



Stocktaking of the Georgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (27 November 2019 – 15 May 2020)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Georgia took over the Presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on 27 November 2019 for the first time since becoming a member of the Council of Europe in 1999. It also marked the 20th anniversary of its accession to the Organisation, which has played a crucial role in Georgia's path back into the European family.

2. It should be stressed that, of the 6-month period of the Georgian Presidency, 2 months took place during the Covid-19 pandemic, a most difficult and challenging period - which had a significant impact on the functioning of the Council of Europe. This unprecedented situation called for urgent new working methods for the Organisation and for the Committee of Ministers, which were duly supported and facilitated by the Presidency (cf. Section IV below).

3. In order to further promote and strengthen human rights, democracy and rule of law, Georgia established the following **four priorities of its Presidency** of the Committee of Ministers: 1. Human Rights and Environmental Protection; 2. Civil Participation in Decision-Making; 3. Child Friendly Justice – Converging Experience on Restorative Justice in Europe; and 4. Strengthening Democracy through Education, Culture and Youth Engagement.

The Georgian Presidency elaborated a list of the Presidency's main events (14 events overall)¹, including major activities around four priorities of the presidency.

In the framework of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, the Government of Georgia also made a voluntary contribution of €500,000 towards Council of Europe projects which support the priorities of the Georgian Presidency. The voluntary contribution agreement was signed on 27 November 2019 by Mr David Zalkaliani, President of the Committee of Ministers, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia and Ms Marija Pej inovi Buri , Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

4. During its Presidency, Georgia aimed at maintaining and further strengthening the **relationship between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly**.

On 29 November 2019, in Strasbourg, the President of the Committee of Ministers presented the priorities of Georgia's Presidency to the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly. On 27 January 2020, the President of the Committee of Ministers addressed the Parliamentary Assembly at its winter part-session and highlighted the main developments within the Committee of Ministers since October 2019. On 28 January 2020, Ms Salome Zourabichvili, the President of Georgia, addressed the winter part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly and reviewed the democratic achievements of Georgia. It is highly regrettable that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Mr Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia, and Mr David Zalkaliani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia and President of the Committee of Ministers, could not address the 2020 spring part-session of the Assembly, since it was cancelled.

Furthermore, on 16 December 2019, the Georgian Presidency in Tbilisi hosted a Conference of the Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies of the PACE.

¹ cf. Priorities of the Georgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (27 November 2019-May 2020) CM/Inf (2019)22, 27 November 2019.

In addition, during the Georgian Presidency, two meetings of the Joint Committee (on 30 January and 5 March 2020) were organised in order to consolidate efforts of the two statutory bodies of the Council of Europe on issues requiring co-ordinated actions.

Mr Rik Daems, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, addressed the Committee of Ministers on 5 February, 11 March and 6 May (by videoconference) 2020. It is also noteworthy that after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Secretary General and the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the Council of Europe held videoconference meetings every two weeks (on 2, 16 and 29 April and on 14 May 2020) in order to exchange information and co-ordinate issues requiring common actions.

The Georgian Presidency contributed significantly to enhanced dialogue between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly through the finalisation of the *Complementary procedure between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly in response to a serious violation by a member State of its statutory obligations* (CM decision CM/Del/Dec(2020)1366/1.7-app., 5 February 2020). This task was accomplished during the Georgian Presidency largely due to the significant work carried out by the French and Finnish Presidencies.

5. During the 6-month period of the Georgian Presidency, the President of the Committee of Ministers reacted on a regular basis to important dates and events through **public statements**. Overall, 8 statements were made, more specifically, on 10 December 2019, Minister Zalkaliani made a statement on the occasion of Human Rights Day; on 29 January 2020, the President of the Committee of Ministers, jointly with the Secretary General, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and the President of the European Court of Human Rights, made a statement on the 70th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights; on 26 February 2020, the President of the Committee of Ministers made a statement to mark the 6th anniversary of the illegal annexation of the autonomous Republic of Crimea; on 20 March 2020, Minister Zalkaliani made a statement to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; on 22 April 2020, the President of the Committee of Ministers made a statement and expressed his satisfaction following the Committee of Minister's adoption of a Declaration on the Covid-19 pandemic; on 30 April 2020, Minister Zalkaliani made a statement on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day; the President of the Committee of Ministers made a statement on 5 May 2020 on the occasion of Europe Day and finally, on 8 May 2020, the President of the Committee of Ministers made a statement on marking 75 years after the end of WWII.

