

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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CDDG(2021)28  
Item 10 of the agenda

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

### **ELECTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF THE CDDG FOR 2022-2023**

**Members are invited to take note of the information, in the perspective of elections to be held during the 14th meeting.**

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

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## Introduction

As a Council of Europe intergovernmental committee, the rules and working methods of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) are set out in [Resolution CM/Res\(2011\)24](#) of the Committee of Ministers, and as from 1 January 2022, by [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) which shall repeal the former. The rules of procedure of intergovernmental committees are set out in Appendix I to the Resolution. In accordance with these rules, the CDDG shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and may appoint a Bureau.

The rules of procedure stipulate that the role of the Chair is to “conduct proceedings and sum up the conclusions whenever he or she thinks necessary”. The Vice-Chair shall replace the Chair should the Chair be absent or otherwise unable to preside the meeting.

The functions of the Bureau are:

- to assist the Chair in conducting the committee’s business;
- to supervise the preparation of meetings at the committee’s request;
- to ensure continuity between meetings as necessary;
- to execute other additional specific tasks delegated by its Committee.

The term of office of the Chair and the Vice-Chair shall be one year and may be renewed once. The term of office of Bureau members is two years, which is the length the terms of reference of the committee. It may be renewed once. It should be emphasised that the introduction of quadrennial mandates as from 1 January 2022 does not affect the duration of Bureau members’ two-year term: committee mandates are still approved for two years, but with an additional provisional mandate for a further two years.

A Bureau member may, on expiry of her/his second term, be appointed Chair or Vice-Chair. In order to ensure partial replacement of the Bureau each year, the first term of at least one such member shall be limited to one year, renewable once (for the same duration).

A member elected to replace another whose term of office has not expired shall complete her/his predecessor’s term. The same shall apply to the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair.

The relevant excerpts from the rules of procedure of Council of Europe intergovernmental committees are set out in the Appendix I. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the CDDG Bureau has 7 members consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and 5 members.

## Current situation (for a broader overview, see the table in Appendix II)

At its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting (25-27 November 2020), the CDDG elected by acclamation

- Mr Markku Mölläri (Finland) as Chair, for one year (2021)
- Mr Peter Andre (Austria) as Vice-Chair, for one year (2021)
- and the following Bureau members, for one year, notably to fill positions which had become vacant in 2020 after the resignation of three members, and the resignation of one member who ran for the election of Vice-Chair:
  - Ms Albana Koçiu (Albania)
  - Mr Francesco Giustino (Italy)
  - Mr Edwin Lefebre (Belgium, Flanders)
  - Ms Stefania Traustadóttir (Iceland)

The seventh member, Mr Paul Rowsell (United Kingdom), was elected in 2019 for the period 2020-2021.

Since March 2020, the work of intergovernmental committees, including the CDDG, has taken place online because of the measures introduced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. IT technologies provide for the possibility to hold elections or votes both during meetings held completely on-line and meetings held in a hybrid format.

All positions on the Bureau become vacant in the end of 2021:

- **Chair** (the incumbent chair can run again for another term)
- **Vice-Chair** (the incumbent vice-chair can run again for another term)
- **five-Bureau members**: M. Edwin Lefebvre is completing in 2021 a second one-year term and M. Paul Rowsell is completing in 2021 a second two-year term; they can run again for elections of the Chair or Vice-Chair.

In order to ensure partial replacement of the Bureau each year, the first term of at least one of the five Bureau members to be elected shall be limited to one year.

Elections should ideally be held during the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting (29-30 November 2021), in which case members of the CDDG should put forward their candidatures in advance, e.g. **by 15 November 2021**, and present a short resume to be distributed to members. It is possible to be a candidate for more than one position. Candidates would be offered the opportunity to give an oral presentation under the item on elections of the agenda of the CDDG.

## **Voting**

Voting would take place electronically (via the KUDO platform) or – in case of a hybrid meeting where all participants in the room are not equipped with a laptop - in a combined method that ensures secrecy of the vote. In case of a combined method, tellers would be needed to deal with the votes cast in the meeting room and for summing up the results with those cast electronically. The Bureau has asked the Secretariat to enquire whether elections can be held in an easier and unified manner, especially through the Kudo platform for all participants, with computers being made available in the room, as necessary.

A test of the on-line voting system took place in November 2020. Another test could be organised as necessary, prior to these new elections, for instance on 29 November with the elections taking place on 30 November 2021.

Only one member of each country delegation has the right to vote. In respect of on-line voting, his/her name should be communicated to the Secretariat by 15 November 2021.

## APPENDIX I

### *Appendix 1 to Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3](#)*

#### **Extract from the Rules of procedure for Council of Europe intergovernmental committees**

##### *Article 12 – Chair*

- a. Every committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. However, the Chair of a subordinate body may be appointed by the steering or ad hoc committee to which it is answerable.
- b. The Chair shall conduct proceedings and sum up the conclusions whenever he or she thinks necessary. He or she may call to order a speaker who departs from the subject under discussion or from the committee's terms of reference. The Chair shall retain the right to speak and to vote in her/his capacity as a member of the committee, except in cases where an additional expert from the same country has been appointed to sit on that committee.
- c. The Vice-Chair shall replace the Chair if the latter is absent or otherwise unable to preside the meeting. If the Vice-Chair is absent, the Chair shall be replaced by another member of the Bureau, appointed by the latter or, where there is no Bureau, by a member of the committee appointed by the committee.
- d. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall require a two-thirds majority of members entitled to vote at the first ballot, a simple majority of members entitled to vote at the second ballot and the highest number of votes at the third ballot. In steering committees, the election shall be held by secret ballot, in other committees by a show of hands, unless a member of the committee requests a secret ballot.
- e. The term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be one year. It may be renewed once.

