



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 29 November 2019

CDDG-Bu(2019)25

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

MEETING REPORT¹

15 November 2019, Council of Europe, Paris

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members. The list of participants is set out in Appendix I.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted as set out in Appendix II.

3. Report of the meeting of the CDDG Bureau (Paris, 24-25 October 2019)

The Bureau took note of the meeting report.

4. Public ethics

The Bureau was informed that Mr Paul-Henry Philips, Chair of the working group on public ethics, was unable to participate in the discussion of this item due to conflicting commitments. The Bureau thanked him and the working group for their work. It also expressed appreciation for the valuable contribution that had been provided by all the expert consultants that had been involved in the preparatory work, namely Mr Jean-Marie Doublet for the draft Guidelines and Ms Vita Haban Barboric, Mr Alan Doig and Ms Aive Pevkur for the draft Guide.

Guidelines on public ethics

The Bureau proceeded with a detailed review of the structure and text of the draft Guidelines, on the basis of final comments that had been received in writing. With the inclusion of modifications aimed at refining the text and ensuring its internal coherence, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to submit the draft Guidelines to the CDDG for adoption at its forthcoming plenary meeting (9-11 December 2019).

¹ Prepared by the Secretariat.

Revised handbook (Guide) of good practice on public ethics

The Bureau reviewed the draft Guide on the basis of final comments that had been received in writing. With the inclusion of modifications aimed at aligning the draft Guide with the draft Guidelines and ensuring its internal coherence, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to submit the draft Guidelines to the CDDG for adoption at its forthcoming plenary meeting (9-11 December 2019). In doing so, however, the Bureau also invited members of the CDDG to provide additional case studies to be included in the Guide, namely in areas such as:

- codes of conduct for members of the judiciary and for members of parliament,
- use of social media by public officials,
- private life and public responsibilities,
- political activity,
- lobbying,
- revolving doors.

5. E-democracy

The Bureau thanked the working group on e-democracy and its Chair, Ms Gordana Gapikj-Dimitrovska, for their work. It expressed appreciation for the valuable contribution that had been provided by Ms Katrin Nyman Metcalf, expert consultant who had contributed to the preparatory work.

Guidelines on e-democracy in the form of a toolkit

The Bureau reviewed the draft Guidelines in the form of a toolkit. While agreeing with the substance of the Guidelines, the Bureau considered that additional work was necessary to refine the wording of the text and make it reader-friendly, ensure its internal coherence and bring out a clear narrative, prior to its final adoption and transmission to the Committee of Ministers.

The Bureau, therefore, instructed the Secretariat to transmit the draft Guidelines in the form of a toolkit to the CDDG for approval in substance at its meeting of 9-11 December 2019. At the same time, the Bureau proposed that, at this meeting, the CDDG should appoint two Rapporteurs with the task of finalising the draft Guidelines, in view of their further examination by the Bureau at its first meeting in 2020 and final adoption by the CDDG at its first plenary meeting in 2020.

Review meeting on implementation of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2017\)5](#) on standards for e-voting: results from the questionnaire

In the light of the few replies which had been received, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to send the questionnaire anew. It decided that the review meeting should take place in the context of the plenary meeting of the CDDG, on 9 December 2019. Members States would be invited to take the floor to illustrate where they stood in relation to the implantation of the recommendation. Two experts, Mr Gregor Wenda, Chair of the CAHVE, and Ms Ardita Driza Maurer, member of the CAHVE, would also be invited to attend the review meeting.

6. Conference on the Twelve Principles of Good Democratic Governance and the European Label of Governance' Excellence (28 October 2019)

The Chair reported on his participation in the Conference, which had been organised by the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance, within the framework of the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The conclusions of the event would be followed up by the Stakeholders' Platform of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level.

7. Other business

None.

8. Date and place of the next meeting

The Bureau decided to hold its next meeting in Paris, on 12-13 March 2020.

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

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SECRETARIAT

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Interpretors / Interprètes

Anthony ROGER
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APPENDIX II**AGENDA**

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda** [CDDG-Bu(2019)OJ3]
- 3. Report of the meeting of the CDDG Bureau** [CDDG-Bu(2019)21]
(Paris, 24-25 October 2019)
- 4. Public ethics**
 - Guidelines on public ethics [CDDG-Bu(2019)22]
 - Revised handbook of good practice on public ethics [CDDG-Bu(2019)23]
- 5. E-democracy**
 - Guidelines on e-democracy in the form of a toolkit [CDDG-Bu(2019)24 + Addendum]
 - Review meeting on implementation of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2017\)5](#) on standards for e-voting [CDDG-Bu(2019)5]
- 6. Conference on The Twelve Principles of Good Democratic Governance and the European Label of Governance' Excellence (28 October 2019)**
 - Oral information
- 7. Other business**
- 8. Date and place of the next meeting**
(Paris, 5-6 March 2020 or 12-13 March 2020)