

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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

**REPORT OF THE 12th PLENARY MEETING
25-27 NOVEMBER 2020, by videoconference**

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

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Mr Markku Mölläri (Vice-Chair, Finland), Chair ad interim, opened the meeting and welcomed members and other participants. The list of participants appears in Appendix I. The Committee adopted its agenda as it appears in Appendix II.

2. Information on recent activities and developments

The Chair ad interim gave an overview of the activities and matters discussed in the Bureau during its last two meetings and referred members and participants to documents [CDDG-Bu\(2020\)29](#) and [CDDG-Bu\(2020\)36](#) for further information.

Exchange of views with Ms Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance

Ms Luciani praised the Committee for the volume and pertinence of its work in the present circumstances. She referred in particular to the preparation of two studies on the impact of technologies on governance and on elections, welcoming the efforts made to provide common conceptual frameworks and definitions, as well as the finalisation of a study on governance and Covid-19. The latter showed how the crisis had challenged competencies in member States. The experience gathered would, no doubt, be useful for the management of other crisis in future, for instance regarding the environment.

Ms Luciani briefed the Committee about the recent adoption of the [Athens Declaration](#) by the Committee of Ministers at its 130th session, which showed in particular that the impact of technologies on human rights was an important preoccupation which called for solutions to be found. Ms Luciani also referred to the strategic framework on future priorities recently presented by the Secretary General, to be discussed by the Committee of Ministers in January. She encouraged delegations to feed into the process to ensure that all the priorities be covered. Finally, she stressed her support for the CDDG continuing to strengthen its role in the field of democracy.

In the ensuing discussion, CDDG members referred to the fact that the last 12 months had demonstrated once again the relevance of the Committee's work and to the need to provide for some flexibility in its mandate to enable it to respond more rapidly to new emerging subject-matters. The distribution of competencies at national level in relation to major crises, discussed in the CDDG's report on Covid-19, was a good example. CDDG members also thanked the Secretariat for its continuous and effective support in the special circumstances due to the pandemic and despite its consequences on the Committee's work.

Information by the Secretariat

The Secretariat presented the order of business. Given the importance of active participation of CDDG members for the ownership and quality of work, ample opportunities for discussion and presentations had been provided including under the new agenda item on information by members on recent national developments.

The CDDG took note of the information and the order of business.

3. Test of the voting system

The Secretariat explained the modalities of the Kudo electronic voting system. A test of the system took place.

Prior to the meeting, the seven candidates had submitted a short resume which were compiled in document [CDDG\(2020\)30](#). In addition to taking note of this information, the CDDG heard a short oral presentation by each candidate.

4. State of implementation of the CDDG activities according to its terms of reference 2020-2021

Democracy and technology

The Committee heard an oral report by Mr Peter Andre, Rapporteur on democracy and technology, on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) and its working groups, in which he participated as the representative of the CDDG. The CDDG took note of the information.

The Committee heard an oral presentation by Mr Almir Šahović, Chair of the Working Group on democracy and technology (GT-DT) on the overall progress of work, as summarised in document [CDDG\(2020\)15](#) and detailed in the reports of the 2nd and 3rd meeting of the GT-DT (documents [GT-DT\(2020\)8](#) and [GT-DT\(2020\)10](#)). The Committee took note of the progress of work.

As regards task i "Preparation of a study on the impact of digital transformation on democracy and good governance", the Committee held a first exchange of views on the preliminary study which had been drafted by the GT-DT on the basis of contributions of members of the Working Group, hearings with experts and the expert contribution by Prof. Ines Mergel (University of Konstanz). Prof. Mergel gave a presentation on digital transformation in public administrations in which she illustrated the creation of public value through digital transformation, the steps of the transformation process and factors of success, e.g. conducting digital maturity assessments and drawing lessons thereof, building digital competences in-house, etc.

The Committee invited its members to send comments, contributions and case studies to the Secretariat by 31 December 2020.

