



Greek Chairmanship
Council of Europe
May - November 2020

Présidence de la Grèce
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai - Novembre 2020

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 16 June 2020

CDDG(2020)1

Under the auspices of the Greek chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

THEMATIC MEETING on

A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE RESPONSE TO COVID-19

18 June 2020 by videoconference

From 10.30 am to 1 pm and from 2.30 to 4 pm (Central Europe Time)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Delivering democratic governance while responding to the unprecedented sanitary emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic requires leadership, adaptability and innovation. This thematic meeting of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance, taking place under the auspices of the Greek chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, offers an opportunity to member States and other participants to exchange experience, information and practical solutions which can strengthen their response to the Covid-19 emergency in line with Council of Europe values and standards.

After the opening session, during which high level authorities from Greece and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe will address the audience, the meeting will explore the issues of multilevel governance and response to the emergency; the frontline role of local authorities; and cross-border cooperation. Members of the CDDG, observers and participants will be able to share the experience from their countries. Each session will end with a short debate. In the final session, participants will have a general debate on democratic governance and the response to Covid-19, before final conclusions are drawn.

The information collected during this meeting will contribute to a CDDG publication on Democratic governance and response to Covid-19 and will be used to update a dedicated [webpage](#).

10.30 am Opening session

Welcome by **Mr Markku Mölläri, Chair ad interim of the CDDG**

Opening addresses:

Mr Nikos Chardalias, Deputy Minister of Civil Protection and Crisis Management, Greece

Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Videomessage by **Mr Ivan Malenica, Minister of Public Administration, Croatia**

Session 1: Multilevel governance and response to the emergency

Despite differences in the policies introduced in various countries and sometimes within the same country, the response to Covid-19 involves action by all levels of government and other public bodies and agencies, especially those responsible for civil protection, health, education and social issues. The effectiveness of the response often depends on the coordination between them.

Key-note address: Ms Georgia Valatsou, Permanent Secretary General, Ministry of the Interior, Greece

Interventions by CDDG members, observers, participants

Debate

Session 2: The frontline role of local authorities

In all Council of Europe member States, local authorities are in the frontline in the response to the Covid-19 emergency, as those who are the closest to citizens and to their needs. This session highlights challenges faced by local authorities and showcases innovative solutions at local level.

Key-note addresses:

Mr Leendert Verbeek (Netherlands, SOC/G/PD), Chair of the Monitoring Committee, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Mr Robert Gruman (Romania, EPP/CCE), Chair of the Governance Committee, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Questions and answers

Interventions by CDDG members, observers, participants

Debate

Session 3: Cross-border cooperation

Cross-border cooperation has been affected by the restrictions of freedom of movements due to the Covid-19 pandemic. At times, however, it has been an asset and has helped ease pressure on the health system of some border areas.

Presentation by **Mr Sean Dougherty, OECD Network on Fiscal Relations**

Interventions by CDDG members, observers, participants

Debate

General debate and conclusions

With concluding remarks by **Ms Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe**

4 pm End of the meeting