

Terms of reference of the
European Committee for Food Contact Materials and Articles (CD-P-MCA)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Category: Steering committee
Duration: 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2027
Programme: Advancing social justice, good health and a sustainable environment
Sub-programme: Quality of medicines and healthcare

Main tasks

- Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, in its composition restricted to the representatives of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia, the CD-P-MCA is instructed to:
- i. take due account of the Reykjavik Declaration¹ in conducting its activities and submit proposals for its implementation as appropriate;
 - ii. take account of the relevant key findings and challenges set out in the Secretary General’s annual reports on the state of democracy, human rights and rule of law² and contribute, where relevant, to the process towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe;
 - iii. examine questions related to the safety and quality of food contact materials and articles;
 - iv. collect and evaluate relevant data, especially for materials and articles used for both foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals;
 - v. draft provisions for standards and prepare technical guidance related to food contact materials and articles;
 - vi. draft proposals for recommendations or resolutions for adoption by the Committee of Ministers;
 - vii. regularly update technical guidance documents to take account of state-of-the-art analytical procedures and techniques;
 - viii. raise awareness about Council of Europe standards and tools in its field of competence in the member States and beyond, through the neighbourhood policy and in other international and global fora where relevant;
 - ix. hold an exchange of views annually in order to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued;
 - x. take due account of the following mainstreamed perspectives in the performance of its tasks: gender, youth, children’s rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and Roma and Traveller³ issues;
 - xi. where relevant, contribute to strengthening meaningful engagement with civil society organisations and national human rights institutions in its work;
 - xii. contribute to the achievement of, and review progress towards, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regard to Goal 3: Good health and well-being and Goal 5: Gender equality.

Main deliverables

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CD-P-MCA is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Priority	Deadline
	▼	▼
1. Technical guidance supplementing Resolution CM/Res(2020)9 on the safety and quality of materials and articles for contact with food on how to prepare, update and check the Declaration of Compliance and supporting documentation	1	31/12/2024
2. Technical Guide on enamels used in food contact materials and articles, supplementing Resolution CM/Res(2020)9	2	31/12/2026
3. Technical Guide on cork used in food contact materials and articles, supplementing Resolution CM/Res(2020)9	2	31/12/2025
4. Technical Guide on coatings used in food contact materials and articles, supplementing Resolution CM/Res(2020)9	1	31/12/2026
5. Technical Guide on resins for ion exchange and adsorption used in food contact materials and articles, supplementing Resolution CM/Res(2020)9	3	31/12/2026
6. Technical Guide on paper and board used in food contact materials and articles, supplementing Resolution CM/Res(2020)9	2	31/12/2026
7. Technical Guide on metals and alloys used in food contact materials and articles, supplementing Resolution CM/Res(2020)9 (3rd edition)	3	31/12/2027
8. Follow-up on Resolution CM/Res(2020)9 on the safety and quality of materials and articles for contact with food: updated lists of evaluated substances when further substances have been assessed and/or authorised by member States for use in the manufacture of food contact materials and articles	2	31/12 of each year

¹ Reykjavik Declaration - United around our values.
² Cf. Secretary General’s report 2025 “Towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe”.
³ The term “Roma and Travellers” is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “Gens du voyage”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

Composition

• Members

Governments of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia are invited to designate a representative of the highest possible rank with expertise in the implementation of national policies and programmes in the area of food contact materials and articles. Each member of the committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in voting.

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

• Participants

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

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

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

- Council of Europe member States other than those mentioned above under “Members” and other States with observer status to the European Pharmacopoeia Commission;
- European Union;
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

• Observers

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

- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- States having been invited by decision of the Committee of Ministers to participate in the negotiations;
- interested organisations from Civil Society: the Council of Europe welcomes and promotes the widest participation of civil society, in line with the Guidance note on Civil Society Participation in the Intergovernmental Work of the Council of Europe CDDEM(2024)14, as Observers. Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Working methods

The rules of procedure of the committee are governed by [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. However, with a view to reaching its objectives and enabling multidisciplinary working methods, the committee may, in derogation of Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 and within the limits of budgetary appropriations, create subordinate bodies. Online participation in meetings will be available.

Plenary meetings ▼			
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2024	39	1	2
2025	39	1	2
2026	39	2	2
2027	39	2	2

Extraordinary meetings of the CD-P-MCA may be convened upon request by the Chair.

Representatives taking part in the committee and its subordinate bodies shall complete a declaration of interest and confidentiality undertaking form.

The CD-P-MCA will appoint from amongst its members up to 5 Rapporteurs on mainstreamed perspectives, including a Gender Equality Rapporteur.

Budgetary information *

	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members reimbursed	Plenary in €K	Bureau in €K	Working groups in €K	Secretariat (A, B)
2024	1	2	1	8.0	-	-	1A, 1B
2025	1	2	1	8.0	-	-	1A,, 1B
2026	2	2	40	42.7	-	16.1	1A, 1B
2027	2	2	40	42.7	-	7.2	1A, 1B

*The costs include the per diem, travel costs and interpretation. These costs are calculated on the basis of standard costs.