As regards task ii “Developing standards on new technologies and the different stages of the electoral process (including voter registration, transmission and tabulation of results, etc.) in the form of a Committee of Ministers’ recommendation or guidelines”, the Committee held a discussion and shared the views of the GT-DT that the final result should be draft Committee of Ministers’ guidelines, rather than a draft recommendation.

The Committee examined the text of a draft questionnaire on new technologies and the different stages of the electoral process, revised it and approved it.

Because of the specificity of the subject matter and in order to gather the best and most updated information possible, the Committee discussed how best to disseminate the questionnaire so as to reach out to bodies with dedicated responsibility and expertise in electoral matters, such as the ministries responsible for internal affairs and the so-called Election Management Bodies (central election commissions etc.). The CDDG decided that the questionnaire should be sent to its members with the request that they consult competent bodies within their countries, including Election Management Bodies. The CDDG also agreed that replies should be transmitted to the Secretariat by 31 December 2020.

Democratic accountability

The Committee heard a presentation by Mr Paul-Henri Philips, Chair of the Working Group on accountability (GT-RE), on the progress of work of the GT-RE, as summarised in document [CDDG\(2020\)18](#) and detailed in the report of the GT-RE’s 2nd meeting (document [GT-RE\(2020\)6](#)). It also heard a presentation by Associate Professor Arnaud Duranthon (Strasbourg University), who is assisting the working group as a scientific expert. In his oral presentation, he provided an updated analysis of the replies to the questionnaire on the accountability of local and regional elected officials and bodies. He referred to general trends emerging from the various national legal traditions and situations and pointed out in particular the importance of agreeing on common concepts. Discussions held so far had allowed to clarify progressively the scope of the future recommendation and that the various forms of accountability could be grouped into three main categories (political, legal and managerial accountability).

The Committee took note of the progress of work and of the information. It encouraged its members who had not yet done so to reply to the questionnaire by 31 December 2020 and to submit by the same deadline any relevant information, including examples of legislation and case studies which could be useful for the GT-RE's drafting work concerning the future recommendation and the accompanying explanatory report.

Covid-19 and democratic governance

The CDDG heard a presentation by the Secretariat on the final version of the draft report on "Democratic Governance and Covid-19". The Secretariat recalled that the draft had been prepared based on contributions from CDDG members collected through a questionnaire and discussions during the thematic meeting of 18 June, the Bureau meetings and the 11th CDDG meeting. Key messages had been compiled and progressively adjusted in the executive summary and additional chapters had been included at the end of the report, and subsequently updated to reflect the evolution of the crisis. The Bureau's view was that the report should be updated in the future to capture lessons learnt in relation to the management of the crisis in all its stages and its consequences.

During the discussion, a few changes were suggested regarding certain key messages and the content of the report, in particular to further highlight the importance of complying with the Council of Europe's fundamental values and standards, to emphasise the interim nature of the report, and to refer more specifically to the impact of the crisis on civil society's involvement in the management of the crisis and its consequences. The Committee approved the report for publication, as modified following this discussion. It decided to provide an update by the end of 2021, with a view to reflecting the evolution of the response to the pandemic by Council of Europe member States.

Stocktaking, exchange of views on priorities, and work plan for 2021

The Secretariat presented the overall state of implementation of the CDDG's activities for 2020-2021 according to its terms of reference, as outlined in document [CDDG\(2020\)21](#) as well as the draft work plan for 2021, contained in document [CDDG\(2020\)22](#) in a table with dates for the Bureau, plenary and working group meetings. Despite the context of the pandemic, the CDDG had managed to hold and even exceed the plans in some respect – especially with regard to the ad hoc work on Covid-19. This had been possible thanks to the greater involvement of the Bureau (which had met nearly every month) and to the extensive use of new videoconference possibilities. As a result, the Committee was halfway through its objectives and it would be in a position to complete the work conducted by the working group in 2021 (see information above). Meetings scheduled in the beginning of 2021 were most likely to be held on-line as pointed out in the draft work plan. The Secretariat reiterated that members wishing to contribute to the work of the GT-DT and GT-RE notably by submitting case studies, legal texts and other information should do so by the end of the year.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed satisfaction with the progress made despite the context of the pandemic. They also expressed appreciation for the support of the Secretariat, which had made the achievement of progress possible despite difficult and evolving working conditions, and they asked that this be reflected explicitly in the meeting report.

