



Strasbourg, 21 November 2018

CDDG-Bu(2018)16

**BUREAU OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE
ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE
(CDDG)**

MEETING REPORT¹

19 October 2018, Council of Europe, Paris

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair, Mr Peter Andre, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He recalled that Mr Damien Feraille (France) had been called to take up other duties and had therefore been unable to continue his work in the CDDG and the Bureau. The list of participants is set out in Appendix I.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as adopted is presented in Appendix II. Not all agenda items could be dealt with in detail due to lack of time.

3. Information by the Chair on recent activities

The Chairman will provide a brief overview of his participation in several Council of Europe events at the CDDG plenary meeting.

4. Information on recent developments at the Council of Europe

Further to the information presented to the CDDG Bureau at its April meeting on the measures taken following the cessation of Turkey's major contributor status, the Bureau was informed of the discussions at the Council of Europe on the implications for the Organisation and its resources as a result of the situation in the Parliamentary Assembly with respect to the parliamentary delegation of the Russian Federation and the non-payment of its contribution.

The Bureau took note of the information and, given the possible impact on objectives set out under the CDDG's Terms of Reference 2018-2019, asked the Secretariat to include this issue for information also on the agenda of the CDDG's plenary meeting in November.

¹ Prepared by the Secretariat.

5. Decisions of the Committee of Ministers of relevance to the work of the CDDG

In line with the information presented to the Bureau at its April meeting, it was informed of the modification to the CDDG's terms of reference following the decision by the Committee of Ministers to strengthen the transversal approach for the rights of people with disabilities and to add this to the terms of reference of all relevant intergovernmental committees. The revised terms of reference would be presented to the CDDG at its November meeting.

6. State of implementation of the CDDG's activities according to its terms of reference

6.1 Revision of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation R(98)12 on supervision of local authorities' action

The Chair, as well as Mr Paul Rowsell (UK) who chaired the working group, provided an overview of the results of the second meeting. The Bureau was asked to consider a range of final comments, observations and questions submitted in writing by the members of the working group.

While, overall, the revised text was well received, the Bureau agreed that the revised recommendation should be seen to be fully in line with the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122) and that specific sections would benefit from careful rewording. The Bureau proceeded with a detailed review of the structure and text of the draft revised recommendation which would be submitted to the CDDG plenary meeting for approval and transmission to the Committee of Ministers.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat accordingly.

6.2 Revision of the 2004 Handbook of good practice on public ethics at local level

The Secretariat informed the members of the results of the two meetings of the working group on public ethics. The 2004 Handbook of Good Practice on Public Ethics at Local Level had been thoroughly revised in terms of both principles and topics as well as structure.

The new handbook, a "*Guide: Steps to Implementing Public Ethics in Public Organisations*", would propose a practitioner's approach seeking an understanding of the processes and components necessary to devising, implementing and maintaining public ethics frameworks for the public sector and public actors as a whole. It would be based on existing good practice and focus on practical means and measures for their implementation. Member states would be asked to contribute additional case studies for inclusion in the guide.

The Bureau of the CDDG validated the draft guide for presentation to the CDDG.

Guidelines on public ethics

The principles of public ethics themselves should now be elaborated in the guidelines on public ethics on the basis of the guide and further input by the CDDG members following discussion at the November meeting. Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2018\)4](#) on the participation of citizens in local public life could usefully serve as example as regards the format of the guidelines on public ethics. The appendix to the recommendation could contain concrete measures in relation to securing high standards of ethical conduct across the public sector, also in relation to public ethics measures for a wide range of public officials, for political parties, and for the local and regional levels.

The final guide would be submitted for approval by the CDDG once draft guidelines on public ethics had also been elaborated to ensure coherence and effectively facilitate their implementation.

Feasibility study on a public ethics indicator framework

The Bureau was informed of the discussions in the working group concerning the feasibility study on the preparation of a Council of Europe indicator framework.

The question was raised whether it was fitting to invest in developing an indicator framework which would require further heavy investment in data collection and analysis. Possibilities for cooperation with other organisations such as the OECD should also be explored.

6.3 E-democracy

The Bureau took note of the information presented in relation to the state of preparation of the working group's activities and the potential avenues for action in developing the guidelines on e-democracy in the form of a toolkit.

It instructed the Secretariat to finalise the terms of reference of the working group and the preparations for the working group's first meeting on 27 November 2018 accordingly.

