

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 22 November 2017

CDDG(2017)26
Item 9 of the agenda

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER COUNCIL OF EUROPE BODIES

For information

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

*This document is public. It will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.
Ce document est public. Il ne sera pas distribué en réunion. Prière de vous munir de cet exemplaire.*

Introduction

This document aims to provide the CDDG with information on recent and forthcoming events in the field of democracy and governance taking place within Council of Europe and other bodies. Relevant links to such information are set out below. CDDG members are invited to visit the websites to get further information as required.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

The third and fourth parts of the 2017 session were held from 26 to 30 June 2017 and from 9 to 13 October 2017 respectively. Information on sessions (agenda, working documents, reports under preparation or adopted, speeches and other documents) can be found on the following website: <http://assembly.coe.int>.

[Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2105 \(2017\)](#) on "Promoting integrity in governance to tackle political corruption" was transmitted to the CDDG for comments and observations by 15 September 2017. A draft response, prepared by the Secretariat, was approved by the CDDG by silent procedure and transmitted to the Committee of Ministers.

No new texts were transmitted to the CDDG by the Committee of Ministers for possible comments).

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Congress)

The 33rd Session of the Congress was held from 18 to 20 October 2017. As indicated at the 7th meeting of the CDDG in May 2017, the theme of the Congress' sessions in 2017 was: *"Decentralised policies for the successful integration of migrants"*.

Issues on the agenda of the 33rd Session of Congress which relate to the work of the CDDG included:

- regional co-operation and democracy in Europe;
- women's participation in political life at regional level;
- the fight against corruption with the adoption of Recommendation 405 (2017) – "Making public procurement transparent at local and regional levels"

A discussion was held also on the situation of Catalonia in Spain.

Texts adopted at the 33rd session of the Congress include:

- Recommendation 405 (2017) – "Making public procurement transparent at local and regional levels"
- Recommendation 406 (2017) "A better future for Europe's rural areas";
- Resolution 423 (2017) "10 Years of the European Local Democracy Week" (See Appendix).

The European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) resulted from a joint initiative by the European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR) and the Congress and was supported by the Declaration by the 15th Conference of European Ministers responsible for local and regional government in Valencia (October 2007). This recognises the importance of citizen participation in decision making and the value of participatory mechanisms as a tool to improved governance.

The CDDG might wish to consider how authorities at all levels can be encouraged to promote the European Local Democracy Week and to actively support participation by local and regional authorities that might wish to become involved.

Congress Recommendations 405 (2017) and 406 (2017), transmitted to the CDDG by the Committee of Ministers for information or possible comments are presented in document CDDG(2017)15 under item 3 of the agenda.

Information on these texts and on past and upcoming sessions of the Congress can be found on the following website: www.coe.int/congress

Secretariat of the Council of Europe

On 8 November 2017, Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland, signed an agreement with leading technology firms and associations with a view to strengthening co-operation with the private sector to promote an open and safe internet where human rights, democracy, and the rule of law are respected. The initiative is among the priorities set in the [Council of Europe's Internet Governance Strategy for the period 2016-2019](#).

The CDDG, under its terms of reference 2018-2019, is tasked with overseeing implementation of one of the Strategy's priorities "building democracy online" (task vi).

World Forum for Democracy

The [World Forum for Democracy](#) took place from 8 to 10 November in Strasbourg on the theme "Is Populism a problem?"

The Chair of the CDDG, Mr Paul Rowsell, was the moderator of Lab 4 - "Making votes count more". The Secretariat presented the Guidelines for civil participation in political decision making at the Incubator for participatory democracy.

In its new terms of reference 2018-2019, the CDDG shall "provide input and ensure follow-up to the sessions of the Council of Europe's World Forum for Democracy when the themes addressed fall within its mandate". The theme of the 2018 World Forum of Democracy will be "Citizenship on the move".

Working programmes of other bodies, whose activities may be of interest and relevance to the CDDG, can be found on the following websites.

Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

Information on the activities carried out by the Conference can be found on the following website: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo>

Committee of the Regions (COR)

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/about/Pages/index.aspx> - see "events"

Assembly of European Regions (AER)

<http://www.aer.eu> – see "events"

Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

<http://www.ccre.org/en> - see "calendar"

European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU)

<http://www.ectp-ceu.eu/index.php/en/>

Action required

The CDDG is invited to take note of the work of the above-mentioned bodies and to consider how to include transversal perspectives into its work. It may therefore wish to decide on the follow-up to be given in light of its new terms of reference 2018-2019, including the appointment of rapporteurs on and/or representatives to other Council of Europe bodies.

An overview of rapporteurs and representatives nominated by the CDDG is presented in addendum to this document (CDDG(2017)26 Addendum).

APPENDIX

33rd SESSION OF THE CONGRESS

10 years of the European Local Democracy Week

Resolution 423 (2017)¹

1. Recalling the Declaration adopted by the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Local and Regional Government on 16 October 2007 in Valencia, in which the ministers supported the Congress' initiative to launch the European Local Democracy Week in recognition of the importance of increasing citizen participation in decision making at the grassroots level and introducing participatory mechanisms into our democratic systems;
2. Considering:
 - a. the Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (CETS No.207);
 - b. Recommendation (2001)19 of the Committee of Ministers on the Participation of citizens in local public life;
 - c. Resolution 238(2007) of the Congress on the Proposition for a European Local Democracy Week;
 - d. Resolution 326(2011) of the Congress on Citizen participation at local and regional level in Europe;
3. Thanking the local and regional authorities and their associations for their commitment over the past 10 years, which enabled the European Local Democracy Week to become a truly pan-European event that has contributed to bringing together and fostering dialogue between citizens and local and regional elected representatives;
4. The Congress:
 - a. renews its commitment to advancing this initiative and further developing it for the benefit of local and regional authorities and the citizens across Europe, and to broadening this pan-European event to include the Council of Europe neighbouring regions, in the context of the ongoing decentralisation processes in numerous countries;
 - b. decides to establish a Reflection Group tasked with taking the European Local Democracy Week initiative forward to a new dimension, by building on the best practices of the past decade, which would examine all questions related to the evolution of the Week, notably:
 - i. concept, date and organisation of the Week;
 - ii. choice of the themes;
 - iii. modalities for identifying, rewarding and enhancing visibility of the most remarkable initiatives;
 - iv. highlighting good practices;
 - c. instructs the Congress Secretariat to submit to the Bureau a proposal concerning the possible composition of such a group and the practical arrangements for its meeting(s).

¹ Debated and adopted by the Congress on 20 October 2017, 3e sitting (see Document [CG33\(2017\)12](#), Congress Spokesperson on the European Local Democracy Week: Gaye DOGANOGLU, Turkey (L, EPP/CCE)).