

45th SESSION
CG(2023)45-PV-02
MINUTES**Second Sitting****Wednesday 25 October 2023****Plenary Sitting**

14.30 - 19.15, European Parliament Chamber

	<i>Marc COOLS, President of the Congress, took the Chair at 14.30.</i>
1.	Adoption of the minutes of the sitting of the Congress on 24 October 2023 The minutes of the sitting of the Congress on 24 October 2023, contained in documents CG(2023)45-PV-01am and CG(2023)45-PV-01pm, were adopted.
2.	Adoption of texts approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities [CG(2023)45-06] The texts approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities, contained in document CG(2023)45-06, were adopted.
3.	Results of the elections for the posts of Vice-Presidents of the Chambers The President congratulated the newly elected Presidents of the Chamber of Local Authorities and Chamber of Regions and communicated the results of the elections for the posts of Vice-Presidents in their order of precedence. The Vice-Presidents elected were: Tunç SOYER, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD), President, Chamber of the Regions Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE), President, Chamber of Local Authorities Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE) Carla NUNES TAVARES, Portugal (L, SOC/G/PD) Lia MONTALTI, Italy (R, SOC/G/PD) Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD) David ERAY, Switzerland (R, EPP/CCE) Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD) Randi MONDORF, Denmark (R, ILDG) Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG) Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE) Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia (L, EPP/CCE) Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR) Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)

	Mario FAVA, Malta (R, SOC/G/PD) Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)
4.	Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 May 2023 – 15 November 2023) The President welcomed Inga BĒRZIŅA, Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development, on behalf of the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, and invited her to make a statement. Inga BĒRZIŅA made a statement and responded to questions, set out in document CG(2023)45-13, from: Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE); Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria (L, SOC/G/PD); Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR); Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE); Thibaut GUIGNARD, France (L, PPE/CCE); Mélanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG); David ERAY, Switzerland (R, PPE/CCE); Cemal BAŞ, Türkiye (L, PPE/CCE); Vladimir PREBILIČ, Slovenia (L, SOC/G/PD); Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, PPE/CCE); František BREZO, Slovak Republic (Youth Delegate); Despoina PANTELI, Greece (Youth Delegate). The President thanked Inga BĒRZIŅA.
5.	Local and regional media: watchdogs of democracy, guardians of community cohesion The co-rapporteurs, Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD), and Mélanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG), presented document CG(2023)45-11. The President welcomed Matthew BARRACLOUGH, Executive Lead, Local News Partnerships, BBC, United Kingdom, and invited him to make a statement. Matthew BARRACLOUGH made a statement. The debate was opened. <i>Speakers:</i> James MOLONEY, Ireland (L, ILDG); Eirini DOUROU, Greece (R, SOC/G/PD); Kristoffer TAMSONS, Sweden (R, EPP/CCE); Iurii FRINTSKO, Ukraine (R, ILDG); Jean-Paul BASTIN, Belgium (L, PPE/CCE); Rachel BAILEY, United Kingdom (R, ECR); Vanya GRIVOVA, Bulgaria (Youth Delegate); Ana EGUTIDZE, Georgia (Youth Delegate); Humbat HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan (L, PPE/CCE); Thibaut GUIGNARD, France (L, PPE/CCE); Richard Levente BAKKAY, Hungary (Youth Delegate); Dema ELYA, Netherlands (Youth Delegate); Franco IACOP, Italy (L, SOC/G/PD); Olivier MAROY, Belgium (R, ILDG); Rico BADENSCHIER, Germany (L, SOC/G/PD); Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD); Wilma DELISSEN VAN TONGERLO, Netherlands (L, ILDG); Véronique BERTHOLLE, France (L, SOC/G/PD); Joanne Louise LABAN, United Kingdom (L, ECR); Kevin BENTLEY, United Kingdom (R, ECR); Amanda SERJEANT, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD); and Belinda GOTTARDI, Italy (L, SOC/G/PD). Matthew BARRACLOUGH replied to the debate. The co-rapporteurs replied to the debate. The debate was closed. The Congress proceeded to vote on the draft resolution contained in document CG(2023)45-11. The draft resolution was adopted. The Congress proceeded to vote on the draft recommendation contained in document CG(2023)45-11. The draft recommendation was adopted.
	<i>Tunç SOYER, Vice-President, took the Chair.</i>

6.	Youth engagement as the driving force for change • Presentation of the grass-roots projects by the youth delegates The President welcomed the following speakers and invited them to present document GC(2023)45-16: Eline THOR ELIASSEN, Denmark (Youth Delegate); Janis IEVINS, Latvia (Youth Delegate); Selina COMO, Albania (Youth Delegate); Hannah SATTLECKER, Austria (Youth Delegate); Simon Ingebrigt GOLOMBEK, Norway (Youth Delegate); Catarina SEMEDO MADAÍL DE OLIVEIRA, Portugal (Youth Delegate); and František BREZO, Slovak Republic (Youth Delegate). The debate was opened. <i>Speakers:</i> Anthony BUCHANAN, United Kingdom (L, NPA); Brigitte VAN DEN BERG, Netherlands (L, ILDG); Tamraz TAGHIYEV, Azerbaijan (L, EPP/CCE); Una VUKOTIC, Montenegro (Youth Delegate); Sören SCHUMACHER, Germany (R, SOC/G/PD); Vesna GURBANSKA, North Macedonia (Youth Delegate); Andrew LEADBETTER, United Kingdom (L, ECR); Benoit PILET, France (L, ILDG); Reinhart ROHR, Austria (R, SOC/G/PD); and Pascale PFEIFFER, France (L, EPP/CCE). Eline THOR ELIASSEN replied to the debate. The debate was closed. • Youth engagement as a factor of peace and reconciliation The President welcomed Antonella VALMORBIDA, Secretary General of the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), and invited her to make a statement. Antonella VALMORBIDA made a statement. The debate was opened. <i>Speakers:</i> Véronique BERTHOLLE, France (L, SOC/G/PD); Vuk MIRČETIĆ, Serbia (R, EPP/CCE); Joanne Louise LABAN, United Kingdom (L, ECR); Yaroslav MOROZOV, Ukraine (Youth Delegate); Laura LAURO, Italy (R, EPP/CCE); Leon STAUFER, Germany (Youth Delegate); and Tatia NIKOLASHVILI, Georgia (L, EPP/CCE). Antonella VALMORBIDA replied to the debate. The debate was closed.
	<i>Marc COOLS, President of the Congress, took the Chair.</i>
7.	Monitoring of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Ireland The co-rapporteurs, Vladimir PREBILIČ, Slovenia (L, SOC/G/PD) and Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE), presented document CG(2023)45-17. The debate was opened. <i>Speakers:</i> Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD); Andrew LEADBETTER, United Kingdom (L, ECR); and Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD). The co-rapporteurs replied to the debate. The debate was closed. The Congress proceeded to vote on the draft recommendation contained in document CG(2023)45-17. The recommendation was adopted. Statement by Kieran O'Donnell, Minister of State with Responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Ireland

	The President welcomed Kieran O'DONNELL, Minister of State with Responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Ireland, and invited him to make a statement. The Minister made a statement and responded to questions from: James MOLONEY, Ireland (L, ILDG); Gobnait NI MHUIMNEACAIN, Ireland (L, ILDG); John CROWE, Ireland (L, PPE/CCE); and Charlotte SCHOEFS, Belgium (Youth Delegate). The President thanked the Minister.
8.	Close of the sitting <i>The sitting was closed at 19.30.</i>