



## Recommendation 2284 (2024)<sup>1</sup>

# Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – A call to clarify their fate

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly refers to its [Resolution 2569 \(2024\)](#) “Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – A call to clarify their fate” and invites the Committee of Ministers to express the Council of Europe’s readiness, in line with the Organisation’s values and standards, to join forces with its international partners and to support member States in further developing and adding to the efforts which have been initiated in recent years on the issue of missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.
2. In this respect, the Assembly encourages the Committee of Ministers to strengthen its paths of co-operation with the most relevant organisations on the international stage, in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children’s Fund and the International Organization for Migration.
3. It considers that progress on joint and coherent policy making on this issue also requires specific discussions among the competent authorities of member States. It invites the Committee of Ministers to acknowledge the pressing need for common standards across member States in order to enhance search processes at the national and transnational levels, and to improve the management and identification of deceased migrants, in particular by:
  - 3.1. updating Recommendation No. R (99) 3 on the harmonisation of medico-legal autopsy rules, in light of the emerging challenges and new practices, especially with respect to post-mortem documentation for identification, the standardisation of forensic investigation and autopsy rules, and the particular context of cross-border mobility;
  - 3.2. adopting guidelines on the collection, transmission and centralisation of post-mortem data for the forensic identification of missing persons in Europe; providing a standard definition of missing persons; and protecting the rights of family members as data subjects protected under the [Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data](#) (ETS No. 108) as amended by Protocol CETS No. 223 (“Convention 108+”). These guidelines should also cover the specific legal and practical issues at stake as regards the situation of missing migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and families in search of missing persons, including in a cross-border context, and could be opened for endorsement by non-member States which are party to Convention 108+;
  - 3.3. facilitating discussions among prosecutors of member States, particularly as regards the possibility of reviewing the standard practices already in place in a number of member States on the identification and management of cases of deceased missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and of establishing guidelines for a standard protocol to be used across all member States.

1. *Assembly debate* on 1 October 2024 (27th sitting) (see [Doc. 16037](#), report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, rapporteur: Mr Julian Pahlke). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 1 October 2024 (27th sitting).

