Even during armed conflicts, the fundamental rights of detained persons must be guaranteed.

prisoner hierarchy was still prevalent throughout the Ukrainian prison system. In this context, the situation of persons considered to be “humiliated”, that is, those who find themselves at the bottom of this hierarchy, remains a matter of serious concern to the CPT. These prisoners continued to be rejected by the mainstream prison population and were required by the hierarchy’s “code of conduct” to comply with a range of restrictions (for example, to avoid any physical contact with other prisoners, not to use communal facilities, etc.). Moreover, such prisoners were frequently compelled to perform “dirty” work (such as cleaning toilets and collecting rubbish), for which they were not paid.

107. In some of the prisons visited, the general policy was to separate this category of prisoners from the general inmate population for protection reasons, grouping them together in dedicated cells. In some other establishments, however, no such policy was in place; as a result, the “low caste” prisoners were often exposed to a risk of violence, intimidation and exploitation by their cellmates. The CPT calls on the Ukrainian authorities to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for combating inter-prisoner violence and intimidation and tackling the phenomenon of informal prisoner hierarchy, with all its negative consequences. Steps should also be taken to significantly increase staffing levels in the prisons visited, with a view to reinforcing the presence of custodial staff in the detention areas.

108. Most of the prisons visited were located in old buildings which had not seen any major refurbishment for many years and the bulk of the prisoner accommodation in these establishments was in a poor state of repair (damp-ridden and crumbling walls, damaged floors, rusty sanitary installations, bug-infested bedding, limited access to natural light

and ventilation etc.). The situation was particularly precarious at Odesa Pre-Trial Detention Facility (SIZO), where the conditions of detention of the vast majority of prisoners could be considered inhuman and degrading. Whilst fully acknowledging the challenges posed by the ongoing war, the report stressed that even during armed conflicts the fundamental rights of detained persons – including their right to be held in decent conditions – must be guaranteed.

109. The Committee also notes with concern that the situation in respect of out-of-cell activities for remand prisoners had not improved since its previous visits. With the exception of a small number of working prisoners, adult remand prisoners (including women) held in the prisons visited were still effectively confined to their cells for up to 23 hours a day, with hardly any out-of-cell activities available to them, apart from daily outdoor exercise. The regime applied to life-sentenced prisoners was similarly poor; moreover, they were still not allowed to associate with prisoners from other cells.

110. As regards the provision of healthcare to prisoners, recommendations are made, *inter alia* to increase the complement of general practitioners and the nursing staff resources in the establishments visited. The Ukrainian authorities are also called upon to improve the existing procedures for the recording of injuries observed on prisoners and to ensure that medical confidentiality is fully respected.

111. In their response, the Ukrainian authorities refer to ongoing repairs in the establishments visited and to a project initiating the construction of a new remand prison in Lviv. The response of the Ukrainian authorities also outlines other measures taken or envisaged in order to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

*Report published in April 2024 (CPT/Inf (2024) 20) and
response of the Ukrainian authorities published in December 2024 (CPT/Inf (2024) 39)*

Russian Federation

Public statement

(persistent lack of cooperation, allegations of ill-treatment and torture)

112. The CPT has sought to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Russian authorities to enable the Committee to resume its monitoring visits to places of deprivation of liberty in Russia. All State Parties to the Convention must put in place the necessary arrangements to enable monitoring visits to take place on their territory.

113. In addition, as part of the standard exchanges between the Committee and a state party, the Committee has requested that the Russian authorities provide information on certain specific events, such as the sudden death of Mr Alexei Navalny while in detention and certain actions of law enforcement officials which have raised serious concerns about the torture of detained persons. No information was provided in response to these requests, nor was any action taken to enable the Committee to carry out monitoring visits in the Russian Federation.

114. The CPT considers that the lack of any substantive response to its requests and the inaction of the Russian authorities in enabling the Committee to exercise its preventive mandate in the Russian Federation represents a failure to cooperate. Therefore, the Committee decided to make this public statement in accordance with Article 10, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

Public statement published in November 2024 (CPT/Inf (2024) 33)



Members of the CPT's Bureau and the Executive Secretary.

Organisational matters

CPT membership

115. On 31 December 2024, the CPT comprised 44 members (24 women and 20 men). The seats in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Russian Federation were still vacant. The lists of candidates for Croatia have been submitted, with elections due to take place in early 2025.

