

Title	Questionnaire on Protection Orders and their Recognition and Enforcement (REPO)
Document	N/A
Author	PB
Agenda Item	N/A
Mandate(s)	C&D Nos 22-25 of CGAP 2026
Objective	To gather information from HCCH Members on the cross-border recognition and enforcement of protection orders to assist the WG on REPO. Members are invited to respond to the Questionnaire by 11 September 2026 .
Action to be Taken	For Decision ☐ For Approval ☐ For Discussion ☐ For Action / Completion ☒ For Information ☐
Annexes	N/A
Related Documents	A summary of the work carried out between 2011 - 2018, along with several key documents pertaining to the project, can be found on the HCCH website, under " Publications & Studies ".

Questionnaire on Protection Orders and their Recognition and Enforcement (REPO)

I. Background

- 1 At its 2026 meeting, the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) resumed discussions on a possible new instrument on the cross-border recognition and enforcement of protection orders (REPO), and adopted the following Conclusions and Decisions (C&D):
 22. Welcoming the proposal from the United Kingdom, CGAP mandated the establishment of a Working Group on a potential future convention on cross-border recognition and enforcement of protection orders (REPO).
 23. This Working Group will build on previous work by the PB in 2011-2018 and the Experts' Group in 2014 and further explore the feasibility of, and initially develop policy aims for, a potential future convention on REPO. The Working Group will report to CGAP 2027.
 24. To facilitate the work of the Working Group, CGAP mandated the PB to:
 - a. update its 2012 Questionnaire with a view to collecting information from Member States on civil protection orders available in their States and laws applicable available in their States for cross-border recognition and enforcement of protection orders;
 - b. circulate this Questionnaire in June 2026 and request responses by the end of September 2026.
 25. CGAP further mandated the PB to make arrangements for an in-person Working Group meeting with the possibility for online participation, ahead of CGAP 2027. CGAP thanked the United Kingdom for its offer to host this Working Group meeting including to cover travel costs for HCCH staff, and supports this proposal.¹

II. Introductory Note to the Questionnaire

- 2 The present document comprises the updated Questionnaire requested by CGAP.
- 3 The sole purpose of this Questionnaire is to gather factual and comparative information on the existence, scope, and operation of protection orders, including their recognition and enforcement in cross-border situations. The questions are designed to support informed discussions by providing a clearer picture of national, regional and international frameworks and practices. The Questionnaire deliberately takes a broad approach (e.g., in terms of the kinds of orders that could be in scope), in order to maximise information-gathering for that purpose. This is not intended to pre-empt or prejudice any policy decisions that may be taken regarding a potential future instrument in this area, including its scope and content.
- 4 Therefore, for the purposes of this Questionnaire, the term “protection order” may refer to any measure taken by a competent authority requiring a person to refrain from doing, or to carry out, specified acts to protect one or more identified persons. The term is used in a broad sense and may include orders issued in civil, administrative, or other proceedings, irrespective of the authority by which they are issued, provided that their primary purpose is protective and not punitive.

¹ These C&Ds are available on the HCCH website (www.hcch.net) under “Governance” => “Council on General Affairs and Policy”). A project on the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders was carried out by the PB between 2011 and 2018. A summary of the work, along with several key documents pertaining to the project, can be found [here](#).

- 5 Given that States may have different classifications for protection orders (civil, criminal, administrative, other), respondents are invited to adopt a **functional approach** when answering this Questionnaire. Respondents are encouraged to provide hyperlinks to useful online resources pertaining to their national systems.
- 6 This Questionnaire focuses primarily on orders issued for the **protection of adults**. Where relevant, respondents may also include orders issued to protect children and indicate this clearly in their responses.

III. Instructions to Complete the Questionnaire

- 7 To allow the PB to extract parts of the Questionnaire for compilation of the responses, you are kindly requested to use **this Word Version** of the document, and **not to return a PDF version** of the completed Questionnaire.
- 8 You are kindly requested to send your completed Questionnaire to the PB by e-mail to < secretariat@hcch.net > **no later than 11 September 2026, 5.00 p.m. CEST** with the following indication in the subject line of the e-mail:
“REPO - Questionnaire Response [name of State]”.
- 9 Please address any questions you may have on this Questionnaire to < secretariat@hcch.net >.
- 10 The PB intends, except where indicated otherwise or where expressly asked not to do so, to place all responses to the questionnaire on the HCCH website (www.hcch.net). Please, therefore, clearly identify any responses which should not be placed on the website.

