

45th SESSION
CG(2023)45-PV-01am

MINUTES

First Sitting

Tuesday 24 October 2023

Plenary Sitting

10.30 – 12.30, European Parliament Chamber

1.	Opening of the 45th Session of the Congress by the President Leendert VERBEEK, President of the Congress, opened the sitting at 10.30, and declared the 45th Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe open. <i>The European anthem was played.</i> <i>The Ukrainian anthem was played.</i>
2.	Verification of new members' credentials The co-rapporteur, Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD), on behalf of his co-rapporteur, Aleksandra MALETIĆ, Serbia (R, EPP/CCE), and the Bureau of the Congress, presented documents CG(2023)45-02 and CG(2023)45-04. The Congress proceeded to vote on the draft resolution contained in document CG(2023)45-02. The draft resolution was adopted.
	The President paid tribute to Dolores Rios, former Head of the Table Office, who had recently retired from the service of the Congress.
3	Election of the President of the Congress The President informed the Congress that the Secretary General had received the name of one candidate for the office of President, that of Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG), and that his candidature complied with Rule 13 of the Rules and Procedures. The President invited Marc COOLS to address the Congress. Marc COOLS presented his candidature. Following the Congress vote in accordance with Rule 14 of the Rules and Procedures, the President announced the result of the election. Marc COOLS was elected as President.
	<i>Marc COOLS, President of the Congress, took the chair.</i>
4.	Statement by the newly elected President of the Congress Marc COOLS, newly elected President of the Congress, gave his inaugural statement.

5.	Adoption of the agenda of the Session The agenda of the session contained in document CG(2023)45-OJ was adopted.
6.	Adoption of the draft minutes of the last sitting of the 44th Session (23 March 2023) The minutes of the last sitting of the 44th Session, on 23 March 2023, contained in document CG(2023)44-PV-03, were adopted.
7.	Adoption of the composition of Congress committees The composition of Congress committees, contained in document CG(2023)45-03, was adopted.
8.	Congress Presidency 2021–2023: Statement by the outgoing President of the Congress: Leendert Verbeek The outgoing President, Leendert VERBEEK, presented his statement to the Congress, contained in document CG(2023)45-10. The debate was opened. <i>Speakers:</i> Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE); Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE); Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE); Vladimir PREBILIČ, Slovenia (L, SOC/G/PD); Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (R, ILDG); Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR); and Dema ELYA, Netherlands (Youth Delegate). The outgoing President replied to the debate. The debate was closed.
	<i>Harald SONDEREGGER, Vice-President, took the chair.</i>
9.	Statement by Claire BAZY MALAURIE, President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) The President welcomed Claire BAZY MALAURIE, President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), and invited her to make a statement. Claire BAZY MALAURIE made a statement and answered questions from: Alexander BOOMGAARS, Netherlands (L, SOC/G/PD); Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria (L, SOC/G/PD); Oleksandr KORINNYI, Ukraine (L, ILDG); Thibault GUIGNARD, France (L, EPP/CCE); Željko VUKŠA FEJZIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Youth Delegate); Tea BABIĆ, Croatia (Youth Delegate); Oxana MANOLI, Republic of Moldova (Youth Delegate); and Yaroslav MOROZOV, Ukraine (Youth Delegate). The President thanked Claire BAZY MALAURIE.
10.	<i>The sitting was suspended at 12.22.</i>