6. As part of Georgia's cultural diplomacy, the Presidency of Georgia had an ambitious goal to promote the distinctive **Georgian culture** in the Council of Europe and in the city of Strasbourg. In close co-operation with Strasbourg City Hall, the Georgian Presidency organised: a concert of the Georgian National Ballet – Sukhishvili (3 December 2019, *Palais de la Musique et des Congrès*, Strasbourg); a Georgian cottage (with Christmas sweets and souvenirs) at the Strasbourg Christmas Market (22 November-24 December 2019, *Place Gutenberg*, Strasbourg); a decoration of one of Strasbourg's trams with the letters of the unique Georgian alphabet (together with the logo of the Georgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers); a concert with the participation of Georgian artist Ms Gvantsa Gagnidze at Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra (16 December 2019, *Saint Maurice Church*, Strasbourg); a photo exhibition "Winter in Georgia" (27-31 January 2020, CM Foyer, *Palais de l'Europe*); a fashion show - Spring/Summer 2020, by Georgian designer Ms Ketik Chkhikvadze (28 January 2020, *Pavillon Joséphine*, Strasbourg); screening of 6 films during the Fortnight Festival of Georgian Film (4-17 March, *Cinema Odyssée*, Strasbourg; it should be noted that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2 films could not be screened, however, on 11 May, a special online webpage was created with 9 Georgian films available for free to the audience in the Council of Europe and France). Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Georgian Culinary Festival, planned for 22 April 2020, was cancelled.

II. PRIORITIES OF PRESIDENCY

1. Human Rights and Environmental Protection

The Georgian Presidency aimed to promote the relationship between human rights and environmental protection. It advocated awareness-raising on the human rights implications of environmental problems, as well as the environmental implications of certain human rights issues.

The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) does not mention the environment and it is not specifically designed to provide general protection of the environment as such. However, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has interpreted the provisions of the ECHR in the context of environmental issues, in particular to protect individuals against the consequences of environmental harm. Legal protection from environmental harm is firmly tied to fundamental rights such as the right to life, the right to respect for private life and family life and the right to respect for one's home.

The Georgian Presidency argued that the ECHR is an efficient instrument to be used more extensively by national authorities in member States as a tool for the protection of individuals and communities against environmental harm. The Georgian Presidency advocated that securing more comprehensive standards of environmental protection in member States is one of the means for securing better protection of human rights under the ECHR, as well as for contributing to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to transform our world.

1. On 27 February 2020, the Georgian Presidency held an **International High-Level Conference on Environmental Protection and Human Rights** in Strasbourg. The conference was opened by Mr Levan Davitashvili, Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Mr Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The other speakers included, *inter alia*, Mr Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos, President of the European Court of Human Rights, Ms Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights, and Ms Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs. The participants discussed the relationship between human rights and environmental protection in the context of national policies/international law and explored further steps for better meeting national and international obligations in this field. At the end of the Conference, the Georgian Presidency made a Declaration on Environmental Protection and Human Rights. The Declaration calls on the European Court of Human Rights and the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) to further substantiate their case-law and consider, as a priority, complaints involving issues of environmental protection. According to the Declaration, the case-law developed at the European level should inspire national governments and courts to protect the environment through human rights approaches. The Declaration also states that more co-ordinated actions at the European level would set a major precedent and reduce the risk of harm to the human rights of future generations².

2. The Georgian Presidency is also financially supporting the organisation by the European Court of Human Rights of an **International Conference on Human Rights and Environmental Protection "Human Rights for the Planet"**, which was initially planned on 9 April 2020 at the European Court of Human Rights; however due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, it has been postponed to 5 October 2020. The planned conference will aim at facilitating debate between renowned practitioners and academic experts in the field of international environmental law and human rights³.

2. Civil Participation in Decision-Making

Representative democracies are increasingly confronted by new challenges: the decorrelation between citizens' preferences and decisions taken by public authorities has been growing, while electoral turnout has been decreasing and trust in public authorities is at an historic low. Populism and the appearance of large, grassroots movements and protests would tend to confirm a trend of disaffection for the governors by the governed. The Georgian Presidency advocated that increasing the level of input from civil society and from citizens to guide public decisions can be one way of combating these negative trends. This does not mean that representative democracy should be replaced, but simply complemented by more participatory democracy. Continued civil society and citizens' engagement between elections is fundamental for the functioning of a truly democratic society and opens a society-wide dialogue on critical issues.