116. In the course of 2024, four members were elected: Valérie Bernard (in respect of Monaco), Christopher Cremona (in respect of Malta), Ewa Dawidziuk (in respect of Poland), and Marica Pirošíková (in respect of the Slovak Republic).

A list of CPT members as at 31 December 2024 can be found in Appendix 3.

117. The next biennial renewal of the CPT's membership is due to take place at the end of 2025, the terms of office of 21 members of the Committee expiring on 19 December of that year.

118. The CPT trusts that the national delegations in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe which have not submitted a list of candidates in 2024 will do so in early 2025. This will enable the Bureau of the Assembly to examine the list of candidates and thereafter send their order of preference to the Committee of Ministers, which is charged with electing a candidate to fill the vacant seats as soon as possible.

Secretariat of the CPT

119. 2024 saw several changes to the Secretariat of the CPT. In January, Hugh Chetwynd was appointed Executive Secretary of the CPT. Prior to his appointment, he had been a Head of Division within the CPT Secretariat for 18 years and had previously headed the Council of Europe's office in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also worked on human rights cooperation programmes within the Council of Europe following his recruitment to the Organisation in 1994.

120. The Committee also welcomed the appointment of six staff members during 2024, namely: Julien Attuil-Kayser, Head of the Transversal Division, Laura Ielciu-Erel, Aikaterini Lazana, Monica Martinez and Leila Zhdanova, Advisors, and Emma Polland, Assistant to the Executive Secretary. Further, Emma Tamarelle and Emmanuel Marchal, were recruited on temporary contracts to support the Information and Communication Unit.

121. In the course of the year, Paolo Lobba and Véra Manuello (Advisors) left the Secretariat to take up other positions within the Organisation and the Committee would like to express its gratitude for their contribution to the CPT's work.

122. A list of Secretariat members as at 31 December 2024 is set out in Appendix 4.

Appendices

1. The CPT's mandate and *modus operandi*

The CPT was set up under the 1987 Council of Europe Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. According to Article 1 of the Convention, "[t]he Committee shall, by means of visits, examine the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty with a view to strengthening, if necessary, the protection of such persons from torture and from inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

The work of the CPT is designed to be an integrated part of the Council of Europe system for the protection of human rights, placing a proactive non-judicial mechanism alongside the existing reactive judicial mechanism of the European Court of Human Rights.

The CPT implements its essentially preventive function through two kinds of visit – periodic and ad hoc. Periodic visits are carried out to all States Parties to the Convention on a regular basis. Ad hoc visits are organised when they appear to the Committee "to be required in the circumstances".

When carrying out a visit, the CPT enjoys extensive powers under the Convention: access to the territory of the state concerned and the right to travel without restriction; unlimited access to any place where persons are deprived of their liberty, including the right to move inside such places without restriction and access to full information on places where persons deprived of their liberty are being held, as well as to other information available to the state which is necessary for the Committee to carry out its task.

The Committee is also entitled to interview, in private, persons deprived of their liberty and to communicate freely with anyone whom it believes can supply relevant information.

Each State Party to the Convention must permit visits to any place within its jurisdiction "where persons are deprived of their liberty by a public authority". The CPT's mandate thus extends beyond prisons and police establishments to encompass, for example, psychiatric hospitals, social welfare institutions, military detention facilities, immigration detention centres, and establishments in which juveniles may be deprived of their liberty by judicial or administrative order.

Two fundamental principles govern relations between the CPT and States Parties to the Convention – cooperation and confidentiality. In this respect, it should be emphasised that the role of the Committee is not to condemn states, but rather to assist them in preventing the ill-treatment of persons deprived of their liberty.

After each visit, the CPT draws up a report which sets out its findings and includes, if necessary, recommendations and other advice, on the basis of which a dialogue is developed with the national authorities. The Committee's visit report is, in principle, confidential; however, most of the reports are eventually published at the request of the Government concerned.