REPO Questionnaire

Respondent Identification

Name of State: Bulgaria

Information for follow-up purposes

Name and title of contact person:

Name of Authority / Office

E-mail address:

I. Protection orders under domestic law: scope and main features

A. Types of behaviours required / prohibited by protection orders

1.	What types of protection orders are available in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Prohibiting communication with or contacting the protected person(s): I. Protection Against Domestic Violence Act Article 5. (1) The measures for protection against domestic violence shall be: ... 4. prohibition of the perpetrator to make contact with the victim in any form, including by telephone, by electronic or ordinary mail and fax, as well as by any other means and systems of communication under conditions and for a period determined by the court. II. Criminal Procedure Code Article 67(1) At the proposal of the prosecutor with consent of the victim or at the request of the victim, the competent first-instance court may prohibit the accused party from: .. 2. contacting the victim, in any form, including by phone, electronic or ordinary mail, and fax; ☒ Prohibiting approaching or being in physical proximity to the protected person(s): I. Protection Against Domestic Violence Act Article 5. (1) The measures for protection against domestic violence shall be: ... 3. prohibiting the perpetrator to come close to the victim, the dwelling, place of work and the locations of social contacts and recreation of the victim under conditions and for a term, specified by the court. II. Criminal Procedure Code Article 67(1) At the proposal of the prosecutor with consent of the victim or at the request of the victim, the competent first-instance court may prohibit the accused party from: 1. directly approaching the victim;
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☒ Prohibiting harassment (incl. any kind of non-physical forms of abuse):

Protection Against Domestic Violence Act

Article 2. (1) Domestic violence shall denote any act of physical, sexual or economic violence, as well as attempts of such violence, coercive restriction of personal life, personal liberty and personal rights committed against individuals, who are related, who are or have been in a family relationship or in de-facto conjugal co-habitation or are in an intimate relationship.

Article 5. (1) The measures for protection against domestic violence shall be:

1. obligating the perpetrator to refrain from committing domestic violence;

☒ Prohibiting stalking:

Protection Against Domestic Violence Act - Art. 5, para 1 in conjunction with Art. 2, para 1.

☒ Prohibiting or restricting certain social media / online activity:

Protection Against Domestic Violence Act

Article 5. (1) The measures for protection against domestic violence shall be:

...

4. prohibition of the perpetrator to make contact with the victim in any form, including by telephone, by electronic or ordinary mail and fax, as well as by any other means and systems of communication under conditions and for a period determined by the court.

☐ Prohibiting taking someone abroad:

Please insert text here

☐ Prohibiting taking someone abroad and abandoning them there:

Please insert text here

☐ Prohibiting certain physical or medical interventions affecting the bodily integrity of a person:

Please insert text here

☒ Requiring a person to stay away from a specified place (e.g. home, workplace, school):

I. Protection Against Domestic Violence Act

Article 5. (1) The measures for protection against domestic violence shall be:

...

3. prohibiting the perpetrator to come close to the victim, the dwelling, place of work and the locations of social contacts and recreation of the victim under conditions and for a term, specified by the court.

II. Criminal Procedure Code

Article 67(1) At the proposal of the prosecutor with consent of the victim or at the request of the victim, the competent first-instance court may prohibit the accused party from:

....

3. entering certain localities, areas, or places where the protected person resides or visits.

☒ Requiring a person to participate in counselling:

Protection Against Domestic Violence Act

Article 5. (1) The measures for protection against domestic violence shall be:

	... 6. obligating the perpetrator of violence to attend specialized programs for overcoming aggression and dealing with anger. ☐ Restricting possession or use of weapons: Please insert text here ☒ Imposing other prohibitions (please specify): Protection Against Domestic Violence Act Article 5. (1) The measures for protection against domestic violence shall be: ... 2. removing the perpetrator from the jointly occupied dwelling for a term, specified by court; ... 5. provisional designation of the place of residence of the child with the victim parent or the parent, who did not perpetrate violence, under conditions and for a term, specified by the court if this would not be against the child's interests; ... (4) The court may order as a protective measure that the regime of personal relations, determined in accordance with the Family Code, between the child and the parent perpetrator of domestic violence, be carried out for the period under Paragraph (2) in a protected environment provided in a specialized service under this Act or provided by a social service provider at the child's current address or place of residence, under the supervision of a psychologist or social worker. ☒ Imposing positive obligations of a protective nature (please specify): Protection Against Domestic Violence Act Article 5. (1) The measures for protection against domestic violence shall be: 7. referring the victims towards specialized services for protection, assistance and support or recovery programs; 8. referring the child victims towards specialized services for protection, assistance and support for child victims or witnesses of violence. ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here
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B. Contexts / situations or wider risks / behaviours that can be addressed by a protection order