² Detailed information on the High-Level Conference, including related documents and adopted Declaration, is available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/human-rights-and-the-environment>). The proceedings of the High-Level Conference will be soon available.

³ Detailed information on the Conference, including related documents, is available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/conference-material-human-rights-for-the-planet>

1. In the framework of the priority of Georgia on Civil Participation in Decision-Making, and through co-operation between the City of Tbilisi and the Democratic Governance Department of the Council of Europe, a project was launched aimed at helping the City of Tbilisi to create a standing platform of consultation, co-operation and co-decision with civil society representatives on important urbanism measures. As a result of a number of working meetings and consultations, including a workshop on 13 September 2019 in Tbilisi with the participation of the representatives of the Council of Europe, Tbilisi Municipality, local NGOs and public authorities, an innovative mechanism – a special platform composed half of representatives of local NGOs and half of the representatives of the Tbilisi Municipality was established. This platform has been tasked with designing the municipal park around the Gldani Lake (Tbilisi). As a result of the consultations, an agreement has been reached on the overall plan for the Gldani Lake Park and the opinions and demands of the local residents were taken on board.

2. The Georgian Presidency, namely the City of Tbilisi together with the Council of Europe's Directorate General of Democracy, had planned an ***International Conference on Civil Participation in Decision-making*** on 6 March 2020 in Strasbourg in order to identify useful and innovative experiences of successful engagement of civil society at local, regional and national level. The objective of the Conference was to highlight the importance of civil participation in decision-making to community development and the life of the polis, and to showcase innovative experiences and successful initiatives of civil engagement at the local and national levels. The event, bringing together representatives of central and local authorities of the 47 member States, as well as civil society organisations and experts, would also promote the unique work of the Council of Europe in this area and mark the World NGO Day (28 February). Regrettably, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the international conference had to be postponed but given the relevance and importance of the topic, the Georgian Presidency and the Directorate General of Democracy decided to maintain the event in the online format with a new date. Therefore, an online conference was held on 6-7 May 2020 and further provided an opportunity for the public to react during the Conference. Taking into account the contributions of the speakers and public, at the final stage, on 11 May 2020, the Conclusions of the Georgian Presidency on Civil Participation in Decision-Making Process were adopted.⁴

3. **Child Friendly Justice – Converging Experience on Restorative Justice in Europe**

Every year, thousands of children across the Council of Europe member States are involved in judicial proceedings. Children in contact or conflict with justice systems, be they civil, administrative or criminal, either as victims, witnesses, offenders, or parties to a judicial process, are often vulnerable and in need of protection. They are often confronted with a system designed for adults, which is poorly adapted to their needs. Depriving children of their liberty can have detrimental effects on their educational, social and development needs, and other long-term negative consequences for them.

Where children take part in restorative justice processes in any role, their age and individual development need to be taken fully into consideration, the procedure needs to be adapted to them and - apart from the mandatory presence of their parents or legal guardians during the process - they need to be guaranteed special rights. Therefore, the domestic legal safeguards applied to children in contact with the traditional criminal justice system must also apply to the restorative justice process itself. This includes the special monitoring role of the judicial authorities or criminal justice agencies over the restorative justice procedure where children are involved.

The Georgian Presidency, more precisely the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, in co-operation with the General Directorate Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe, planned on 23 March 2020 in Strasbourg a ***High-Level Round Table on Child Friendly Justice – Converging Experience on Restorative Justice in Europe***. However, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the event was postponed. Later it was decided, together with the General Directorate Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI), to maintain the event in the online format with a new date. More specifically, it was decided to create a special page under the Children's Rights Division website of the Council of Europe, where all information about the Roundtable, including relevant resources, would be published. The special page, launched on 12 May 2020, allowed the Georgian Presidency to promote the Council of Europe's standards on child-friendly justice and restorative justice, enshrined in various strategic documents of the Organisation, as well as to share its experience in the implementation of child-friendly justice in all contexts and the application of restorative justice where children are the main stakeholders, either as victims or as offenders. Taking into consideration the contributions of the speakers, at the final stage, the Conclusions of the Georgian Presidency on Child-Friendly Justice were adopted.⁵

⁴ Documents related to the conference, contributions of the speakers, reactions of the public and the Presidency Conclusions are available at: <https://www.coe.int/participation>.

