

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Item 10 of the agenda

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

ELECTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF THE CDDG FOR 2023

Candidates

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

Introduction

In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the CDDG Bureau has 7 members consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and 5 members.

At its 16th plenary meeting, the CDDG should elect:

- the Chair, with a mandate of one year (2023)
- the Vice-Chair, with a mandate of one year (2023) and
- one Bureau member, with a mandate of one year (2023).

The list of candidates appears in the table below. The resumes provided by candidates appear in Appendix (candidatures are in alphabetical order).

Action required

CDDG members are invited to take note of the information below and in appendix. In the absence of competing candidatures, the CDDG may decide that the candidates are elected by acclamation.

TABLE OF CANDIDATURES FOR 2023-2024

CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR	BUREAU
Mr Paul Rowsell (United Kingdom)	Mr Edwin Lefebre (Belgium, Flemish Region)	Mr Georgios Chrysafis (Greece)

APPENDIX**Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece)**

Full name: CHRYSAFIS Georgios

Nationality: Greek, **Residence:** Athens, Greece, **Origin:** Ioannina-Epirus Region, Greece,

Occupation: Ministry of the Interior-Directorate of Organising and Functioning of Local Authorities. **Past occupation:** Epirus s.a. Development Agency, M.O.U. s.a. (Management Organization Unit of Development Programmes), University of Ioannina, Humanet NGO, Prefecture of Ioannina.

Studies: **Economics** (Economic Department of the Law School at the National University of Athens), **International and European Studies** (University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki), **M.Phil. in Philosophy of the Sciences** (University of Ioannina), **M.Sc. in Public Policy and Administration** (Athens University of Economics and Business), **PhD In Philosophy of Political Economy** (University of Ioannina, Thesis: “Moral Philosophy and Political Economy in the Classical British Liberalism: John Locke, Bernard Mandeville, Adam Smith”), Graduate of the **National School of Public Administration.**

Motivation: I’ve been attending CDLR and CDDG meetings since the year 2011, participating in working groups and I also have been member of the Bureau during the period 2016-2018 and in year 2022. I wish to continue working for and supporting the purposes of the Council of Europe and it would be an honor for me to achieve the approval from the CDDG colleagues to continue participating more actively and contributing more effectively and successfully in the Council of Europe’s principles, strategies and policies.

Edwin LEFEBRE (Belgium-Flemish Region)

Dear colleagues,

I would like to stand for the position of Vice-Chair of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG).

I have been a member of the CDDG and its predecessor the CDLR for a number of years. I have been a Rapporteur for Cross-border Cooperation and Democratic Participation and I am currently Gender Equality Rapporteur.

As you will know, at present, I am incumbent Vice-Chair of the CDDG.

In my work with the Agency for Home Affairs, Department of the Chancellery and Foreign Affairs, Flemish Region, Belgium, I continue to be involved in a range of issues, including cross-border cooperation, democratic participation, elections, supervision of local and provincial authorities, amalgamations of municipalities and good governance in general.

Other matters that I am dealing with include following trends and practices regarding good governance in other European countries, assisting to draft the reply of my Agency when international bodies monitor compliance of the Flemish Region with international treaties and conventions regarding human rights, and following activities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, in particular the monitoring by the Congress of local and regional democracy in the Flemish Region.

These subjects fit in the 12 Principles of Good Governance, in particular principle 1. Participation, Representation, Fair Conduct of Elections, principle 5. Rule of law, principle 8. Innovation and Openness to Change, principle 11. Human Rights, Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion and principle 12. Accountability.

I hope you will find that my professional background as well as the knowledge and experience gained in the Council of Europe in contributing to advancing the 12 Principles of Good Governance will suitably place me for the position of Vice-Chair.

I look forward to counting on your support in my candidacy.

Kind regards,

Edwin Lefebre
Department of the Chancellery and Foreign Affairs of the Flemish Region, Belgium
Agency for Home Affairs
e-mail: edwin.lefebvre@vlaanderen.be

Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)**Paul Rowsell CBE**

I am standing for a second term as Chair, as I remain fully committed to the CDDG's current work programme as delegated to us by the Committee of Ministers. We are moving into a crucial period to finalise parts of our work programme and I would very much like to continue to serve in this role, providing the CDDG with continuity and seeing this work through to its conclusion.

Credentials

"I am Head of the Governance Reform and Democracy Unit at the UK Government's new Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities. My Unit leads on work across government to advise Ministers on a range of governance and democratic matters, including implementation of local government reforms and amalgamations in England, electoral policy at the local level, multilevel governance, devolution and decentralisation across the UK. I have worked for some forty years at the centre of successive Governments' agendas for reforming the institutions of local and regional government and currently I have a leading role on progressing the Government's agenda to "level up" opportunity and prosperity across the country. In 2017 the Queen awarded me the honour of "Commander of the British Empire".

Candidature as Chair of CDDG

I have always been a strong supporter of international cooperation and have been closely involved with the work of the Council of Europe in various roles since 1994. A moment in CoE history of which I am particularly proud to have played a part is the establishment of what is now the Centre of Expertise. I was the official with the UK Deputy Prime Minister at the Warsaw Summit where the UK with the Netherlands put forward the idea of the Centre. Never has the work the Centre of Expertise been of greater importance than now, when our democratic values are under such pressure, delivering on the ground the texts and standards we prepare here in CDDG.

This past year I have had the privilege to carry out the role of Chair for the CDDG. Within this role I have overseen our work on the expected, and the unexpected. I have represented the CDDG at the World Forum for Democracy, where with the Chair of GR-DEM I led a forum on direct democracy. I have strengthened our links with other parts of the CoE, including by attending the Congress and meeting with their Governance committee. I have also overseen the strong response of the CDDG to the invasion of Ukraine and I am now closely involved in the discussions taking place on supporting Ukraine to rebuild and restore its democratic institutions.

With your support, my priorities as Chair will be;

- Leading the Bureau and the full CDDG, and supporting our working groups, to finalise our work to prepare a recommendation on Principles of good democratic governance of general application to all levels of government, finalising a report on the use of new forms of deliberative democracy, and preparing a recommendation on deliberative democracy. As Chair I will focus on leading CDDG to complete this work to the highest quality, with the support of all our members, and in close partnership with other parts of the CoE, to ensure its relevance and longevity.
- Looking further forward, I will be working with committee members to embrace new work, including preparing a draft recommendation on multilevel governance, and a related report on responding to emergencies, and a practical and timely report on green public administration.
- And across all this work, I will continue to advocate strongly for the committee's role as a forum to exchange information and experience. I will continue to encourage and support my fellow delegations and experts to participate fully in our work, to build strong working relationships across the pillars and institutions of the CoE, including the Congress, the Conference of INGOs, the Parliamentary Assembly, and the Venice Commission. I will also ensure the committee gives careful attention to mainstreamed perspectives, including on gender equality, children, the rights of persons with disability, and Roma and Traveller issues, with the support of the CDDG's appointed rapporteurs.

In conclusion, as Chair, I will continue to be fully committed to the responsibilities and inclusive functioning of the committee, its Bureau, and working groups. On this basis I would be very grateful for your support for my candidacy as Chair.