Some members sought clarification on the possibility of reviewing the terms of reference and to include tasks which have been discussed previously or incidentally, such as in relation to the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance or holding a review meeting on the implementation of Recommendation (2017)5 on standards for e-voting. The Secretariat explained that any such changes should preferably be envisaged after the end of the current biennium 2020-2021, once the main objectives had been achieved. It also emphasised the possibilities for the CDDG to carry out tasks that fell under its general mandate, as it had been the case for the work on Covid-19, and to be more flexible in its working methods, for instance by appointing additional rapporteurs, setting up informal working parties and holding online consultations.

As regards the activities of the GT-DT in 2021, it was found that the scheduling of work might be too tight to enable the finalisation of the various tasks as foreseen by the original work plan. As a result, the Committee agreed to adjust the work plan for 2021 to provide for some flexibility in respect of the GT-DT's tasks. The work plan was subsequently approved with those amendments. The Committee also took note of the proposed timetable for 2021.

Presentation of ongoing reforms by members of the CDDG

The Committee heard presentations by members from Albania, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, the United Kingdom on ongoing reforms in their respective countries in areas falling under the mandate of the CDDG. These concerned such matters as the benefits of digitalisation reforms in the administration implemented prior to the health crisis, the process of amalgamation of municipalities (e.g. Belgium/Flanders, Iceland), the importance of an adequate legal framework to support on-line meetings of municipal authorities, the reform of the health system and other public sector areas, the recent creation of a new electronic system enabling political parties to collect more easily via a dedicated portal the number of voter support declarations needed in order to participate in elections and present candidates (Denmark), the greater involvement of territorial components of the State in central decision-making (United Kingdom).

Several members expressed appreciation for this new item on the CDDG agenda, which fostered the active participation of members and the timely information on ongoing national developments which could be of interest for other members.

Promoting democratic governance through shared experience

The Committee held **exchanges of views with three high-level representatives of Finland, Germany and the Slovak Republic.**

Mr Jari Partanen, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance of Finland, highlighted how his country is using the Council of Europe's 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance as a framework and checklist to guide ongoing administration reforms. He also referred to the creation of a new regional level involving a transfer and consolidation of competences in the field of health and social services from the municipalities. Mr Partanen provided many examples of initiatives in relation to the Principles and stressed that serving citizens better and providing value for money was an important overall objective for administrations.

Mr Markus Richter, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community of Germany, presented his country's approach to digitalisation of the public sector, and his special coordinating role in this respect as the Federal Commissioner for Information Technology. He referred to the use of pilot projects based on partnerships (called "digitization tandems") between the federal government and states, and to the importance of involving citizens in the design and testing of digitalised services, for instance in labs which bring together users, IT specialists, administration staff, and legal experts. Mr Richter emphasized that work was based on a simple, convincing concept called the 'one for all' collaborative approach, allowing all those involved to contribute in the area in which they have most expertise.

Mr Jàn Lazar, State Secretary, Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, shared with the CDDG members his country's plans and vision on improving local self-government. He stressed that there is an ever-growing need expressed by the people to participate in the decision-making processes. Mr Lazar highlighted and praised the cooperation with the Council of Europe's Centre of Expertise in the implementation of several recent on-line training sessions focused on developing institutional leadership skills of mayors. He pointed out that the training activities had generated most interest among the mayors from medium-sized villages and small cities, also due to their easily accessible online form, and that the subject of crisis management had been particularly appreciated by all participants.

In the discussion which followed, members sought additional information and views on issues such as the integration of increased responsibility and accountability in administrative reforms; ways to develop key skills and capacities of local officials; ways to encourage reforms at local level including attendance of training and amalgamations of municipalities; the development of teleworking in public administrations and risks connected with this; ways to overcome the reluctance of citizens to use e-signatures. The three speeches can be found [here](#).

