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

Reply to Recommendation¹: Recommendation 2284 (2024)
Committee of Ministers

1. The Committee of Ministers has carefully examined Parliamentary Assembly [Recommendation 2284 \(2024\)](#) “Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – A call to clarify their fate” and has forwarded it to the Steering Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) and the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO), for information and possible comments. The Committee of Ministers agrees with the Assembly that the phenomenon of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers going missing is a tragedy largely underestimated and neglected as a human rights issue and that it requires co-ordinated policy responses.

2. In this context, the Committee draws the Assembly’s attention to its Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2009\)12](#) on principles concerning missing persons and the presumption of death. This sets out a number of principles related to the issuing of a declaration of presumed death of missing persons in specific circumstances and the time limits. It defines the authorities competent to deliver a declaration of death and the requesting party, which can be a person or body with a legitimate interest or an authority designated for that purpose. It also sets out that when publicity concerning the search for a missing person is deemed necessary in proceedings regarding a declaration of presumed death, this should be carried out by any appropriate means, including new technologies.

3. The Committee of Ministers takes note of the Assembly’s proposals, notably as regards the need for common standards across member States in order to enhance search processes and to improve the management and forensic identification of missing persons in Europe, and will bear them in mind, as appropriate.

1. Adopted at the 1527th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies (30 April 2025).

