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20 years of Cybercrime Convention Committee: what a journey!

Alexander Seger, 1 June 2026

On 3 June, I will have the immense pleasure of moderating a special session celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY).

The very first meeting of the committee of the parties to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime was held in March 2006. The 34th plenary takes place from 2 to 4 June 2026 at the Council of Europe. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/t-cy-plenaries>

It is incredible how the framework of the Budapest Convention with the T-CY as its governing body has evolved over 20 years:

- At the time of the first meeting in March 2006, the Convention had 12 parties. And the T-CY had few resources and participants, but already faced attempts by Russia to derail it ("cyberterrorism").
- Now, in 2026, the Convention has 82 parties and 16 States committed to join. And it remains the "gold standard" for international cooperation on cybercrime.

Over 20 years, the T-CY delivered:

- 4 rounds of assessments of implementation of the Convention. Having States agree to peer reviews is an achievement in itself;
- 14 Guidance Notes, keeping the Convention current without constant need for new protocols – from the notion of computer systems to election interference, ransomware or spontaneous information;
- working groups on transborder access to data, cloud evidence or cyberviolence, and currently on artificial intelligence and on virtual assets;
- the Second Protocol on enhanced cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence providing criminal justice practitioners with far more effective tools to obtain electronic evidence from other jurisdictions.

It is the dynamic interplay between (a) the common standards of the Convention, (b) follow up and assessments by the T-CY, and (c) capacity building by the [Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe \(C-PROC\)](#) that is the formula or algorithm of success of this framework.

But none of this would have been possible without people: highly committed professionals from all over the world. Nearly 200 of them will gather in Strasbourg next week for the T-CY.

I will have the honour of engaging with some remarkable individuals who shaped the T-CY as chairs and key advisers over two decades: Pedro Verdelho (Portugal), Betty Shave (USA), Markko Künnapu (Estonia), Cristina Schulman (Romania), Gareth Sansom (Canada) and Marcos Salt (Argentina).

And festivities will not stop there. Many will return to Strasbourg for [Octopus 2026](#) in October to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Budapest Convention.

As for me, following my retirement from the Council of Europe in autumn last year, I will briefly relapse; the topic and this community remain addictive!

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