2. The CPT's field of operations

(as at 31 December 2024)

All member states of the Council of Europe are States Parties to the Convention establishing the Committee.²

Council of Europe Member States	Date of signature	Date of ratification	Date of entry into force
Albania	02/10/1996	02/10/1996	01/02/1997
Andorra	10/09/1996	06/01/1997	01/05/1997
Armenia	11/05/2001	18/06/2002	01/10/2002
Austria	26/11/1987	06/01/1989	01/05/1989
Azerbaijan	21/12/2001	15/04/2002	01/08/2002
Belgium	26/11/1987	23/07/1991	01/11/1991
Bosnia and Herzegovina	12/07/2002	12/07/2002	01/11/2002
Bulgaria	30/09/1993	03/05/1994	01/09/1994
Croatia	06/11/1996	11/10/1997	01/02/1998
Cyprus	26/11/1987	03/04/1989	01/08/1989
Czech Republic	23/12/1992	07/09/1995	01/01/1996
Denmark	26/11/1987	02/05/1989	01/09/1989
Estonia	28/06/1996	06/11/1996	01/03/1997
Finland	16/11/1989	20/12/1990	01/04/1991
France	26/11/1987	09/01/1989	01/05/1989
Georgia	16/02/2000	20/06/2000	01/10/2000
Germany	26/11/1987	21/02/1990	01/06/1990
Greece	26/11/1987	02/08/1991	01/12/1991
Hungary	09/02/1993	04/11/1993	01/03/1994
Iceland	26/11/1987	19/06/1990	01/10/1990
Ireland	14/03/1988	14/03/1988	01/02/1989
Italy	26/11/1987	29/12/1988	01/04/1989
Latvia	11/09/1997	10/02/1998	01/06/1998
Liechtenstein	26/11/1987	12/09/1991	01/01/1992
Lithuania	14/09/1995	26/11/1998	01/03/1999
Luxembourg	26/11/1987	06/09/1988	01/02/1989
Malta	26/11/1987	07/03/1988	01/02/1989
Republic of Moldova	02/05/1996	02/10/1997	01/02/1998

2. The Convention was opened for signature by the member states of the Council of Europe on 26 November 1987.

Council of Europe Member States	Date of signature	Date of ratification	Date of entry into force
Monaco	30/11/2005	30/11/2005	01/03/2006
Montenegro			06/06/2006 ³
Netherlands	26/11/1987	12/10/1988	01/02/1989
North Macedonia	14/06/1996	06/06/1997	01/10/1997
Norway	26/11/1987	21/04/1989	01/08/1989
Poland	11/07/1994	10/10/1994	01/02/1995
Portugal	26/11/1987	29/03/1990	01/07/1990
Romania	04/11/1993	04/10/1994	01/02/1995
San Marino	16/11/1989	31/01/1990	01/05/1990
Serbia	03/03/2004	03/03/2004	01/07/2004
Slovak Republic	23/12/1992	11/05/1994	01/09/1994
Slovenia	04/11/1993	02/02/1994	01/06/1994
Spain	26/11/1987	02/05/1989	01/09/1989
Sweden	26/11/1987	21/06/1988	01/02/1989
Switzerland	26/11/1987	07/10/1988	01/02/1989
Türkiye	11/01/1988	26/02/1988	01/02/1989
Ukraine	02/05/1996	05/05/1997	01/09/1997
United Kingdom	26/11/1987	24/06/1988	01/02/1989
Council of Europe Non-Member States	Date of signature	Date of ratification	Date of entry into force
Russian Federation	28/02/1996	05/05/1998	01/09/1998

Since 1 March 2002, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite any non-member state of the Council of Europe to accede to the Convention. To date, no such invitation has been made.

On 16 March 2022, the Committee of Ministers decided, in the context of the procedure launched under Article 8 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, that the Russian Federation ceased to be a member of the Council of Europe as from that date. However, the Russian Federation continues to be a Contracting Party to the Convention as a non-member state of the Council of Europe (Resolution CM/Res(2022)3).

3. On 14 June 2006, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe agreed that the Republic of Montenegro was a Party to the Convention with effect from 6 June 2006, the date of the Republic's declaration of succession to the Council of Europe conventions of which Serbia and Montenegro was a signatory or party.

Monitoring of the situation of persons convicted by international tribunals or special courts and serving their sentence in a State Party to the Convention

Germany

Three visits were carried out, in 2010, 2013 and 2020 in pursuance of an Exchange of Letters dated 7 and 24 November 2000 between the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the CPT, and an Enforcement Agreement concluded in 2008 between the United Nations and the Government of Germany.

