## Basic information

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|---|---|
| **2025/0244(NLE)**<br>NLE - Non-legislative enactments | |
| Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law<br>**Subject**<br>3.70.16 Law and environment, liability | |

## Key players

### European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| JURI Legal Affairs | KYUCHYUK Ilhan (Renew) | 19/10/2026 |
| | Shadow rapporteur<br>PETER-HANSEN Kira Marie (Greens/EFA) | |

| Former committee responsible | Former rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| JURI Legal Affairs | KYUCHYUK Ilhan (Renew) | 07/04/2026 |

| Former committee for opinion | Former rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| ENVI Environment, Climate and Food Safety | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |
| LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |

### Council of the European Union

### European Commission

| Commission DG | Commissioner |
|---|---|
| Justice and Consumers | MCGRATH Michael |

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|

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|---|---|---|---|
| 29/07/2025 | Preparatory document | COM(2025)0434 | |
| 17/02/2026 | Legislative proposal published | 05824/2026 | Summary |
| 12/03/2026 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 03/06/2026 | Vote in committee | | |
| 12/06/2026 | Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | A10-0156/2026 | |
| 08/07/2026 | Decision by Parliament | T10-0256/2026 | Summary |
| 08/07/2026 | Results of vote in Parliament | | |
| 01/10/2026 | Formal reconsultation of Parliament | | |
| 01/10/2026 | Amended legislative proposal for reconsultation published | 13172/2026 | |

## Forecasts

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|---|---|
| 18/01/2027 | Indicative plenary sitting date |

## Technical information

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| **Procedure reference** | 2025/0244(NLE) |
| **Procedure type** | NLE - Non-legislative enactments |
| **Procedure subtype** | Consent by Parliament |
| **Legal basis** | Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 083-p2<br>Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a |
| **Other legal basis** | Rules of Procedure EP 165 |
| **Committee dossier** | JURI/10/06867<br>JURI/10/03714 |

## Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee draft report | | PE786.991 | 20/04/2026 | |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | | A10-0156/2026 | 12/06/2026 | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading | | T10-0256/2026 | 08/07/2026 | Summary |
| Committee draft report | | PE797.445 | 23/10/2026 | |

**Council of the EU**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legislative proposal | 05824/2026 | 17/02/2026 | Summary |
| Amended legislative proposal for reconsultation | 13172/2026 | 01/10/2026 | |

**European Commission**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Document attached to the procedure | COM(2025)0433 | 29/07/2025 | |
| Preparatory document | COM(2025)0434 | 29/07/2025 | |

| Additional information | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Source** | **Document** | **Date** |
| European Commission | EUR-Lex | |

# Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law

2025/0244(NLE) - 17/02/2026 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude the Council of Europe convention on the protection of the environment through criminal law.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law was signed on 3 December 2025, subject to its conclusion at a later date. The Convention is consistent with the Union's objectives of ensuring a high level of environmental protection and improving environmental quality, as well as combating environmental crime, including through criminal law.

The Convention lays down provisions on its purpose and scope, legal definitions and terminology, criminal offences, the liability of legal persons, sanctions and other measures, aggravating and mitigating circumstances, procedural rights and cooperation, preventive measures and civil society participation regarding environmental crime.

The Union should become a party to the Convention alongside its Member States, given that both the Union and its Member States have competences in the areas covered by the Convention. The Convention should be concluded on behalf of the Union with regard to matters within the Union's competence insofar as the Convention may affect common rules or alter their scope. In areas of shared competence, the Member States retain their competence to the extent that the Convention does not affect common rules or alter their scope.

CONTENT: the draft Council decision aims at approving the **Council of Europe Convention on the protection of the environment through criminal law**.

The aim of the Convention is to effectively prevent and combat environmental crime, to promote and enhance national and international co-operation and to establish minimum rules to guide states in their national legislation.

The Convention applies to the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of criminal offences established in accordance with this Convention, namely:

- offences related to **illegal pollution**, placing products on the market in breach of environmental requirements, chemical substances, radioactive materials or substances, mercury, ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases;

- offences related to the unlawful collection, treatment, transport, recovery, disposal or shipment of **waste**;

- offences related to the unlawful operation or closure of an **installation** involving dangerous substances;

- offences related to the unlawful recycling of **ships** and the ship-source discharges of polluting substances;

- offences related to the unlawful abstraction of **surface water** or groundwater and trade in wood from illegal logging;

- offences related to unlawful **mining**;

- offences related to unlawful killing, destruction, taking and possession of **protected wild flora or fauna**, trading in protected wild fauna or flora, unlawful deterioration of habitats within a protected site and offences related to invasive alien species;

- **particularly serious offence** when committed intentionally and leading to particularly serious damage or destruction or causing irreversible, widespread and substantial damage, or long-lasting, widespread and substantial damage to an ecosystem of considerable size or environmental value, or to a habitat within a protected site, or to the quality of air, soil or water.

In order to ensure the uniform and effective application of the Convention, the Union should, in particular, avail itself of the possibility provided in Article 56(3) of the Convention to specify the scope of the term ‘unlawful’ and certain notions used for the purpose of defining criminal offences under the Convention by means of a reservation. A reservation in this regard is attached to this Decision.

Ireland and Denmark did not participate in the adoption of this decision and are not bound by it or subject to its application.

# Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law

2025/0244(NLE) - 08/07/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 499 votes to 99, with 69 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law on behalf of the European Union.

Parliament **gave its consent** to the conclusion of the agreement.

The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law was signed on 3 December 2025, subject to its conclusion at a later date. The Convention is consistent with the Union's objectives of ensuring a high level of environmental protection and improving environmental quality, as well as combating environmental crime, including through criminal law.

The aim of the Convention is to: (a) effectively prevent and combat environmental crime; (b) promote and enhance national and international co-operation and (c) establish minimum rules to guide states in their national legislation and thus promote and improve environmental protection.

The Convention establishes binding international standards for defining and criminalising serious environmental offences punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions. It also strengthens prevention measures and international cooperation to address environmental crime, including through cross-border investigations, information exchange and the collection of statistical data.

Upon its entry into force, neighbouring countries will apply criminal law standards consistent with those of the EU, thereby, in effect, improving cooperation, investigations and accountability. For EU Member States, the new Convention is consistent with Directive (EU) 2024/1203, however they can go beyond the requirements of both that Directive and that Convention when implementing their provisions.

The Convention is expected to enter into force upon ten ratifications, including at least eight ratifications by member States of Council of Europe. Alongside the Council of Europe member States, the new Convention is open for signature by non-member States that have participated in its elaboration and the EU.