2.	What types of contexts / situations or wider risks / behaviours can be addressed by a protection order issued in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i>
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	☒ Domestic or family violence / abuse: ² Protection Against Domestic Violence Act Article 2. (1) Domestic violence shall denote any act of physical, sexual or economic violence, as well as attempts of such violence, coercive restriction of personal life, personal liberty and personal rights committed against individuals, who are related, who are or have been in a family relationship or in de-facto conjugal co-habitation or are in an intimate relationship. (2) Any domestic violence committed in the presence of a child shall be considered mental violence against said child. (3) The acts under Paragraph (1) and (2) may be carried out by means of action or omission. ☒ Sexual violence / abuse: Please insert text here ☒ Harassment (incl. any kind of non-physical forms of abuse): Please insert text here ☒ Stalking: Please insert text here ☒ Forced marriage: Please insert text here ☒ Honour-related violence: Please insert text here ☒ Human trafficking / modern slavery: Please insert text here ☒ Female genital mutilation (FGM): Please insert text here ☒ Other contexts / situations or wider risks / behaviours (please specify): The European Protection Order Act does not define its scope by reference to an exhaustive list of offences. It applies where a protection measure has been adopted in criminal proceedings and consists of one or more of the prohibitions or restrictions listed in Article 3(2). The European Protection Order Act is not limited to domestic or family violence. Other criminal conduct directed against the protected person's life, physical or psychological integrity, personal liberty or dignity, including physical assault, attempted homicide, threats, coercion, kidnapping, abduction and unlawful deprivation of liberty.
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C. Legal basis for protection orders

3.	What is the legal basis enabling authorities in your jurisdiction to issue the protection orders listed in Question 1 above? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i>
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² "A pattern of behaviour in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control, including physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological abuse." Source: [What Is Domestic Abuse? | United Nations](#) (definition provided for guidance purposes only). It is understood that this definition would be inclusive of terms such as "intimate partner violence" and "coercive control".

Provide additional details where appropriate, as well as references and links where available.

☒ Legislation:

I. Protection Against Domestic Violence Act

Article 7. The regional court, in the area of which the victim actually resides as at the submission of the request shall be competent to impose the protection measure.

The nature of cases are civil cases.

Article 5. (1) The measures for protection against domestic violence shall be:

1. obligating the perpetrator to refrain from committing domestic violence;
2. removing the perpetrator from the jointly occupied dwelling for a term, specified by court;
3. prohibiting the perpetrator to come close to the victim, the dwelling, place of work and the locations of social contacts and recreation of the victim under conditions and for a term, specified by the court;
4. prohibition of the perpetrator to make contact with the victim in any form, including by telephone, by electronic or ordinary mail and fax, as well as by any other means and systems of communication under conditions and for a period determined by the court;
5. provisional designation of the place of residence of the child with the victim parent or the parent, who did not perpetrate violence, under conditions and for a term, specified by the court if this would not be against the child's interests;
6. obligating the perpetrator of violence to attend specialized programs for overcoming aggression and dealing with anger;
7. referring the victims towards specialized services for protection, assistance and support or recovery programs;
8. referring the child victims towards specialized services for protection, assistance and support for child victims or witnesses of violence.

II. European Protection Order Act (implementing Directive 2011/99/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the European protection order)

Article 3 stated that protection measure shall be taken in criminal proceedings in a Member State in order to provide protection to a person against a criminal act by another person which may endanger his life, physical or psychological integrity, dignity, personal liberty or sexual integrity. European protection orders shall be issued on the basis of a previously adopted protection measure.

The protection measure includes one or more of the following prohibitions or restrictions imposed on a person causing danger:

1. a prohibition from entering certain localities, places, or defined areas where the protected person resides or visits;
2. a prohibition or restriction of contact, in any form, with the protected person, including by phone, electronic or ordinary mail, fax or any other means;
3. a prohibition or restriction on approaching the protected person closer than a prescribed distance.