Portugal

One visit was carried out in 2013 in pursuance of the above-mentioned Exchange of Letters between the ICTY and the CPT, and the Agreement between the United Nations and the Portuguese Government on the Enforcement of Sentences of the ICTY dated 19 December 2007.

United Kingdom

Five visits were carried out, in 2005, 2007, 2010, 2019 and 2023 in pursuance of the above-mentioned Exchange of Letters between the ICTY and the CPT, and the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the United Kingdom on the Enforcement of Sentences of the ICTY dated 11 March 2004.

Two visits were carried out, in 2014 and 2018 in pursuance of an Exchange of Letters between the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL) and the CPT dated 20 January and 5 February 2014, and an Agreement between the RSCSL and the United Kingdom Government dated 10 July 2007.

One visit was carried out in 2019 in pursuance of an Exchange of Letters between the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the CPT dated 2 and 9 November 2017, and the Enforcement Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the ICC on the enforcement of sentences imposed by the ICC, adopted on 8 November 2007.

Special monitoring arrangements

Kosovo*

One visit was carried out in 2007 on the basis of an agreement signed in 2004 between the Council of Europe and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and an Exchange of Letters concluded in 2006 between the Secretaries General of the Council of Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Two separate

* 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.

reports were transmitted to UNMIK and NATO. The report to UNMIK has been published (together with the response provided by UNMIK).

Three visits were carried out, in 2010, 2015 and 2020 on the basis of the above-mentioned agreement between the Council of Europe and UNMIK. The reports on the aforementioned visits have been published (together with the responses provided by UNMIK).



3. CPT members in order of precedence (as at 31 December 2024)

Name	Elected in respect of:	Term of office expires:
Alan MITCHELL, President	United Kingdom	19/12/2025
Hans WOLFF, 1st Vice-President	Switzerland	19/12/2025
Therese Maria RYTTER, 2nd Vice-President	Denmark	19/12/2025
Gergely FLIEGAUF	Hungary	19/12/2025
Nico HIRSCH	Luxembourg	19/12/2025
Alexander MINCHEV	Bulgaria	19/12/2025
Ömer MÜSLÜMANOĞLU	Türkiye	19/12/2025
Marie KMECOVÁ	Czech Republic	19/12/2027
Ceyhun QARACAYEV	Azerbaijan	19/12/2027
Răzvan Horațiu RADU	Romania	19/12/2027
Vânia COSTA RAMOS	Portugal	19/12/2027
Elisabetta ZAMPARUTTI	Italy	19/12/2027
Slava NOVAK	Slovenia	19/12/2025
Vincent DELBOS	France	19/12/2025
Chila VAN DER BAS	Netherlands	19/12/2025
Victor ZAHARIA	Republic of Moldova	19/12/2025
Tinatin UPLISASHVILI	Georgia	19/12/2025
Elsa Bára TRAUSTADÓTTIR	Iceland	19/12/2027
Juan Carlos DA SILVA OCHOA	Spain	19/12/2025

Name	Elected in respect of:	Term of office expires:
Aleksandar TOMČUK	Montenegro	19/12/2027
Kristina PARDALOS	San Marino	19/12/2027
Vanessa DURICH MOULET	Andorra	19/12/2027
Helena PAPA	Albania	19/12/2027
Gunda WÖSSNER	Germany	19/12/2025
Judith ÖHRI	Liechtenstein	19/12/2025
Asbjørn RACHLEW	Norway	19/12/2025
Karin ROWHANI-WIMMER	Austria	19/12/2025
Mari AMOS	Estonia	19/12/2025
Dmytro YAGUNOV	Ukraine	19/12/2025
Nikola KOVAČEVIĆ	Serbia	19/12/2025
Anna JONSSON CORNELL	Sweden	19/12/2025
Tom DAEMS	Belgium	19/12/2027
Lise-Lotte CARLSSON	Finland	19/12/2027
Slavica DIMITRIEVSKA	North Macedonia	19/12/2027
Dovilė JUODKAITĖ	Lithuania	19/12/2027
Vasilis TZEVELEKOS	Greece	19/12/2027
Gautam GULATI	Ireland	19/12/2027
Imants JUREVIČIUS	Latvia	19/12/2027
Eleana FITIDOU	Cyprus	19/12/2027
Anahit MANASYAN	Armenia	19/12/2027
Marica PIROŠÍKOVÁ	Slovak Republic	19/12/2027
Valérie BERNARD	Monaco	19/12/2029
Ewa DAWIDZIUK	Poland	19/12/2027
Christopher CREMONA	Malta	19/12/2027

On 31 December 2024, the seats in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and the Russian Federation were vacant.