The Committee also held an **exchange of views with Mr Sean Dougherty, Coordinator of the OECD Network on Fiscal Relations**. Mr Dougherty gave a presentation on recent research work of the OECD on the impact of COVID-19 on public authorities of all levels and access to health services. He pointed out that most central governments were taking action to compensate for the deterioration of subnational fiscal situations (especially by means of extra-ordinary grants, loans and guarantees). The management of the crisis had required increased coordination efforts through existing or new bodies but overall, coordination remained a challenge in many areas. Many lessons learnt and innovative features would last beyond the crisis. In the ensuing discussions, members and participants commented about the importance of the OECD's work and referred to recent economic and financial projections on the consequence of the crisis. The Chair highlighted the benefits of developing existing interactions between the OECD and the CDDG.

6. Exchange of views with Mr Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Mr Andreas Kiefer praised the continued cooperation with the CDDG and its working groups. He gave an update on the Congress' activities, including work done in respect of the consequences of the pandemic in the various committees, the holding of a conference on 7 December with high level participants to discuss the local and regional dimension of the crisis and the implications of the Athens declaration. The Congress had recently published a "contemporary commentary" to complement the explanatory report of the Charter of local self-government and adapted its working methods to the context of the pandemic with the development of off-site activities (for the monitoring of elections, but also monitoring activities). Plans for 2021 include the preparation of a comprehensive study on the management of the pandemic and its consequences at the various stages as well as work on the relations between assemblies and holders of executive functions at local and regional level.

In the ensuing discussion, members underlined the importance of the Congress' election observation missions and sought Mr Kiefer's views on ways to develop further the interactions between the Congress and the CDDG. They underlined the importance of close cooperation and coordination between the two bodies and expressed the wish for a close involvement of the Congress in the work of GT-RE.

7. Activities of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance

The Secretariat gave a presentation on the work and achievements of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance in 2020, as outlined in the Centre's annual activity report (document [CDDG\(2020\)23](#)). It thanked members who had made positive comments about the cooperation of their country with the Centre. As regards the EloGE label in particular, 20 Council of Europe member countries were now running activities based on this label, which was an important tool to share a common vision of good governance also at the local level.

CDDG members commented in positive terms on their country's experience with the Centre and praised particularly the work done in the context of peer reviews, which involved several members of the CDDG. The CDDG approved the activity report.

The Committee heard a presentation on the new toolkit on "Emergency resilience and preparedness" (document [CDDG\(2020\)24](#)) by Mr Daniele Del Bianco, expert of the Centre, which had just been finalised and had a particular significance for the CDDG given its own work on public crisis management (see the report on Covid-19 and democratic governance above). In his presentation, Mr Del Bianco referred i.a. to the benefits of the document as an awareness-raising, analytical, planning and learning tool. The Committee also heard a presentation on a new draft toolkit on teleworking (document [CDDG\(2020\)25](#)), given by one of its drafters, Ms Agnes Uherezky, expert of the Centre. She explained that even though the context and methodology used had been largely influenced by the pandemic and its consequences, the content was of general application and could support the development of teleworking irrespective of crisis situations.

In the ensuing discussion, members sought clarification on the measurement methodology used in the toolkit on emergency resilience and preparedness, and commented on the benefits, challenges and limits of teleworking as well as its impact on gender equality and people with disabilities. The Committee took note of the above presentations and toolkits. The Secretariat indicated that delegations wishing to send comments or contributions to the draft toolkit on teleworking should do so as soon as possible.