III. Criminal Procedure Code

Article 67 (1) At the proposal of the prosecutor with consent of the victim or at the request of the victim, the competent first-instance court may prohibit the accused party from:

	1. directly approaching the victim; 2. contacting the victim, in any form, including by phone, electronic or ordinary mail, and fax; 3. entering certain localities, areas, or places where the protected person resides or visits. ☐ Administrative regulations / instruments: Please insert text here ☐ Other sources (e.g., case law; please specify): Please insert text here
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D. Type(s) of authorities that may issue protection orders

4.	Which authorities are competent to issue protection orders in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Judicial authorities (please specify): ☒ Civil court / tribunal: Protection Against Domestic Violence Act ☒ Criminal court / tribunal: European Protection Order Act Criminal Procedure Code ☐ Administrative authorities (please specify): ☐ Administrative tribunal: Please insert text here ☐ Police / law enforcement officer: Please insert text here ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here ☐ Other authorities (please specify): Please insert text here
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E. Protected person(s)

5.	Who can be protected by a protection order issued in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Intended protected person(s) only: ☒ Adults (please indicate minimum age requirement if applicable): Please insert text here
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	☒ Children (please indicate age limit if applicable): Please insert text here
	☐ Other individuals close to the intended protected person(s) (please specify): Please insert text here

F. Applicant(s)

6.	Who can apply for a protection order in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> ☒ The intended protected person(s) ☒ Family member(s) of the intended protected person(s) ☐ Police / law enforcement officers ☐ Courts <i>ex officio</i> ☒ Other person, public authority or official (please specify): Protection Against Domestic Violence Act Article 8. (1) Proceedings on issuance of the protection order may be initiated on the basis of a petition filed by: 1. the victim, if they are above 14 years of age or have been fully or partially incapacitated; 2. a brother, sister or person, which is directly of kin to the victim; 3. the guardian or custodian of the victim, the person entrusted with the care of the child, or the person to whom the child is entrusted; 4. the Director of the Social Assistance Directorate when the victim: a) is a minor or underage; b) is in a helpless state due to severe disability, illness or old age or is placed under partial incapacitation. (2) When the victim are unable to defend themselves due to a helpless state or dependence on the perpetrator, proceedings may also be initiated upon a motion of the prosecutor. Criminal Procedure Code - Article 67 - At the proposal of the prosecutor with consent of the victim or at the request of the victim.
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G. Person(s) against whom protective orders can be issued

7.	Against whom can a protection order be issued in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply</i> ☒ Perpetrator(s) / alleged perpetrator(s) / putative perpetrator(s) / person(s) causing the risk ☐ Family members of the perpetrator(s) / alleged perpetrator(s) / putative perpetrator(s) / person(s) causing the risk ☐ Others (please specify): Please insert text here
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H. Supplementary matters

8.	Can supplementary matters, which may or may not be directly related to the immediate safety of the protected person(s), be addressed in protection orders? ☐ Yes (please specify):
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	☒ Child custody ☐ Maintenance ☐ Property protection ☐ Mandatory counselling (to the extent not covered by Question 1) ☐ Other (please specify): ☐ No ☐ In some cases (please specify): Please insert text here
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I. Duration of protection orders

9.	Please provide details regarding the possible duration of protection orders issued in your jurisdiction. Shortest duration for fixed term orders (incl. interim / emergency orders): Please indicate the shortest time frame for such orders: Protection Against Domestic Violence Act The measures under Art. 5, para. 1, items 2 - 5 shall be imposed for a period from three to 18 months. Criminal Procedure Code Art. 67 (4) The prohibition shall extinguish after termination of the case by virtue of a sentence in force or where proceedings are terminated on any other ground. (5) At any time the victim may request from the court to repeal the prohibition. Please provide examples of such orders: A three-month prohibition on contacting or approaching the protected person; a three-month removal of the perpetrator from the jointly occupied dwelling; or temporary determination of the child's residence with the non-violent parent for three months. Longest duration for fixed term orders: Please indicate the longest time frame for such orders: Protection Against Domestic Violence Act The measures under Art. 5, para. 1, items 2 - 5 shall be imposed for a period from three to 18 months. Please provide examples of such orders: An 18-month prohibition on approaching the victim, the victim's home, workplace or places of social contact; an 18-month prohibition on communication by any means; or removal of the perpetrator from the jointly occupied dwelling for 18 months. Indefinite duration: ☐ Yes Please insert text here ☒ No
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	No protection order is unlimited in time. Certain criminal-procedure protection measures, however, have no predetermined fixed term and remain effective until the criminal proceedings are finally concluded or terminated, unless revoked earlier. Renewal of protection orders: ☐ All protection orders are potentially renewable (please specify any conditions or limitations, if applicable): Please insert text here ☐ Some protection orders are potentially renewable (please specify): Please insert text here ☒ Protection orders are not renewable: Protection orders are not formally renewable merely because their term is about to expire. However, a new application for protection may be made where a new act of domestic violence occurs, including where it constitutes a continuation of earlier violent conduct.
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J. Transportability of the domestic protection order

