



Strasbourg, 26 October 2022

CDDG(2022)21
Item 10 of the agenda

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

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND ONE BUREAU MEMBER

Members are invited to take note of the information, in the perspective of elections to be held during the 16th meeting.

Candidates interested should inform the Secretariat by 21 November.

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\(2021\)3](#) which contains, as an appendix, the rules of procedure which regulate the election of the Chair, vice-Chair and other Bureau members. See annex 1 and 2 of the present document for selected relevant provisions and background information on the history of the Bureau composition. See also the [terms of reference of the CDDG](#).

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 Bureau is usually holding two 2-day meetings per year in Strasbourg (or at the CoE office in Paris) especially in order to prepare the upcoming CDDG meeting, and additional ad hoc meetings on-line any time the Bureau decides that particular matters require consideration.

In accordance with article 13 of the rules of procedure:

- The term of office of Bureau members (other than the Chair and Vice-Chair) "shall correspond to the duration of the [2 years¹] 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."
- Moreover, "a member elected to replace another whose term of office has not expired shall complete her/his predecessor's term. (...)"
- Elections in steering committees (like the CDDG) take place by secret vote.

At its 14th meeting (29-30 November 2021), the CDDG elected:

- as Chair: Mr Paul Rowsell (United Kingdom) for 1 year;
- as Vice-Chair: Mr Edwin Lefebre (Belgium, Flemish Region) for 1 year;
- as Bureau members: Mr Peter Andre (Austria) for 2 years, Ms Monika Kurian (Slovak Republic) for 2 years, Ms Gordana Gapikj-Dimitrovska (North Macedonia) for 2 years, Mr Markku Mölläri (Finland) for 2 years, Ms Stefania Traustadóttir (Iceland) for a 1-year term.

At its 15th meeting, following the resignation of Ms Monika Kurian and Ms Stefania Traustadóttir, the CDDG elected Ms Puck Gorrissen (Netherlands) to complete the term of Ms Kurian, and Mr Georgios Chrysafis (Greece) to complete the term of Ms Traustadóttir.

The CDDG is thus invited to hold elections in order to designate its Chair and vice-Chair (each for one year) and one Bureau member (for one year) as the terms of Mr Rowsell, Mr Lefebre and Mr Chrysafis are coming to an end in 2022. All three can be reelected.

¹ The terms of reference are approved for the first biennial period 2022-2023. For the second biennial period 2024-2025, they are approved on a provisional basis, subject to confirmation upon the adoption of the budget for 2024-2025.

Voting

As this will be the first meeting fully held in-person since the end of the special anti-covid arrangements, the Bureau considered that voting should take place in the traditional manner, by means of a ballot box and ballot papers.

In accordance with article 12 para. d and article 13 para. c, the election of a candidate "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."

The number of members entitled to vote corresponds to the theoretical number of delegations and Council of Europe member States (irrespective of the number of CDDG delegates effectively appointed or registered), which is currently 46. The two-thirds majority threshold is thus 31 votes, and the simple majority threshold 24 votes.

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^[note²] 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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² 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
Chair	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) - resigned	Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI (Finland)	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)
Vice-chair	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)	Mr Edwin LEFEBRE (Belgium)
Other members	Mr Alexander BALTHASAR (Austria) Ms Desislava DRAGOVA (Bulgaria) Mr Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy) [Ms Paqui SANTONJA (Spain)]* Ms Inga NYHOLM (Finland) Ms Greta ULLAND BILLING (Norway)	Mr Alexander BALTHASAR (Austria) Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece) Mr Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy) Ms Inga NYHOLM (Finland) Ms Greta ULLAND BILLING (Norway)	[Mr Alexander BALTHASAR (Austria)]* Mr Damien FERAILLE (France) Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece) M. Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy) (Ms Inga NYHOLM (Finland))* Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria) [Ms Greta ULLAND BILLING (Norway)]* Ms Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland)	Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece) Mr Damien FERAILLE (France) Ms Milica MARKOVIC (Serbia) Ms Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland) Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Ms Monika FILIPOVÁ (Slovak Republic) Ms Milica MARKOVIC (Serbia) Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI (Finland) Ms Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland) Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria) Ms Natalia LAS HERAS OLLETE (Spain) - resigned Mr Edwin LEFEBRE (Belgium), for one year Ms Milica MARKOVIC (Serbia) - resigned Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Ms Albana KOCIU (Albania) Mr Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy) Mr Edwin LEFEBRE (Belgium) Ms Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland) Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria) Ms Gordana GAPIKI-DIMITROVSKA (North Macedonia) [Ms Monika KURIAN (Slovak Republic)]* Ms Puck GORRISSEN (Netherlands) Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI (Finland) [Ms Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland), for one year]* Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece)

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

Elections at the 16th meeting of the CDDG
[CDDG(2022)21]