⁵ Documents related to the conference, contributions of the speakers, reactions of the public and the Presidency Conclusions are available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/child-friendly-justice-europe-may-2020>.

4. Strengthening Democracy through Education, Culture and Youth Engagement.

The Georgian Presidency aimed to promote one of the core values of the Council of Europe – democracy – through education, culture and youth engagement, as they are closely interrelated and mutually supportive. The Presidency continued supporting measures that contribute to building democratic and inclusive societies through the development of a culture of democracy, by promoting education for democratic citizenship, human rights education and youth participation as well as by engaging with young people in civil society as fundamental partners in the consolidation of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

1. As the Georgian Presidency attached the highest importance to the full and meaningful participation of young people in European societies, on 23 January 2020 at the Ministers' Deputies, an **Informal Exchange of Views on Strengthening Democracy through Youth Engagement in the Council of Europe and its member States** took place. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe spoke at the meeting, mentioning in particular the need to create a mechanism for ensuring that young people enjoy the right to education and other social rights. Mr Revaz Charkviani, the Head of the Georgian Youth Agency, also delivered his remarks. Highlighting the importance of youth involvement at the national level and the role of the Agency in this regard, he focused his attention on the reforms that had been carried out in the youth sector. During the meeting, presentations were made by Ms Anja Olin Pape, the Chair of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) and Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ); Mr Ville Majamaa, Vice President of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and Mr Niels de Frua, Founder of SAY (Sustainability & Advocacy by Youth) and former youth delegate of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. The speakers discussed the active participation of young people in public activities.

2. On 23 January 2020, after the above exchange of views, and under the aegis of the Georgian Presidency, an official presentation of **The Youth Sector Strategy 2030 of the Council of Europe** took place. The Youth Sector Strategy provides policy guidance to the 50 States Parties to the European Cultural Convention for the ten years to come. The new strategy aims to give a new impetus to this work in four thematic priorities: youth revitalising pluralistic democracy; young people's access to rights; living together in peaceful and inclusive societies; and youth work.

3. The Georgian Presidency planned a **Round Table on Strengthening Democracy through Education and Culture** on 30 March 2020 in Strasbourg; however, regrettably, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this event was cancelled.

4. On 1-3 April 2020, in Luxembourg, the Annual **Meeting of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe** was planned under the aegis of the Georgian Presidency. The Georgian Presidency considered the event as a good opportunity to showcase Georgia's contribution to the Council of Europe's cultural priorities and to the EPA. Regrettably, in light of the Covid-19 outbreak, it was decided to postpone the above event and to exceptionally hold it in Chania, Greece, on the occasion of the Annual Advisory Forum on 7-9 October 2020.

5. On 7 April 2020, a **meeting of the Education Policy Advisors' Network (EPAN) – Education for Democracy: Developing Practice for Democracy in Europe through Education** was planned under the aegis of the Georgian Presidency. The Georgian Presidency was committed to intensifying the coordinating efforts of the Council of Europe towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly through contributing to SDG 4 Quality Education, focusing its work on competences for democratic culture and language education. Regrettably, in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the meeting has been postponed until further notice.

III. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Under the Georgian Presidency, on 12 December 2019, the Ministers' Deputies held an **Informal Exchange of Views on Cyberviolence Against Women and Girls**, bringing together civil society specialists and members of various Council of Europe bodies.

The growing use of information and communication technologies have provided a new dimension for the perpetration of acts of violence against women and the expression of sexism. Forms of cyberviolence, which are manifold and evolve alongside shifting digital tools, are an integral part of the widespread issue of violence against women. Despite the lack of global data, research shows that women are disproportionately targeted and suffer serious consequences from cyberviolence, such as physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering.

