Terms of reference of the

European Committee on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS)

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 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Category: Steering committee
Duration: 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2027[1]
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-TS oversees and co-ordinates the Council of Europe's work in the field of blood transfusion and advises the Committee of Ministers on all questions within its field of competence. The overall aim is to ensure social rights by elaborating and promoting high ethical, safety and quality standards in the field of blood transfusion.

In particular, the CD-P-TS is instructed to:

i. take due account of the Reykjavik Declaration[2] 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 2023 Report on the state of democracy, human rights and rule of law "An Invitation to Recommit to the Values and Standards of the Council of Europe";
iii. elaborate quality and safety standards in the collection, preparation, testing and use of blood and blood components based on the latest scientific developments; in particular, by updating and publishing, on a regular basis, the technical appendix to Committee of Ministers Recommendation R(95)15, also known as the Guide to the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components, and promoting its implementation;
iv. examine questions and monitor practices related to human blood transfusion, notably as regards quality and safety standards and their implementation, including collection, preparation, testing, storage, distribution and appropriate use of human blood and its components;
v. assist member States in improving and, if needed, in restructuring their blood transfusion services by promoting the principle of voluntary non remunerated donation;
vi. propose ethical, safety and quality standards for professional practices and blood component specifications;
vii. ensure the transfer of knowledge and expertise and develop the competencies of experts through training and networking;
viii. monitor practices in Europe and support the assessment of epidemiological risks and, in particular, the emergence of new blood-borne transmissible infectious agents that might jeopardise the safety of blood transfusion;
ix. ensure availability of rare blood units by means of the European Database of Frozen Blood Units of Rare Groups;
x. draft proposals for recommendations and resolutions for adoption by the Committee of Ministers;
xi. support the organisation of external quality assessment programmes (EQA) such as proficiency testing schemes to measure the performance of testing laboratories in European blood establishments;
xii. support the organisation of programmes helping European blood establishments in the implementation of harmonised quality management systems, and European regulatory and technical standards;
xiii. support the successful implementation of European Union (EU)/EDQM co-funded activities aimed at implementing both EU and Council of Europe standards and harmonising practices in Europe;
xiv. reinforce co-operation and synergies with other international organisations and professional societies working in the field;
xv. co-operate with the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO) in the implementation of all aspects of blood transfusion covered by the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (ETS 164);
xvi. take the pertinent aspects of the European Convention on Human Rights into consideration in its thematic work;
xvii. 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;
xviii. 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;
xix. 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 Traveller[3] issues;

[1] These terms of reference are approved for the first biennial period 2024-2025. For the second biennial period 2026-2027, they are approved on a provisional basis, subject to confirmation upon the adoption of the budget for 2026-2027.
[2] Reykjavík Declaration - United around our values.
[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.

xx. reinforce co-operation and synergies with other international organisations and professional societies working in the field;
xxi. where relevant, contribute to strengthening meaningful engagement with civil society organisations and national human rights institutions in its work;
xxii. in accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which it has been given responsibility, in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers;
xxiii. 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-TS is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Category ▼	Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1. Draft Recommendation on promoting the development of strategies for the collection of anti-D plasma, the production of anti-D immunoglobulin and the development of complementary and alternative anti D products	C	2	31/12/2024
2. Guide to the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components (22nd edition), appendix to Recommendation Rec(95)15 on the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components	A	1	31/12/2025
3. Draft Recommendation on the optimal use of blood and blood components and plasma-derived medicinal products	C	2	31/12/2025
4. Draft Recommendation on blood donor selection with respect to sexual risk behaviors	C	2	31/12/2026
5. Guide to the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components (23rd Edition), appendix to Recommendation Rec(95)15 on the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components	C	1	31/12/2027
6. Annual Report on the Collection, Testing and Use of Blood and Blood Components in Europe	A	1	31/12 of each year

Key
A: deliverable under preparation (2022-2023 terms of reference or Committee of Ministers' decision) or deliverable foreseen in the terms of reference provisionally approved for 2024-2025 and reviewed where relevant in the framework of the preparation of the draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027
B: review of implementation/re-examination foreseen by the recommendation/protocol/convention
C: newly proposed deliverable

Composition

- Members

Governments of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia are invited to designate one representative of the highest possible rank with expertise in a field covered by these terms of reference. 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 sending authorities of the member States will bear the travel and subsistence expenses for their representatives' participation in the meetings of the CD-P-TS. The travel and subsistence expenses of the Chair for participating in the meetings of the CD-P-TS- will be borne by the EDQM budget.
In accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, in cases where there is no convention-based body including all the Parties, non-member States are invited to take part, with a right to vote, in the committee meetings pertaining to the conventions to which they are Parties.

- Participants

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

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO);
- 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;
- World Health Organization (WHO).

- 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.

Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 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 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 limit of budgetary attributions, create subordinate bodies.

	Plenary meetings ▼			Bureau meetings ▼		
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2024	39	2	2	8	1	2
2025	39	2	2	8	1	2
2026	39	2	2	8	1	2
2027	39	2	2	8	1	2

Extraordinary meetings of the CD-P-TS 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.
Subject to the agenda, the Chairs of its subordinate structures may be invited to attend CD-P-TS Bureau and/or plenary meetings.
The CD-P-TS 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	2	2	1	15.4	0.8	-	1A, 1B
2025	2	2	1	15.4	0.8	-	1A, 1B
2026	2	2	1	↔	↔	-	↔
2027	2	2	1	↔	↔	-	↔

*The costs include the per diem and travel costs of the Chair for participating in the meetings of the committee and interpretation. These costs are calculated on the basis of standard costs.