4. CPT Secretariat (as at 31 December 2024)

CPT Secretariat	
Hugh CHETWYND, Executive Secretary	
Secretariat: Emma POLLAND, Personal Assistant to the Executive Secretary Morven TRAIN, Administrative and Financial Senior Assistant	
Transversal Support Division	
Julien ATTUIL-KAYSER, Head of Division	France
Advisors:	Greece
Sebastian RIETZ	Luxembourg
Kelly SIPP	Monaco
Oana-Corina MOLDOVEAN, Assistant to the Committee	Switzerland
Administrative Assistants:	
Catherine O'BAOILL	
Françoise ZAHN	
Information and Communication Unit (ICU):	
Patrice WEBER, Head of Unit	
Emma TAMARELLE, ICU Assistant	
Secretariat: Mira MASTRONARDI-KORSOS, Assistant	

Division 1		
Marco LEIDEKKER, Head of Division	Albania	Montenegro
Advisors:	Belgium	Netherlands
Francesca GORDON	Bosnia	North Macedonia
Petr HNÁTÍK	and Herzegovina	Portugal
Laura IELCIU	Croatia	Republic of Moldova
Aikaterini LAZANA	Cyprus	Romania
Cristian LODA	Czechia	San Marino
	Hungary	Serbia
	Ireland	Slovak Republic
	Italy	Slovenia
	Kosovo*	Spain
Secretariat: Eva GERLIER, Assistant	Malta	United Kingdom

Division 2		
Borys WÓDZ, Head of Division	Andorra	Iceland
Advisors:	Armenia	Latvia
Elvin ALIYEV	Austria	Liechtenstein
Monica MARTINEZ	Azerbaijan	Lithuania
Almut SCHRÖDER	Bulgaria	Norway
Leila ZHDANOVA	Denmark	Poland
Dalia ŽUKAUSKIENĖ	Estonia	Russian Federation
	Finland	Sweden
	Georgia	Türkiye
Secretariat: Natia MAMISTVALOVA , Assistant	Germany	Ukraine

5. CPT visits, reports and publications

(as at 31 December 2024)

Visits carried out in pursuance of Article 7 of the Convention

Member States of the Council of Europe	Periodic visits	Ad hoc visits	Reports sent	Reports published	Reports not published
Albania *	7	8	15	15	0
Andorra *	4	0	4	4	0
Armenia	6	5	11	11	0
Austria *	7	0	7	7	0
Azerbaijan	5	8	13	12	1
Belgium	7	5	12 ^a	12 ^a	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	4	9	9	0
Bulgaria *	8	8	15	15	0
Croatia	6	1	7	7	0
Cyprus	8	1	9	9	0
Czech Republic *	7	2	9	8	1
Denmark *	7	1	8	8	0
Estonia	6	1	7	7	0
Finland *	6	0	6	6	0
France	8	9	16	15	1
Georgia	7	4	10	10	0
Germany	7	4	11	11	0
Greece	7	13	19 ^b	19	0
Hungary	7	4	11	11	0
Iceland	5	0	5	5	0
Ireland	8	0	8	7	1
Italy	8	8	16	16	0
Latvia	6	4	10	9	1
Liechtenstein	4	0	4	4	0
Lithuania *	6	3	9	9	0
Luxembourg *	5	1	6	6	0
Malta	6	4	10	9	1
Republic of Moldova *	7	10	17	14	3 ^c
Monaco *	3	0	3	3	0
Montenegro	4 ^d	1	5	5	0
Netherlands	7	6	14 ^e	14 ^e	0
North Macedonia *	7	8	15	15	0
Norway *	6	1	7	6	1