Please complete this section if your jurisdiction has a framework for the cross-border recognition and enforcement of protection orders issued in your jurisdiction.

10.	What steps, if any, need to be taken in your jurisdiction to ensure that the protection order issued in your jurisdiction can be relied upon across borders? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ A certificate / abstract / other document to accompany the order is issued automatically Please insert text here ☒ A certificate / abstract / other document to accompany the order is issued upon request I. Protection Against Domestic Violence Act Article 26. (1) The court of first instance reviewing the case, shall issue upon written request by the protected person the certificate under Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 606/2013. II. European Protection Order Act Article 14. (1) A European protection order may be issued at the request of the protected person or that person's guardian or custodian, when the protected person decides to reside or already resides in another Member State. ☐ A signature / stamp by a competent authority on the order itself Please insert text here ☐ There is no procedure to ensure that the protection order can be relied upon abroad Please insert text here ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here
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11.	At the time of receiving the protection order, is / are the protected person(s) informed that it may be enforceable abroad? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i>
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	☒ Yes – please explain how and at what stage the protected person(s) are made aware of this (e.g., upon issuance of the order, via written materials, or through follow-up contact with authorities)? Criminal Procedure Code Article 67 (2) The court shall inform the protected person about the possibility of having a European protection order issued. The victim is informed during the court hearing, after the proceedings have been initiated and before the court decides whether to impose the protection measure. ☐ No
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12.	Is / are the protected person(s) informed about any potential limitations of the protection orders in other jurisdictions (e.g., possible lack of electronic monitoring)? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes – please specify how they are informed: Please insert text here ☒ No
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13.	Is / are the (alleged / putative) perpetrator(s) / person(s) causing the risk informed of the protection order's potential enforceability abroad when the order is issued? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Yes I. Protection Against Domestic Violence Act Article 26 - The court of first instance reviewing the case, shall issue upon written request by the protected person the certificate under Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 606/2013. The court shall inform the person causing the risk of the issuance of the certificate and of the consequences of its issuance. II. European Protection Order Act Article 14, para. 7 and 8 - The court, consisting of a single judge, shall review the request for the issuing of a European protection order in public session, within three days after its submission, with the mandatory participation of a prosecutor and the protected person. The person causing danger shall be given the right to be heard, if that person has not been granted this right in the procedure leading to the adoption of the protection measure. The failure of validly summoned persons to appear in court shall not preclude the hearing of the case. ☐ No
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14.	Has your jurisdiction issued any guidance to raise awareness about the availability of protection orders and their potential cross-border reach? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Yes – please describe the guidance (i.e., if they are in form of instructions, non-binding documents, etc.) Rules for the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act; Coordination Mechanism for assistance and support to victims of domestic violence.
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☐ No

II. Ensuring / monitoring compliance with domestic protection orders

A. Registers

15. Are there any registers in your jurisdiction to monitor protection orders?

☒ Yes (please specify):

☒ National database:

☒ Accessible to police

☒ Accessible to courts

☒ Accessible to others (please specify):

Protection Against Domestic Violence Act

Article 6e - The National Council for Prevention and Protection against Domestic Violence shall set up and maintain a National Information System for the Prevention and Protection against Domestic Violence, which shall store data on cases of domestic violence committed on the territory of the country, or with respect to Bulgarian citizens abroad who have sought help and support, hereinafter referred to as "National Information System".

The bodies of the executive power, judicial bodies, local self-government and local administration bodies and the legal entities that carry out activities of prevention and protection from domestic violence pursuant to this Act shall provide to the National Council the necessary data under Paragraph (2) pursuant to a procedure laid down in the regulations for the implementation of the Act.

Officials from the Ministry of Interior, the Social Assistance Agency, the State Agency for Child Protection and the judicial bodies shall have the right to access the data in the National Information System.