8. Activities of the Elections and Civil Society Division

The annual report of the Election and Civil Society Division for the year 2020 (document [CDDG\(2020\)26](#)), which was submitted for the first time to the CDDG, was presented by Mr François Friedrich, Head of Division. The Division had conducted various activities in the fields of cooperation in electoral matters, and in support of increased civil participation, in particular in respect of Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. A number of toolkits and publications had been produced, for instance on "Electoral dispute resolution", "Elections.Digital technologies. Human Rights", "Countering the misuse of administrative resources". E-learning tools have been developed, especially given the Covid-19 context. The annual report also provides updated information on the content and use of the electoral database "Elecdata". CDDG members welcomed the opportunity to have an oversight of the activities of the Division as these are closely related to the subject of democratic governance and since all activities on democratic participation had been brought together under the responsibility of one department in the Secretariat structure, in order to give the CDDG a greater role. The Committee approved the annual report.

9. Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers

Ms Eleni Kallinikou (Greece) gave an overview about the results the Greek Chairmanship (May-November 2020). In the context of the health crisis, the protection of human rights and public health had been a core subject. It had also led to many adaptations in the working methods, with a comprehensive use of virtual meetings, and the rescheduling of some activities of the Committee of Ministers. The 130th Session of the Committee of Ministers led to a final Declaration adopted on 4 November which stated clearly that the pandemic was a threat to human rights but also democracy and the rule of law.

Ms Cordula Woeste (Germany) briefed the Committee about the priorities of the German Chairmanship (November 2020-May 2021). Her country was committed to implementing the priorities for action identified by the Secretary General, including regarding the pandemic. Social and technological developments, as well as strengthening the Council of Europe's role on democracy, human rights and the rule of law and bringing it closer to citizens were of particular importance for the German presidency. A series of events would be organised, including in support of certain core treaties.

The Committee took note of the above information.

10. Activities of the Committee of Ministers and other Council of Europe bodies

The Secretariat provided the CDDG with an update on the main recent activities of other Council of Europe bodies of relevance for the work of the CDDG (summarised in document [CDDG\(2020\)27](#)), which overall, were frequently focused on the consequences of the pandemic for the various dimensions of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Secretariat drew the Committee's attention in particular to the Parliamentary Assembly's recent Recommendation 2179 (2020) and Resolution 2337 (2020) on "Democracies facing the Covid-19 pandemic" (adopted on 13 October) in which the Assembly invited the Committee of Ministers to develop "a checklist of parameters to enable the fullest democratic participation possible in situations of emergency" and "to prepare a recommendation with guidelines on multilevel governance and response to emergencies". The Secretariat pointed out that the CDDG would probably be consulted by the Committee of Ministers on a possible follow-up action.

Regarding the activities of the Committee of Ministers, the CDDG held an exchange of views with Ambassador Rasmus Lumi, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the Council of Europe, Thematic Coordinator on Information Policy (TC-INF) of the Ministers' Deputies. He explained his role to the Committee, welcomed its work on digital transformation and e-democracy and referred to a meeting he organised on 17 November in which the CDDG Secretariat had taken part. Ambassador Lumi informed the Committee of the entering into force – in December 2020 – of the Council of Europe Convention on access to official documents (CETS 205) which mirrored in many respects the importance of the 12 Principles on Good Democratic Governance (transparency, accountability, democratic participation). In the ensuing discussion, Ms Claudia Luciani provided additional information, for instance on the cooperation framework which had been established by the Organisation with private sector companies active in the field of communication technologies and artificial intelligence.

The CDDG also heard a presentation by Ms Sibel Arslan (Switzerland, SOC), PACE General Rapporteur on local and regional authorities, member of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development. She had been appointed to this position in June 2020. She considered that the topic of democratic governance offered many opportunities for cooperation between PACE and the CDDG including on a variety of subjects such as the peaceful coexistence between communities. Ms Arslan updated the Committee on the Assembly's [Europe Prize](#), which had been awarded every year since 1955 to municipalities for their actions in favour of the promotion of the European idea (the deadline for applications for the 2021 award was 15 January 2021). The Assembly was currently discussing with the Congress a possible joint event as a contribution to the World Forum for Democracy on representative democracy and climate. Ms Arslan expressed the hope that the CDDG would be able to contribute to it.

