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**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE
(CDDG)**

**WORK PROGRESS OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON ACCOUNTABILITY**




Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate General of Democracy
Democratic Governance Division

Introduction

The present document provides information on the state of implementation of specific task iii. of the [Terms of reference](#) of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) for the biennium 2020-2021.

For the implementation of this specific task, a working group on accountability (GT-RE) has been set up. A [restricted webspace](#) has been set up to ensure that all CDDG members can have access to the working documents of the working group and contribute to its activities remotely. All publications can be found there, including additional documents such as the presentations by experts, current research studies and contributions made available by the member States themselves.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the workplan of GT-RE had to be adapted to take into consideration changes of working methods (with the organisation of videoconference meetings) and to the schedule.

Specific task	Current status	Planning of future work	Coordination with other Council of Europe bodies
<p>(iii) Draft a recommendation for the Committee of Ministers on democratic accountability of elected officials and bodies at local and regional level with a view to complementing Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)3 on the supervision of local authorities' activities and updating previous work in this area.</p>	<p>The preparation of a draft recommendation is under way. The GT-RE held its first meeting on 13-14 February 2020, which involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A <i>tour de table</i> on accountability mechanisms concerning elected officials and bodies at local and regional level in the respective countries and examining a list of questions intended to guide the work and shape of the future Recommendation  <p>GT-RE(2020)2E-List of questions.docx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a presentation by Markku Mölläri (Finland) on the responsibility of municipal self-governments and local councils - a presentation on the Venice Commission's recent "Report on the recall of mayors and local elected representatives" (CDL-AD(2019)011rev) - a presentation on the outcomes of a meeting in 2019, with Ukrainian and international stakeholders on the accountability of local elected representatives in Ukraine.  <p>GT-RE(2020)3E-Accountability of local elect</p>	<p>During its second meeting, to take place by videoconference on 28 and 29 September, the GT-RE will resume its discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on the basis of replies to a questionnaire sent on 18 August to all CDDG members.  <p>Questionnaire Accountability elected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further exchanges of views including with Mr Arnaud Duranthon, Strasbourg University, who will prepare a study based on the replies. <p>The finalisation of the draft by the GT-RE and its subsequent adoption by the CDDG is scheduled for the second half of 2021.</p>	<p>Interaction with other Council of Europe bodies issuing standards, reports and other work of interest to the GT-RE – see the presentation on the Venice Commission's report on 14 February which was done by Pierre Garrone from the VC's Secretariat - will be continued.</p> <p>Particular attention will be paid throughout the GT-RE's work to the activity of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.</p>

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ACCOUNTABILITY

CHAIR / PRESIDENT

M. Paul-Henri PHILIPS, Coordinateur pour les Organisations Internationales, Relations multilatérales et Organisations Internationales

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Mr Peter ANDRE, Ministry of Interior, Senior Expert for Legal Affairs

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Mr Edwin LEFEBRE, Ministry of the Flemish Community, Agency for Home Affairs,

CZECH REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

Mr Petr SCHLESINGER, Deputy Director, Department of Strategic Development and Co-ordination of Public Administration, Ministry of Interior

DENMARK / DANEMARK

Ms Lise BRANDI-HANSEN

Senior consultant, Ministry of Social Affairs and the interior

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI, Ministerial adviser, Department for Local Affairs and Regional Administration, Ministry of Finance

GREECE / GRECE

Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS, Directorate of Organisation and Functioning of Local Government, Ministry of the Interior

ICELAND / ISLANDE

Mr Björn Ingi ÓSKARSSON, Department of Local Government and Regional Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Local Government

ITALY / ITALIE

Mr Francesco GIUSTINO, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, D.A.R.A. - Ufficio Attività Internazionali

SLOVAK REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE

Ms Nad'a KURILOVÁ, Local Self-Government Unit, Local State Administration, Self-Government and Foreign Relations Department, Public Administration Section, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Ms Helena KAVČIČ, Local Self-Government Service, Ministry of Public Administration

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Ms Ana Cristina LÓPEZ LÓPEZ, Technical Advisor, General Secretary of Territorial Coordination, Ministry of Territorial Policy and Public Function

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI

Mr Paul ROWSELL, Head of Governance Reform and Democracy Unit, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government