The meeting was opened by Ambassador Irakli Giviashvili, President of the Ministers' Deputies, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the Council of Europe, who stressed the importance of the Council of Europe's work for fighting violence against women and girls and the Georgian Presidency's commitment to support this work. Ms Iris Laurasi, 1st Vice-President of GREVIO also spoke at the meeting. Ms Laurasi introduced the subject from the point of view of the Istanbul Convention and also spoke as a media professor and expert of communication. Ms Adriane van der WILK, author of the study "Cyberviolence and Hate Speech online against women" for the European Parliament and consultant for the report "#HerNetHerRights" (European Women's Lobby), presented the findings of the study. Ms Ute Zillig, from the Federal Association of Women's Counselling and Rape Crisis Centres, presented some insights on the counselling work in the field of gender-based violence. Presentations by the key speakers were followed by active discussion involving Permanent Representations and various Council of Europe bodies, as well as civil society specialists, focusing on further areas of cooperation to ensure a comprehensive approach to cyberviolence against women and girls.

2. On 30 January 2020, the President of the Committee of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Mr David Zalkaliani, addressed the Permanent Council of the OSCE. In his speech, he highlighted the priorities of the Georgian Presidency and the events to be held within the scope of the presidency. Mr Zalkaliani also paid special attention to the important role both organisations play in upholding human rights, strengthening democracy and ensuring the rule of law.

3. On 13 February 2020, the Ministers' Deputies held an annual **exchange of views on the United Nations (human rights questions), with the participation of experts from capitals** which included a thematic discussion on human rights and biotechnologies.

It is obvious that recent technological developments in the area of biomedicine, whilst offering significant opportunities for the benefit of human health, also raise new human rights challenges related to identity, autonomy, privacy and non-discrimination. The very nature of these technologies and their impact on human beings, their speed of development and ubiquity, together with the risk for human rights raised by their possible misuses call for closer co-operation at international level to address those concerns. The following agenda items were discussed during the exchange of views: major themes for the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2020; thematic discussion on human rights and biotechnologies: new challenges in bioethics; developments and main results of the 3rd Committee during the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly. The meeting was opened by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ambassador Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, the President of the United Nations Human Rights Council participated in the meeting, Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan, Chairperson of the drafting group of the Council of Europe Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO) on the Strategic Action Plan on human rights and technologies in biomedicine, and Professor Hervé Chneiweiss, President of the International Committee of Bioethics of UNESCO and Mr Olivier Becht, General Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Science and Technology Assessment, participated in the meeting. Experts from Council of Europe member States held very intense an exchange of views.

It is worth noting that, on 12 February 2020, the Ministers' Deputies adopted a decision welcoming **the Strategic Action Plan on Human Rights and Technologies in Biomedicine (2020-2025)** adopted by the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO) in November 2019, which aims to address human rights challenges raised by technological developments.

4. On 29 April 2020, Ambassador Irakli Giviashvili, President of the Ministers' Deputies, participated in a virtual meeting hosted by the Secretary General, with the partners of the Platform for the Protection and Safety of Journalists who submitted their annual report to the Secretary General. Mr Giviashvili confirmed to the partners the importance that the Committee attaches to freedom of expression and media freedom. The President of the Ministers' Deputies recalled that the Committee of Ministers had intended to hold an Informal exchange of views on 6 April on Media freedom and the safety of journalists with the participation of the Secretary General and the Platform partners, however that meeting had to be postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr Giviashvili informed them that this exchange of views would take place as soon as possible once the CM can physically meet and with the participation of the partners by videoconference.

5. On 1 May 2020, during its Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, Georgia joined the Council of Europe Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group), thus becoming its 41st member state. Georgia's decision to join the Group has been the result of fruitful co-operation and active consultations between the Georgian authorities and the Pompidou Group Secretariat.

6. On 12 May 2020, the 31st meeting of the Co-ordination Group between the Council of Europe and the OSCE took place by videoconference. It was initially planned to take place on 27 March 2020 in Strasbourg but was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On this occasion, the Co-ordination Group took stock of co-operation in the areas of the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination.

IV. COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND NEW WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

As mentioned in the introductory section of this document, 2 months of the 6-month period of the Georgian Presidency occurred during the **Covid-19 pandemic**, a most difficult and challenging period, which in March 2020 began to cause enormous difficulties for the normal functioning of the Council of Europe. More specifically, in order to respect the confinement procedures established by the French authorities to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the Ministers' Deputies decided to cancel their meetings of 25 March and 1 April 2020.