☐ Regional database(s):

☐ Accessible to police

☐ Accessible to courts

☐ Accessible to others (please specify):

Please insert text here

☐ Local / municipal database(s):

☐ Accessible to police

☐ Accessible to courts

☐ Accessible to others (please specify):

Please insert text here

☐ No

☒ Other (please specify):

I. Protection Against Domestic Violence Act

Article 16, para 3 - When a measure has been imposed under Article 5 (1), items 1 - 5, the decision and the order shall be served to the parties, whereby a copy of them shall be sent to the regional directorates of the Ministry of Interior at the current address and to the address of the perpetrator established during the proceedings, as well as to the address indicated by the victim.

	II. European Protection Order Act Article 8 - Upon recognising a European protection order, the court shall forward a copy of the ruling to the authorities of the Ministry of Interior situated in the domicile of the protected person for execution purposes.
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B. Preventing a potential breach or monitoring compliance

16.	By what technological means can compliance with a protection order be monitored or a breach of a protection order be prevented in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> ☐ GPS monitoring ☐ Electronic bracelets ☐ Digital alerts ☒ Databases ☐ None ☒ Other (please specify):
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C. Addressing a breach

17.	Which authorities are responsible for the enforcement of protection orders in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> ☒ Police / law enforcement ☐ Bailiff / Sheriff ☐ Court ☒ Other (please specify): I. Protection Against Domestic Violence Act Article 21. (1) Police bodies shall monitor enforcement of the order, in cases when a measure is imposed by it under Article 5 (1), items 1 - 5. (2) When a measure under Article 5 (1), item 2 has been imposed, the perpetrator shall be removed from the jointly inhabited dwelling with the assistance of the police bodies from the regional directorate of the Ministry of the Interior serving the area of the dwelling. (3) In case of an imposed measure under Article 5 (1), Item 6, the legal entities that implement the programs, shall monitor the execution of the order. II. European Protection Order Act and Criminal Procedure Code Police bodies shall monitor enforcement of the order.
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D. Enforcement upon simple presentation of protection order

18.	Can a protection order be enforced on the simple presentation of the order to the enforcement officer? ☒ Yes ☒ No - if so, is enforcement subject to one or more of the following:
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	☐ Verification ☐ Registration ☒ Any other additional steps – describe what needs to happen for enforcement to take place: In principal the protection order is directly enforceable according Art.20 of Protection Against Domestic Violence Act. The court shall forward a copy of the ruling to the competent authorities. Incoming criminal EPOs require court recognition (Article 6 European Protection Order Act). Civil EU orders benefit from automatic recognition, but Bulgarian law still provides an operational court procedure under Articles 23–25 Protection Against Domestic Violence Act.
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E. Sanctions following breach

19.	What are the consequences following a breach of a protection order in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Civil sanctions (e.g., injunction, contempt of court) Please insert text here ☒ Fines The general rules of the Civil Procedure Code for compulsory enforcement due to inaction apply, for which a fine is provided – Art. 527, para. 3 of the Civil Procedure Code – up to 400 leva (204,50 Euro). ☐ Arrest / confinement Please insert text here ☒ Criminal sanctions Non-compliance with a PADVA protection order or an EPO is criminalised by Article 296(1) Criminal Code. ☒ Other (please specify): I. Protection Against Domestic Violence Act - Article 21 Police bodies shall monitor enforcement of the order, in cases when a measure is imposed by it under Article 5 (1), items 1 - 5. in the event of failure to enforce the court order, the police body, which has established the violation, shall detain the perpetrator and advise forthwith the services of the prosecutor's office. In case of an imposed measure under Article 5 (1), Item 6, the legal entities that implement the programs, shall monitor the execution of the order. In case of failure to execute the imposed measure, the legal entities that implement the programs, shall immediately inform the prosecutor's office. II. Criminal Procedure Code Article 68a - When the accused party breaches the measure under Article 67 (victim protection measures), a remand measure shall be taken or the remand measure shall be modified into a more severe one.
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III. Current national, regional, and international rules for the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders

Part III aims to identify all applicable rules in your jurisdiction pertaining to the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders, including those rules deriving from regional or international instruments.