##### *Article 13 – Bureau*

a. Every steering and ad hoc committee may appoint a bureau consisting of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and a limited number of other members of the committee. The number of other members shall be specified in the committee's terms of reference. Any other committee may, if need be, appoint a bureau composed, normally, of not more than three members in addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair. The functions of the Bureau are:

- to assist the Chair in conducting the committee's business;
- to supervise the preparation of meetings at the committee's request;
- to ensure continuity between meetings as necessary;
- to execute other additional specific tasks delegated by its Committee.

b. The Bureau shall not function as a drafting committee, but may occasionally be given limited drafting tasks. No decision on substantive issues shall be taken by the Bureau on behalf of the committee. In exceptional cases and due to time constraint, the Bureau may have recourse to the tacit approval of all the members of the committee through electronic communication, in order to expedite procedure on decisions requested by the Committee of Ministers.

c. Other members of the Bureau shall be appointed in the same manner as the Chair and Vice-Chair. They shall be appointed immediately after the Chair and Vice-Chair in accordance with an equitable distribution of posts, taking into account in particular geographical distribution, gender balance and, where relevant, legal systems.

d. The term of office of such members shall correspond to the duration of the mandate of the committee and may be renewed once. However, a member may, on expiry of her/his second term, be appointed Chair or Vice-Chair. In order to ensure partial replacement of the Bureau each year, the first term of at least one such member shall be limited to one year.

e. A member elected to replace another whose term of office has not expired shall complete her/his predecessor's term. The same shall apply to the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair.

#### *Article 14 – Working methods*

a. Committees may appoint a rapporteur, a drafting committee or both. The provisions of this resolution shall apply mutatis mutandis to the functioning of a drafting committee.

b. Where necessary, in order to expedite the progress of their work, committees may entrust a rapporteur or a limited number of committee members with a specific task to be fulfilled by their next meeting, using primarily information technologies.

c. In exceptional cases, for specialised tasks that cannot be performed by a member of the committee or the Secretariat, committees may request the Secretary General to have recourse to consultants subject to the provisions of the resolution Res(2004)25[<sup>note<sup>1</sup></sup>] and within the limits of budgetary appropriations.

d. Time- and cost-efficiency shall be a guiding principle for committee work. Respecting the principles of this resolution, the committee shall prioritise best possible use of digital technologies including for meetings and written consultations.

e. Agenda items for information only shall be communicated to members in advance by electronic means allowing the committee to focus during its meeting on agenda items for decision.

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<sup>1</sup> In order to identify the most suitable consultants, the Secretary General should when appropriate consult members of relevant committees, national authorities including the Permanent Representations, professional associations and academic bodies (Res(2004)25, Article 9).

**APPENDIX II**  
**CDDG Bureau members since 2015**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Chair</b>	Mr Paul-Henri PHILIPS (Belgium)	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria)	Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria)	Ms Monika FILIPOVÁ (Slovak Republic) - <b>resigned</b>	Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI (Finland)	To be elected (the incumbent can run again)
<b>Vice-chair</b>	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Paul-Henri PHILIPS (Belgium)	Mr Paul-Henri PHILIPS (Belgium)	M. Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy)	M. Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy)	Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI (Finland)	Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria)	To be elected (the incumbent can run again)
<b>Other members</b>	Mr Alexander BALTHASAR (Austria)	Mr Alexander BALTHASAR (Austria)	[Mr Alexander BALTHASAR (Austria)]*	Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece)	Ms Monika FILIPOVÁ (Slovak Republic)	Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria)	Ms Albana KOCIU (Albania)	To be elected (the incumbent can run again)
	Ms Desislava DRAGOVA (Bulgaria)	Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece)	Mr Damien FERAILLE (France)	Mr Damien FERAILLE (France)	Ms Milica MARKOVIC (Serbia)	Ms Natalia LAS HERAS OLIETE (Spain) - <b>resigned</b>	Mr Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy)	To be elected (the incumbent can run again)
	Mr Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy)	Mr Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy)	Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece)	Ms Milica MARKOVIC (Serbia)	Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI (Finland)	Mr Edwin LEFEBRE (Belgium), for one year	Mr Edwin LEFEBRE (Belgium)	To be elected (the incumbent can run again for the position of Chair or Vice-Chair)
	[Ms Paqui SANTONJA (Spain)]* Ms Inga NYHOLM (Finland)	Ms Inga NYHOLM (Finland)	M. Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy)	Ms Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland)	Ms Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland)	Ms Milica MARKOVIC (Serbia) - <b>resigned</b>	Ms Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland)	To be elected (the incumbent can run again)
	Ms Greta ULLAND BILLING (Norway)	Ms Greta ULLAND BILLING (Norway)	[Ms Inga NYHOLM (Finland)]* Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria)	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	To be elected (the incumbent can run again for the position of Chair of Vice-Chair)

\* Replaced before the end of the term of office for the remainder of the mandate

*Elections of the Bureau of the CDDG for 2022*  
*[CDDG(2021)28]*