Mr Gerhard Ermischer provided an update on the reform process which had been initiated by the INGO Conference and which would provide it with new rules of procedure. The situation of NGOs in Belarus and other countries, and the need for better protection of women in crisis situations were current sources particular concern for the Conference.

The CDDG heard an update by the Secretariat on the [World Forum for Democracy](#), which had been replaced in 2020 by a series of events on the subject of "Can democracy save the environment". The campaign had been launched officially on 18 November. A website had been created with the important dates of the campaign in 2021 and the Secretariat offered to highlight in that context any contributions or relevant work by the CDDG and its members.

The Committee took note of the above information.

11. Gender mainstreaming in the work of the CDDG

The Committee heard presentations by its gender equality rapporteurs, Mr Edwin Lefebre (Belgium) and Ms Siobhan Smyth (United Kingdom) on their role as well as on gender mainstreaming opportunities in the CDDG's activities, as illustrated in information document [CDDG\(2020\)28](#). Members commented about the fact that the pandemic had had a disproportionate impact on women (unemployment, domestic violence etc), something also reflected in the CDDG's report on "Democratic Governance and Covid-19". Ms Smyth referred to opportunities for gender mainstreaming in such areas as language, content and substance of documents, as well as the working methods of the CDDG.

The Committee endorsed this suggestion and agreed to consider, at one of its next meetings, internal guidelines on ways to strengthen gender mainstreaming in its work.

12. Elections of the Bureau of the CDDG for 2021

The CDDG should elect the Chair, Vice-Chair and four Bureau members, in accordance with the existing situation of positions to be filled for 2021 as presented in document [CDDG\(2020\)13rev](#). Following a test of the e-voting system and the presentation of candidates (see item 3 above), two of the candidates withdrew fully or partly from the election. This had a cascading effect which resulted in the number of candidates matching the number of members to be elected for each vacant position. As a result, there was no need to proceed with a formal vote.

The Committee thus elected by acclamation Mr Markku Mölläri (Finland) as Chair, Mr Peter Andre (Austria) as Vice-Chair, as well as Ms Albana Koçiu (Albania), Mr Francesco Giustino (Italy), Mr Edwin Lefebre (Belgium, Flanders) and Ms Stefania Traustadóttir (Iceland) as Bureau members.

13. The Rapid Response Service (RRS)

The CDDG heard a presentation by the Secretariat, supported by a memorandum (document [CDDG\(2020\)29](#)), concerning the need to increase the visibility of the Rapid Response Service (RRS) and to simplify the management / dissemination of information collected by the Secretariat. The RRS, which enabled a CDDG delegation by means of a questionnaire to gather comparative information on the situation and experience of other countries, had become a success story over the years. The RRS was also one of the parameters which were taken into account by the Committee of Ministers to measure to what extent the CDDG carried out its mandate effectively. Moreover, increasingly, the member States who replied to the RRS asked to receive the replies of the other member States.

Members discussed the various options presented in the above-mentioned memorandum. There was unanimous support for increasing the visibility of the RRS. However, making all responses publicly available could have various counter-productive effects.

As a result of the discussion, the CDDG agreed that: basic information on the RRS should be included in the CDDG website; responses should remain for the exclusive use of CDDG members; and information submitted by respondent countries would be made available to CDDG members other than the requesting country unless a country objected.

14. Other business

None.

15. Adoption of the abridged meeting report

The Secretariat guided the CDDG through the draft abridged report, which was adopted with a few small additions and corrections. CDDG members would receive in the following days the full version of the meeting report.

The Chair thanked participants, the Secretariat and the interpreters. He closed the meeting.