6.4 Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance

The Bureau took note of the information presented on the latest developments in promoting the European Label of Governance Excellence and the successful completion of ELoGE Programmes.

The Bureau underlined that, time permitting, the new E-Learning Tool on the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance should be presented to the CDDG at its next meeting.

7. Developing tools on good democratic governance and supporting reforms

Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform

The Draft report on the Centre's activities in 2018 would be presented to the CDDG at its meeting on 28-30 November.

8. Preparation of the 9th plenary meeting of the CDDG

The Bureau examined the draft agenda and took note of the state of preparations of the 9th plenary meeting of the CDDG and the discussions underway as regards participation envisaged by Ministers from member States.

To allow members to prepare adequately for substantive discussions, the Secretariat should ensure timely transmission of the draft revised recommendation on the supervision of local authorities' action and of the revised handbook on public ethics.

9. Election of a Chair, Vice-Chair and two members of the Bureau

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to put the election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and two members of the Bureau on the agenda of the CDDG's November meeting.

10. Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers

Activities under the Chairmanship of Croatia, Finland and France

The Chairman reported on his participation in the Conference on Cross-Border Cooperation held on 25 May 2018 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

No further information on specific events planned under the Chairmanship of Finland and France was available at this point.

11. Activities of other Council of Europe bodies

Inclusion and anti-discrimination programmes

Further to the discussion at its April meeting and the nomination of a CDDG representative to attend relevant meetings of the Inclusive Integration Policy Labs, the Bureau took note of the information presented.

It agreed to transmit the Model Strategy for Integration at National Level and relevant questionnaire to the CDDG to allow member states for comments and observations on the draft Model Strategy and to provide practical input.

12. Other business

None

13. Date and place of the next meeting

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to propose suitable dates for the Bureau meetings in 2019 taking into account also the dates for the working group meetings and possible operational measures to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to meet the current challenges. The next Bureau meeting would take place in Strasbourg to facilitate dialogue with senior management of DG II Democracy.

APPENDIX I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****CHAIRMAN / PRESIDENT**

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APPENDIX II**AGENDA****1. Opening of the meeting****2. Adoption of the agenda**

[CDDG-Bu(2018)OJ2]

3. Information by the Chair on recent activities

- Participation in:

- Conference on Cross-Border Cooperation (Dubrovnik, 25 May 2018)
- Conference on Civil Participation in local decision-making processes (Yerevan, 4 September 2018)
- International Day of Democracy (Strasbourg, 19 September 2018)
- Meeting of the Chairs of Council of Europe Intergovernmental Committees and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 20 September 2018)

4. Information on recent developments at the Council of Europe

- Oral information by the Secretariat

5. Decisions by the Committee of Ministers of relevance to the work of the CDDG

- Oral information by the Secretariat on the amended terms of reference of the intergovernmental committees of the Council of Europe

6. State of implementation of the CDDG activities according to its terms of reference 2017-20186.1 *Revision of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation R(98)12 on supervision of local authorities' action*

- Report on the second meeting of the working group
- Draft revised recommendation

[GT-CACL(2018)6]
[CDDG-Bu(2018)10]6.2 *Revision of the 2004 Handbook of good practice on public ethics at local level*

- Report on the second meeting of the working group
- Draft revised handbook

[GT-EP(2018)7]
[CDDG-Bu(2018)11]6.3 *E-democracy*

- Preparation of the activities of the working group on e-democracy

[CDDG-Bu(2018)12]

- 6.4 *Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance*
- E-Learning Tool on the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance
 - European Stakeholders' Platform of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level [CDDG-Bu(2018)13]
- 7. Developing tools on good democratic governance and supporting reforms**
- Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform*
- Activities of the Centre in the first half of 2018: oral presentation
- 8. Preparation of the 9th Plenary meeting of the CDDG** [CDDG(2018)OJ1 prov.]
- Preliminary draft agenda
- 9. Election of a Chair, Vice-Chair and two members of the Bureau** [CDDG-Bu(2018)14]
- 10. Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers**
- Oral information by the Secretariat on activities under the Chairmanships of Croatia (May - November 2018), Finland (November 2018 – May 2019), France (May – November 2019), Georgia (November 2019 – May 2020)
- 11. Activities of other Council of Europe bodies** [CDDG-Bu(2018)15]
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
 - Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
 - Conference of INGOs
 - World Forum for Democracy (19-21 November 2018)
 - Inclusion and anti-discrimination programmes
- 12. Other business**
- 13. Date and place of the next meeting**