In this regard, jurisdictions may have adopted a specific legal regime for foreign protection orders, which may cover all or only certain aspects of their recognition and enforcement. In the absence of, or alongside, such a specific regime, general rules on recognition and enforcement may apply. In some jurisdictions, foreign protection orders may not be recognised or enforced at all. Where a specific regime does not address all relevant issues, any remaining matters may or may not fall within the scope of a general regime. Sections F, G, and H below are designed to accommodate these different approaches.

F. Specific vs general rules of recognition and enforcement

20.	Please indicate the types of rules available in your jurisdiction for the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders. <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate, as well as references and links where available</i> ☐ My jurisdiction applies specific rules³ of recognition and enforcement to foreign protection orders coming from: ☐ Any jurisdiction ☒ Specified jurisdictions (please specify)⁴: EU - Member States - for further details see the reply of the European Commission I. Protection Against Domestic Violence Act - Chapter Three “Measures for ensuring protection on the grounds of Regulation (EU) No 606/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters” II. European Protection Order Act - implementing Directive 2011/99/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the European protection order ☒ My jurisdiction applies general rules⁵ of recognition and enforcement to foreign protection orders If you ticked both boxes on specific and general rules of recognition and enforcement, please explain: The Private International Law Code is potentially relevant to civil protection orders from non-EU States, provided that the measure can be characterised as a foreign judgment or act in a private-law matter^{her}. ☐ My jurisdiction is currently not capable of recognising and enforcing foreign protection orders
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G. Specific rules of recognition and enforcement for protection orders

Please complete this section if foreign protection orders can be recognised and enforced (in full or in part) under a specific set of rules in your jurisdiction.

³ Please complete section G below.

⁴ Please complete section H below, if applicable.

⁵ Please complete section H below.

21.	If your jurisdiction has a specific set of rules for the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders, how is it determined whether a foreign protection order falls within the scope of your jurisdiction's specialised recognition and enforcement regime/rules? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Based on which authority issued the order Please insert text here ☐ Based on the content of the order Please insert text here ☐ Based on a certificate / abstract / other document accompanying the order (please specify): Please insert text here ☐ Based on certification on the order itself (e.g., by way of a stamp or seal) Please insert text here ☐ Based on which jurisdiction issued the order (i.e., State or territorial unit of a State) Please insert text here ☐ Based on an authority's full assessment of all relevant information (please specify): Please insert text here ☐ No determination is necessary for foreign protection orders to be recognised and enforced Please insert text here ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here
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22.	Are foreign protection orders recognised and enforced automatically (by operation of law) in your jurisdiction? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes, it is recognised and enforced on simple presentation of the relevant documents (please specify): ☐ The order in and of itself ☐ The order with the stamp / seal of the issuing authority ☐ Certificate ☐ Abstract ☐ Other accompanying document (please specify): Please insert text here ☐ No, recognition and enforcement takes place once the following step(s) has / have been taken: ☐ Registration ☐ Certification in the jurisdiction where the order is to be recognised and / or enforced ☐ Authentication / verification in the jurisdiction where the order is to be recognised and / or enforced
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	☐ Other judicial procedure (please specify): Please insert text here
	☐ Other administrative procedure (please specify): Please insert text here
	Please indicate the language(s) in which the accompanying documents must be submitted in your jurisdiction: Please insert text here

23.	Is there a time limit for the recognition and enforcement of a foreign protection order in your jurisdiction? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes (please specify): Please insert text here
	☐ No

24.	If registration is not required in your jurisdiction, can foreign protection orders nevertheless be registered? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes - please explain how this registration is done: Please insert text here
	☐ No Please insert text here

25.	Are there any restrictions to the effect of the recognition of a foreign protection order in your jurisdiction (e.g., if the foreign protection order does not correspond to the types of protection orders available in your jurisdiction or if the specified sanctions for a breach of the order cannot be applied in your jurisdiction)? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes Please insert text here
	☐ No Please insert text here

26.	Can foreign protection orders be adjusted / modified in your jurisdiction? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes, without any limitations
	☐ Yes, with certain limitations (please specify): ☐ Factual elements of the order (e.g., address)