Member States of the Council of Europe	Periodic visits	Ad hoc visits	Reports sent	Reports published	Reports not published
Poland *	7	1	8	8	0
Portugal	8	5	12	12	0
Romania	6	8	12 ^f	12 ^f	0
San Marino	5	0	5	5	0
Serbia	5 ^d	4	7 ^d	7 ^d	0
Slovak Republic	7	0	7	6	1
Slovenia *	6	0	5	5	0
Spain	8	11	18	18	0
Sweden *	6	1	7	7	0
Switzerland	7	2	9	8	1
Türkiye	8	26	32 ^g	27	5
Ukraine *	8	9	17	17	0
United Kingdom	9	18	28 ^h	27 ^h	1
Non-Member States of the Council of Europe	Periodic visits	Ad hoc visits	Reports sent	Reports published	Reports not published
Russian Federation ⁱ	8	22	27 ^j	4	23

* States which have authorised publication of all future visit reports of the CPT ("automatic publication procedure").

- (a) Including one report on the visit to Tilburg Prison (Netherlands) in 2011.
- (b) These 19 reports cover 20 visits carried out. The report published in 2021 covered two visits.
- (c) Two reports concerning visits to the Transnistrian region and one report concerning a visit to Prison No. 8 in Bender.
- (d) Including one visit organised in September 2004 to Serbia and Montenegro.
- (e) Including a separate report on the visit to Tilburg Prison in the context of the periodic visit in 2011. Also including two separate reports covering the 1994 visit to the Netherlands Antilles and to Aruba.
- (f) These 12 reports cover 13 visits carried out.
- (g) These 32 reports cover 34 visits carried out.
- (h) Including two separate reports covering the 2010 visit to Jersey and Guernsey.
- (i) On 16 March 2022, the Committee of Ministers decided, in the context of the procedure launched under Article 8 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, that the Russian Federation ceases to be a member of the Council of Europe as from that date. The Russian Federation continues to be a Contracting Party to the Convention as a non-member of the Council of Europe from this date (Resolution CM/Res(2022)3).
- (j) These 27 reports cover 30 visits carried out.

6. Countries and places of deprivation of liberty visited by CPT delegations (January – December 2024)

Periodic visits

Czechia

16 - 26 April 2024

Police establishments

- Beroun Territorial Police Department
- Prague II – New Town District Police Department
- Prague IV – Pankrác District Police Department
- Žďár nad Sázavou District Police Department

Establishments operating under the Ministry of Justice

- Oráčov Prison
- Rýnovice Prison
- Valdice Prison
- Opava Security Detention Institute
- Prague – Pankrác Security Detention Institute

The delegation also went to Ostrava and Prague – Pankrác Remand Prisons in order to interview newly admitted remand prisoners who had recently been in police custody.

Juvenile educational institution

- Olešnice Educational Institution

Norway

21 - 31 May 2024

Law enforcement establishments

- Police Immigration Detention Centre in Trandum
- Oslo Police HQ
- Tromsø Police HQ

Prison establishments

- Agder Prison, Mandal Unit
- Halden Prison
- Ila Detention and Security Prison
- Telemark Prison, Skien Unit
- Tromsø Prison

Health establishments

- Østfold Hospital, Psychiatric centre, Kalnes
- Regional Security Department for Mental Health, Dikemark

- University Hospital of Northern Norway, Treatment centre for psychiatric illness and substance abuse, Tromsø

Ireland

21 - 31 May 2024

Establishments operating under the authority of the Department of Justice

- Castlerea Prison
- Cloverhill Remand Prison
- Limerick Female Prison
- Limerick Male Prison
- Mountjoy Female Prison (Dóchas Centre)
- Mountjoy Prison High Support Unit *

Establishments operating under the authority of the Department of Health

- Central Mental Hospital

Establishments operating under the authority of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

- Oberstown Children Detention Campus
- Ballydowd Special Care Unit *

* Targeted visit to assess the provision of mental healthcare and the application of restrictive measures.

Denmark

23 May – 3 June 2024

Police establishments

- Aarhus Police Headquarters
- Albertslund Police Headquarters
- Bellahøj Police Station (Copenhagen)
- Horsens Police Headquarters
- Odense Police Headquarters

Prison establishments

- Western Prison, Copenhagen
- Police Square Prison (Polititorvets Arrest), Copenhagen
- Nyborg Prison
- Enner Mark Prison, Horsens