APPENDIX I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****MEMBERS / MEMBRES****CHAIR AD INTERIM / PRESIDENT AD INTERIM**

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

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms Albana KOÇIU, Director of the Department of Public Administration

Mr Ened KËRÇINI, Director of Public Administration Reform Programmes

Ms Arvena DEDA

ARMENIA / ARMENIE

Mr Vache TERTERYAN, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Yerevan

Ms Lilit SAROYAN, Yerevan

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

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

Mag. Stefan GÖLLER, Legal expert, Office of the Vienna Provincial Government, Department for European Affairs, Wien

Mr Andreas GREITER

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

Mr Seymur NAGHIYEV, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Justice, Baku

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

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

Mr Edwin LEFEBRE, Deputy Director, Ministry of the Flemish Community, Agency for Home Affairs, Brussels, Belgium

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

Ambassador Almir ŠAHOVIĆ, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

Ms Dragana KREMENOVIC KUSMUK

BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Mr Valery NAYDENOV, Head of Department "Administrative territorial structure", Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Sofia

Mr Mihail VASILEV, Department "Administrative territorial structure", Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Sofia

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Mr Antonis ECONOMIDES, Head of Local Government Directorate, Ministry of the Interior, Nicosia

Ms Kakia DEMETRIOU, Administrative Officer A, Local Government Directorate, Ministry of the Interior, Nicosia

CZECH REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

Mr Petr FEJTEK, Senior Administrative Advisor, Department for Strategic Development and Coordination of Public Administration, Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, Praha

CROATIA / CROATIE

Ms Leda LEPRI, MA, Senior advisor-specialist Ministry of Justice and Public Administration

DENMARK / DANEMARK

Mr Mads HOLT, Administrative Officer, Department of Public Administrative Law, Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior, Copenhagen

ESTONIA / ESTONIE

Ambassador Rasmus LUMI, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the Council of Europe, Thematic Coordinator on Information Policy (TC-INF) of the Ministers' Deputies

Ms Ave VIKS, Regional Administration Policy Department, Ministry of Finance

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Mr Jari PARTANEN, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance

FRANCE

Mme Mathilde CISOWSKI, Chargée d'études juridiques, Bureau des structures territoriales (CIL2), Sous-direction des compétences et des institutions locales, Direction générale des collectivités locales, Ministère de l'Intérieur, Paris

GEORGIA / GEORGIE

Mr Giorgi DIDIDZE, Head of Department of Regional and Mountainous Areas Development, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Tbilisi

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

Mr Markus RICHTER, State Secretary and Federal Commissioner for Information Technology, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

Dr Cordula WOESTE, Deputy Head of Unit, Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, Division H II 1, Berlin

Ms Anna WASSENBERG, Representative of the German Länder, Ministerium des Innern und für Sport, Mainz

Mr Florian DRUCKENTHNER

GREECE / GRECE

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

Ms Eleni KALLINIKOU, Head of the Bureau of the Permanent General Secretary & Expert within the independent department of International and European relations, Ministry of Interior of the Hellenic Republic, Athens

HUNGARY / HONGRIE

Mr David KOJSZA, Officer for International Relations, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet of the State Secretariat for Public Service, Budapest

ICELAND / ISLANDE

Mrs Stefanía TRAUSTADÓTTIR, Senior Advisor, Local Government, Department of Local Government and Regional Policy, Ministry of Transport and Local Government, Reykjavík

ITALY / ITALIE

Mr Francesco GIUSTINO, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Ufficio Attività Internazionali, Roma

LATVIA / LETTONIE

Ms Agnese PABERZA DRAUDINA, senior expert, Local Governments Department, Local Governments Supervision Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Riga

LITHUANIA / LITUANIE

Mr Paulius SKARDŽIUS, Senior Adviser, Ministry of the Interior, Vilnius

LUXEMBOURG

M. David WEIS, Représentant Permanent adjoint du Luxembourg auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

M. Pol HENROTTE, Conseiller de Gouvernement, adjoint, Ministère de l'Intérieur, Direction de la sécurité civile

MALTA / MALTE

Mr Natalino ATTARD, Director General (Local Government), Local Government Division, Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government, Valletta

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA

Mr Adrian ERMURACHI, Deputy Secretary General of the Government, Chisinau

Ms Daniela SORAHMETOV

MONTENEGRO

Apologised for absence/Excusée

NORTH MACEDONIA / MACEDOINE DU NORD

Ms Gordana GAPIKJ-DIMITROVSKA, State Advisor, the Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Skopje

