

The Secretariat of the Council of Europe extends its gratitude to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for the opportunity to provide written contributions to inform his forthcoming report pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 47/21 on “Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers through transformative change for racial justice and equality”. The Secretariat of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the Cooperation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty Unit of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe contributed to this.

### **Inputs submitted by the Secretariat of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance**

**The Secretariat of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)** points out three reports of particular relevance as follows:

- ECRI's [annual report](#) for 2021 – main trends (published in June 2022) – p. 8 (racism in policing)
- Sixth report on [France](#) (published in September 2022) – pp. 31-32 (racist or LGBTI-phobic police abuse)
- Sixth report on [Greece](#) (published in September 2022) – pp. 26-27 (racist or LGBTI-phobic police abuse)

### **Inputs submitted by the Cooperation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty Unit of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law**

After a decision of the CoE Committee of Ministers, **a Network of National Correspondents of Police authorities** (known as **CoE's Police Network**), was launched.

This Network comprises 44 delegates, who have been nominated from their respective countries, among 46 member states. See: [Police Network - Cooperation in police and deprivation of liberty \(coe.int\)](#)

The Council of Europe Police Network held its annual 2023 international conference on police activities, focusing on situations of violence and use of force. The conference gathered high-ranking representatives of several Ministries of Interior of member States, as well as national police services, academia, IPCAN (Independent Police Complaints Authorities' Network), and CESP (the European Council of Police Trade Unions) delegates. Delegates reaffirmed that use of force by law enforcement should only be exerted in a proportionate manner and in cases of strict necessity. In addition, any excessive use of force or forms of violence should be investigated in line with the standards of the European Court of Human Rights. They also emphasised the

importance of carrying out adequate training for police forces and the need for standard operating procedures suited to high-risk events, as well as communication and de-escalation measures. The participating police practitioners and experts praised the Council of Europe Police Network as an important framework for collecting good policing practices and promoting European standards in policing. To be noted, Germany will chair the Police Network for the upcoming year.