Psychiatric establishments

- Midtjylland Psychiatric Hospital
- Psychiatric Centre Glostrup

Establishments for detained migrants

- Ellebæk Centre for Foreigners

Bosnia and Herzegovina

2 - 13 September

Police establishments

- Judicial Police Headquarters of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Detention Unit of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Sarajevo
- Police Station “Dom Policije” of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Sarajevo
- Sarajevo Judicial Police Headquarters
- Detention Unit located in the premises of Novo Sarajevo Police Station (Sarajevo Canton)
- Headquarters of the Special Police Unit (Sarajevo Canton)
- Tuzla Central Police Station (Tuzla Canton)
- Kalesija Police Station (Tuzla Canton)
- Banja Luka Central Police Station (Republika Srpska)
- Detention Unit Zalužani (Republika Srpska)
- Doboj Police Administration Headquarters (Republika Srpska)
- Doboj II Police Station (Republika Srpska)
- Višegrad Police Station (Republika Srpska)

Prison establishments

- State Prison of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Tuzla Prison (Federation of BiH)
- Zenica Prison (Federation of BiH)
- East Sarajevo Prison (Republika Srpska)
- Banja Luka Prison (Republika Srpska)
- Doboj Prison (Republika Srpska)

Social care homes

- Institution for Social Care and Healthcare Drin, Fojnica (Federation of BiH)
- Institution for Social Care, Healthcare, Upbringing and Education, Pazarić (Federation of BiH)
- Home for Persons with Disabilities, Višegrad (Republika Srpska)

Immigration detention establishments

- Holding rooms of the Border Police and holding area at the Restricted Zone of Sarajevo International Airport
- Immigration Detention Centre, Lukavica

France

23 September - 4 October 2024

Law enforcement establishments

- Drancy Police Headquarters
- Marseille Departmental Police Headquarters

Prison establishments

- Penitentiary Establishment No. 1, Laituri
- Penitentiary Establishment No. 2, Kutaisi
- Penitentiary Establishment No. 8, Gldani
- Penitentiary Establishment No. 15, Ksani
- Penitentiary Establishment No. 18 (Prison Hospital), Gldani

Psychiatric establishments

- Psychiatry Department of Batumi Medical Center (Khevalchauri Psychiatric Hospital)
- National Centre for Mental Health in Khoni (Kutiri Psychiatric Hospital)
- Tbilisi Mental Health Centre

Ad hoc visits

Lithuania

12 - 22 February 2024

Prison establishments

- Alytus Prison
- Marijampolė Prison
- Pravieniškės 2nd Prison
- Vilnius Prison

Türkiye

13 - 22 February 2024

Prison establishments

- Antalya S-type Prison
- Iğdır S-type Prison
- Van F-type Prison
- Van High-Security Prison
- Antalya L-type Prison
- Istanbul - Maltepe L-type Prison No. 3 for foreign nationals

Switzerland

19 - 28 March 2024

Prison establishments

- Central Prison, Fribourg (targeted visit)
- Brig Prison, Glis
- Sion Prison (targeted visit)
- Bois-Mermet Prison, Lausanne (targeted visit)

Police establishments

- Cantonal Police Station Les Pilettes, Fribourg
- Cantonal Police Intervention Centre, Granges-Paccot
- Police Headquarters (VHP), Geneva
- Police Station, Gare-Cornavin, Geneva
- Pâquis Police Station, Geneva
- Servette Police Station, Geneva
- Detention area of the Cantonal Police Station, Centre de la Blécherette, Lausanne
- Detention area of the Municipal Police Headquarters, Lausanne

Italy

2 - 12 April 2024

Immigration detention facilities

- Milan Via Corelli CPR
- Gradisca d'Isonzo CPR
- Potenza Palazzo San Gervasio CPR
- Rome Ponte Galeria CPR

Latvia

22 - 31 May 2024

Prison establishments

- Daugavgrīva Prison
- Jēkabpils Prison
- Jelgava Prison
- Valmiera Prison

Bulgaria

16 - 23 September 2024

Immigration detention facilities

- Border Police detention facility, Elhovo
- Border Police detention facility, Svilengrad (Kapitan Andreevo)
- Special Homes for Temporary Accommodation of Foreigners, Busmantsi
- Special Homes for Temporary Accommodation of Foreigners, Lyubimets
- Closed-Type Premises run by the State Agency for Refugees (SAR)