However, the Georgian Presidency spared no efforts in supporting the development of new working methods for member States to allow for the continuation of the work of the Committee of Ministers. With the outstanding support of the Secretary General and backing from the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers, as well as that of the IT Services of the Organisation, the work of the Committee of Ministers, with new working methods such as written procedures and videoconferences, was promptly resumed. More specifically:

1. **The Bureau of the Committee of Ministers** started to use written procedures and videoconferences for its meetings and held 10 meetings, namely on 17 March (written procedure), 24 March (written procedure), 30 March (written procedure), 6 April (videoconference), 14 April (written procedure), 17 April (videoconference), 21 April (videoconference), 4 May (videoconference) and 11 May (videoconference). Each Bureau meeting was followed by a set of recommendations to the Ministers' Deputies in order to overcome any difficulties arising from the pandemic to the work of the Committee of Ministers.

2. **The Committee of Ministers** used written procedures for its meeting on 8 April 2020, when it adopted consensual decisions, including a *Recommendation on the Human Rights impacts of Algorithmic Systems*, comprising guidelines calling on governments to ensure that they do not breach human rights through their own use, development or procurement of algorithmic systems. On 22 April 2020, the Ministers' Deputies held a meeting by written procedure and as an informal videoconference, in the course of which they: adopted a *Declaration by the Committee of Ministers on the Covid-19 pandemic*; agreed to postpone the 130th Session of the Committee of Ministers from 15 May (Strasbourg) to 4 November 2020 (Athens), in the framework of the Greek Presidency; took note of the Secretary General's 21st Consolidated Report on the Conflict in Georgia. The Deputies also held an exchange of views with Mr Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos, President of the European Court of Human Rights. On 6 May 2020, the Ministers' Deputies held a meeting by written procedure and as an informal videoconference, in the course of which a number of important decisions were taken. The Deputies also held an exchange of views with Ms Dunja Mijatovi, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and with Mr Rik Deams, President of the Parliamentary Assembly.

3. On 15 May 2020, the ***Handover of the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers*** (1375bis Meeting of the Deputies) took place by videoconference. The meeting was co-chaired by the outgoing President of the Committee of Ministers, Mr David Zalkaliani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia and by Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, the representative of the incoming chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece.

Appendix

**Table of activities of the Georgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers
of the Council of Europe
(27 November 2019 – 15 May 2020)**

	Date Place	Event Competent Authority
1.	27 November 2019 Strasbourg	Start of the Georgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, handover from the French Presidency to the Georgian Presidency
2.	12 December 2019 Strasbourg	Committee of Ministers – Informal Exchange of Views of the Committee of Ministers on Cyberviolence Against Women and Girls
3.	16 December 2019 Tbilisi	Conference of the Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies of the PACE
4.	23 January 2020 Strasbourg	Committee of Ministers – Informal Exchange of Views of the Committee of Ministers on Youth
5.	24-25 February 2020 Strasbourg	Conference on Impact of GRECO Anti-Corruption Reforms: From Theory to Practice <i>Was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic</i>
6.	27 February 2020 Strasbourg	International High-Level Conference on Environmental Protection and Human Rights
7.	6 March 2020 Strasbourg	International Conference on Civil Participation in Decision-Making <i>Was held in the online format on 6-7 May 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic</i>
8.	23 March 2020 Strasbourg	Round Table on Child Friendly Justice – Converging Experience on Restorative Justice in Europe <i>Was held in the online format 12 May 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic</i>
9.	30 March 2020 Strasbourg	Round Table on Strengthening Democracy through Education and Culture <i>Cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic</i>
10.	1-2 April 2020 Luxembourg	Meeting of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe <i>Was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic</i>

11.	7 April 2020 Strasbourg	Meeting of the Education Policy Advisors' Network (EPAN) – Education for Democracy: Developing Practice for Democracy in Europe through Education <i>Was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic</i>
12.	9 April 2020 Strasbourg	International Conference on Human Rights and Environmental Protection "Human Rights for the Planet", European Court of Human Rights <i>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Conference was postponed to 5 October 2020</i>
13.	21 April 2020 Strasbourg	Round Table on Religious Tolerance <i>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Round Table was cancelled</i>
14.	15 May 2020 Strasbourg	130 th Session of the Committee of Ministers - <i>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was postponed to 4 November 2020 in Athens, Greece</i>