	Please insert text here ☐ Geographic scope of the order (e.g., distances, locations) Please insert text here ☐ Duration of the order Please insert text here ☐ The person(s) allowed to seek the adjustment / modification (e.g., only the intended protected person) Please insert text here ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here ☐ No
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27.	How do you deal with foreign protection orders that do not have a direct equivalent in your jurisdictions' legal system? Please provide information on whether such orders can / need to be adapted in order to be recognised and enforced in your jurisdiction and if the modalities of enforcement also can / must be adapted (e.g., enforcement by courts in your jurisdiction as opposed to police in the jurisdiction where the order was issued). Please insert text here
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28.	Is it possible to object to the recognition and enforcement of a foreign protection order? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes Please specify who can object: ☐ A competent authority <i>ex officio</i> Please insert text here ☐ The person against whom the protection order is issued Please insert text here ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here Please list all available grounds on which the recognition and enforcement of the foreign protection order can be refused: Please insert text here ☐ No
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29.	Is the recognition and / or enforcement of a foreign protection order subject to appeal in your jurisdiction? ☐ Yes
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☐ No

H. General rules of recognition and enforcement in civil and commercial matters

Please complete this section if foreign protection orders can be recognised and enforced (in full or in part) under your jurisdiction's general rules of recognition and enforcement in civil and commercial matters.

30. What are the general rules for the recognition and enforcement of civil and commercial judgments, including foreign protection orders, in your jurisdiction?
- ☒ Foreign protection orders are recognised automatically (by operation of law)
 - ☐ Foreign protection orders are subject to a formal recognition and enforcement procedure filed with a competent authority
 - ☒ Foreign protection orders and relevant / accompanying documents need to be accompanied by a certified translation in the language(s) of the requested State
 - ☒ Foreign protection orders need to be certified by a competent authority from the State of origin
 - ☒ Foreign protection orders are subject to legalisation or a similar formality
 - ☒ Foreign protection orders are subject to an *exequatur* procedure
 - ☐ Foreign protection orders need to be registered with a competent authority
 - ☐ There are no general rules for the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders
 - ☐ Other rule(s) (please specify):
[Please insert text here](#)

31. Can foreign protection orders be adjusted / modified in your jurisdiction?
Provide additional details where appropriate.
- ☐ Yes, without any limitations
 - ☐ Yes, with certain limitations (please specify):
 - ☐ Factual elements of the order (e.g., address)
[Please insert text here](#)
 - ☐ Geographic scope of the order (e.g., distances, locations)
[Please insert text here](#)
 - ☐ Duration of the order
[Please insert text here](#)
 - ☐ The person(s) allowed to seek the adjustment / modification (e.g., only the intended protected person)
[Please insert text here](#)
 - ☐ Other (please specify):
[Please insert text here](#)
 - ☒ No

32.	How do you deal with foreign protection orders that do not have a direct equivalent in your jurisdictions' legal system? Please provide information on whether such orders can / need to be adapted in order to be recognised and enforced in your jurisdiction and if the modalities of enforcement also can / must be adapted (e.g., enforcement by courts in your jurisdiction as opposed to police in the jurisdiction where the order was issued). Where a foreign protection order has no enforceable equivalent or is insufficiently precise for enforcement under Bulgarian procedural law, the general regime contains no express adaptation mechanism. The protected person may therefore need to seek a new protection measure under Bulgarian law.
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33.	Is it possible to object to the recognition and enforcement of a foreign protection order? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Yes Please specify who can object: ☒ A competent authority <i>ex officio</i> Article 117 of the Code on Private International Law ☐ The person against whom the protection order is issued Please insert text here ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here Please list all available grounds on which the recognition and enforcement of the foreign protection order can be refused: Please Articles 117–121 require consideration of: • international jurisdiction of the foreign authority; • proper service and respect for the respondent's defence rights; • absence of an irreconcilable Bulgarian judgment; • absence of an earlier pending Bulgarian proceeding; • compatibility with Bulgarian public policy. ☐ No
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34.	Is the recognition and / or enforcement of a foreign protection order subject to appeal in your jurisdiction? ☒ Yes ☐ No
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IV. Future developments in the area

35.	Are there any legislative developments planned or contemplated in your jurisdiction pertaining to (foreign) protection orders? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i>
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	☐ Legislative changes in progress Please insert text here
	☐ Legislative changes under consideration Please insert text here
	☒ No legislative changes planned at the moment Please insert text here
	☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here

V. Electronic resources

Please use the space below to provide any links to useful and relevant online resources.

36.	Please insert text here
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VI. Other comments

Please use the space below to provide any additional information pertaining to the recognition and enforcement of (foreign) protection orders in your jurisdiction. You may also wish to make any suggestions pertaining to the work of the WG on REPO (general comments or specific comments in advance of the first WG meeting in November 2026).

37.	Please insert text here
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