NORWAY / NORVEGE

Ms Nina Britt BERGE, Senior Adviser, Department for Local Government, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Oslo

POLAND / POLOGNE

Ms Justyna PRZYWOJSKA, Expert for methodology of public services research, National Institute of Local Government

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Mr Mihai Adrian GROSAN, Chief of service, Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration, Directorate General of Public Administration, Romanian Government, Bucharest

RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

Mr Oleg YAKIMOVICH, First Secretary of the Department with the Subjects of the Federation, Parliament and Public Administrations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN

Ms Carlotta ANTONELLI, National Expert

SLOVAK REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE

Mr Jàn LAZAR, State Secretary, Ministry of the Interior

Ms Nad'a KURILOVÁ, Head of 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

Mr Jurij MEZEK, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Public Administration, Local Self-Government Service, Ljubljana

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

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SWEDEN / SUEDE

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Interpreters / Interprètes

Ms Sylvie BOUX
Ms Isabelle MARCHINI

APPENDIX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

2. Information on recent activities and developments

- Statement by the Chair ad interim
- Reports of Bureau meetings
- Exchange of views with Ms Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance
- Information by the Secretariat

3. Test of the voting system

- Presentations by candidates

4. State of implementation of the CDDG activities according to its terms of reference 2020-2021

4.1 Democracy and technology

- Reports of the 2nd and 3rd meeting of the Working Group on democracy and technology
- Report by Mr Peter Andre, CDDG Rapporteur, on developments at the CAHAI
- Progress of work

Task i: Impact of digital transformation on democracy and good governance

- Consideration of the study

Task ii: Develop standards on new technologies and the different stages of the electoral process (including voter registration, transmission and tabulation of results, etc.) in the form of a Committee of Ministers' recommendation or guidelines

- Questionnaire on elections

4.2 Democratic accountability

- Report of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on accountability
- Progress of work
- Consideration of the analysis of the replies to the questionnaire

4.3 Covid-19 and democratic governance

- Approval of a report
- Follow up

4.4 Stocktaking and exchange of views on priorities

4.5 Workplan for 2021

5. Promoting democratic governance through shared experience

5.1 Presentation of ongoing reforms by members of the CDDG

5.2 Exchange of views with high-level representatives of member States

- Mr Jari Partanen, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Finland
- Mr Markus Richter, State Secretary and Federal Commissioner for Information Technology, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, Germany
- Mr Ján Lazar, State Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Slovak Republic

5.3 Exchange of views with other international organisations

- Mr Sean Dougherty, OECD Network on Fiscal Relations

6. Activities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

- Exchange of views with Mr Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress

7. Activities of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance

- Approval of the annual report
- Emergency resilience and preparedness (presentation of the toolkit by Mr Daniele Bel Bianco, expert)
- Toolkit on Teleworking (presentation of the toolkit by Mr Zoltan Vadkerti and Ms Agnes Uhreczky, experts)

8. Activities of the Elections and Civil Society Division

- Approval of an annual report

9. Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers

- Stocktaking of the Greek Chairmanship (May-November 2020)
- Priorities of the German Chairmanship (November 2020-May 2021)

10. Activities of the Committee of Ministers and other Council of Europe bodies

10.1 Consideration of an information memorandum by the Secretariat

10.2 Exchange of views with Ambassador Rasmus Lumi, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the Council of Europe, Thematic Coordinator on Information Policy (TC-INF) of the Ministers' Deputies

10.3 Presentations on:

- Parliamentary Assembly
- INGOs Conference
- World Forum for Democracy

11. Gender mainstreaming in the work of the CDDG

- Consideration of an information memorandum

12. Elections of the Bureau of the CDDG for 2021

13. The Rapid Response Service (RRS)

- Consideration of a memorandum by the Secretariat and possible changes to the RRS

14. Other business

15. Adoption of the abridged meeting report