Romania

30 September - 11 October 2024

Psychiatric and Safety Measures Hospitals

- Jebel Psychiatric and Safety Measures Hospital

- Ştei Psychiatric and Safety Measures Hospital
- Săpoca Psychiatric and Safety Measures Hospital
- Pădureni-Grajdui Psychiatric and Safety Measures Hospital

The Netherlands

7 - 12 October 2024

Closed residential youth institutions ("Jeugdzorg Plus")

- Schakenbosch (Leidschendam)
- iHUB, location Oost Gelre (Harreveld)
- ViaJeugd (Cadier en Keer)

Serbia

14 - 22 November 2024

Establishments under the authority of the Ministry of Justice

- Kruševac Correctional and Educational Facility
- Special Prison Hospital, Belgrade

Establishments under the authority of the Ministry of Health

- Laza Lazarević Psychiatric Clinic: Belgrade and Padinska Skela sites and the Unit for Adolescents, Belgrade
- Belgrade Clinic for Neurology and Psychiatry for Children and Youth
- Kovin Special Psychiatric Hospital (targeted visit)

Portugal

19 - 27 November 2024

Establishments under the authority of the Ministry of Internal Administration

Public Security Police (PSP)

- PSP Metropolitan Command Headquarters, Moscavide Avenue, Lisbon
- PSP 2nd Police Station, Rua da Prata 38, Lisbon (Baixa Pombalina)
- PSP 3rd Police Station, Travessa da Água da Flor 33, Lisbon (Bairro Alto)
- PSP 18th Police Station, Rua Afonso Lopes Vieira 2 A, Lisbon (Campo Grande)
- PSP 65th Police Station, Estrada Da Brandoa, Amadora, Lisbon
- PSP 78th Police Station, Rua Adriano José de Oliveira 12, Loures, Lisbon (Camarate)
- PSP Cascais Police Division, Rua Afonso Sanches 26, Cascais

National Republican Guard (GNR)

- GNR Sintra territorial subdivision, Rua João de Deus 6, Sintra

Establishments under the authority of the Ministry of Justice

- Lisbon Judicial Police Headquarters, Rua Gomes Freire 174, Lisbon
- Lisbon Judicial Police Prison *
- Lisbon Central Prison *

- Tires Prison *
- Monsanto Prison *
- Campus de Justiça, Court Detention Area (Block B), Alameda dos Oceanos, Lisbon *

* Targeted visits primarily to interview remand prisoners.

Spain

25 November - 5 December 2024

Police establishments

- Mossos d'Esquadra District Station "Les Corts", Barcelona
- Mossos d'Esquadra District Station, Ciutat Vella Barcelona
- Mossos d'Esquadra District Station, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat
- Mossos d'Esquadra District Station, Vilanova i la Geltrú
- Mossos d'Esquadra Detention Centre "Ciutat de la Justícia", Barcelona
- Headquarters of the National Police, Barcelona
- Guardia Civil Headquarters of Catalonia, Travessera de Gràcia, Barcelona

Penitentiary establishments under the jurisdiction of Catalonia Justice Department

- Brians I Prison
- Brians II Prison
- Lledoners Prison
- Quatre Camins Prison
- Joves Prison
- Terrassa Prison Hospital
- Els Tillers Juvenile Detention Centre

Serbia

16 - 18 December 2024

Establishments under the authority of the Ministry of Health

- Clinic for Neurology and Psychiatry for Children
- Dr Laza Lazarevic psychiatric clinic: Unit for adolescents

“NO ONE SHALL BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE OR TO INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT”

Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights

Established in 1989 by the Council of Europe Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the CPT's aim is to strengthen the protection of persons deprived of their liberty through the organisation of regular visits to places of detention.

■ The Committee is an independent, non-judicial preventive mechanism, complementing the work of the European Court of Human Rights. It monitors the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty by visiting places such as prisons, juvenile detention centres, police stations, immigration detention facilities, psychiatric hospitals and social care homes. CPT delegations have unrestricted access to places of detention, and the right to interview, in private, persons deprived of their liberty. They may access all the information necessary to carry out their work, including any administrative and medical documents.

■ The CPT plays an essential role in promoting decency in detention, through the development of minimum standards and good practice for states parties, as well as through coordination with other international bodies. The implementation of its recommendations has a significant impact on the development of human rights in Council of Europe member states and influences the policies, legislation and practices of national authorities regarding detention.



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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.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE