

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

ELECTIONS

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

Introduction

As a Council of Europe intergovernmental committee, the rules and working methods of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) are set out in CM Resolution [CM Resolution \(2011\)24](#). The rules of procedure of intergovernmental committees are set out in Appendix 1 to the Resolution.

In accordance with the rules of procedure, the CDDG shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and may appoint a Bureau.

The rules of procedure stipulate that the role of the Chair is to “conduct proceedings and sum up the conclusions whenever he or she thinks necessary”. The Vice-Chair shall replace the Chair should the Chair be absent or otherwise unable to preside the meeting.

The functions of the Bureau are:

- to assist the Chair in conducting the committee’s business;
- to supervise the preparation of meetings at the committee’s request;
- to ensure continuity between meetings as necessary;
- to execute other additional specific tasks delegated by its Committee.

The term of office of the Chair and the Vice-Chair shall be one year and may be renewed once. The term of office of Bureau members shall correspond to the duration of the mandate of the Committee and may be renewed once. However, a member may, on expiry of her/his second term, be appointed Chair or Vice-Chair. In order to ensure partial replacement of the Bureau each year, the first term of at least one such member shall be limited to one year.

A member elected to replace another whose term of office has not expired shall complete her/his predecessor’s term. The same shall apply to the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair.

The relevant excerpts from the rules of procedure of Council of Europe intergovernmental committees are set out in the Appendix I.

In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the CDDG Bureau has 7 members consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and 5 members.

The current situation

At its 10th plenary meeting, the CDDG elected:

- Ms Monika Filipova (Slovak Republic), Chair, for one year (2020);
- Mr Markku Mölläri (Finland), Vice-Chair, for one year (2020);
- and the following Bureau members:
 - Mr Peter Andre (Austria), for two years (2020-2021);
 - Ms Natalia Las Heras Oliete (Spain), for two years (2020-2021);
 - Mr Edwin Lefebre (Belgium), for one year (2020);
 - Ms Milica Marković (Serbia), for two years (2020-2021);
 - Mr Paul Rowsell (UK), for two years (2020-2021).

In 2020, several of the above positions became vacant: Ms Monika Filipova resigned in April 2020. In addition, Ms Natalia Las Heras Oliete and Ms Milica Marković also resigned in the following months.

Since March 2020, the work of intergovernmental committees, including the CDDG, has taken place online because of the measures introduced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since Ms Filipova’s resignation, the Vice-Chair has acted *ad interim* as Chair. The CDDG was informed in writing.

At its meeting of 24 August 2020, the Bureau of the CDDG considered that while it was important to fill the vacant positions in the Bureau, also bearing in mind the need to ensure in so far as possible a gender balanced composition, it was necessary to adequately prepare the elections, especially in the event that they take place electronically, and inform CDDG members in advance about the positions to be filled and the practical modalities.

The Bureau agreed that elections would be held at the CDDG's 12th plenary meeting in November 2020 in order to elect, with a mandate of one year (2021): the Chair; the Vice-Chair (currently Mr Mölläri, who can run again) and three Bureau members to replace Ms Las Heras Oliete and Ms Marković who have left; the third position is currently held by Mr Lefebvre, who can run again.

At this stage, it is not possible to know whether the 12th plenary meeting of the CDDG will be held in Strasbourg or online. In the latter case, elections will have to be held electronically.

Voting with KUDO

The KUDO platform can be used to hold elections through the functionality 'Polls'.

In order to ensure the smooth running of the vote, candidatures should be transmitted to the Secretariat prior to the meeting, to enable the technician to insert the names of the candidates in the system. It is possible to be a candidate for different positions.

As usual, only one member of each country delegation has the right to vote. His/her name should be communicated to the Secretariat ahead of the meeting.

The vote will take place in a specific session of the 12th plenary meeting of the CDDG. Members with the right to vote will be given access to such a session with a link as 'participants', which gives them access to the functionality 'Polls'. Other CDDG members will have access to the session with a link as 'viewers'. They will be able to follow the elections but will not have access to 'Polls'.

The secrecy of the vote is ensured. It will not be possible to have tellers. It takes only a few seconds for the results of the vote to be announced.

Action required

The CDDG is invited to take note of the above information.

APPENDIX I*Appendix 1 to Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#)***Extract from the Rules of procedure for Council of Europe intergovernmental committees***Article 12 – Chair*

- a. Every committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. However, the Chair of a subordinate body may be appointed by the steering or ad hoc committee to which it is answerable.
- b. The Chair shall conduct proceedings and sum up the conclusions whenever he or she thinks necessary. He or she may call to order a speaker who departs from the subject under discussion or from the committee's terms of reference. The Chair shall retain the right to speak and to vote in her/his capacity as a member of the committee, except in cases where an additional expert from the same country has been appointed to sit on that committee.
- c. The Vice-Chair shall replace the Chair if the latter is absent or otherwise unable to preside the meeting. If the Vice-Chair is absent, the Chair shall be replaced by another member of the Bureau, appointed by the latter or, where there is no Bureau, by a member of the committee appointed by the committee.
- d. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall require a two-thirds majority at the first ballot and a simple majority at the second ballot. In steering committees, the election shall be held by secret ballot, in other committees by a show of hands, unless a member of the committee requests a secret ballot.
- e. The term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be one year. It may be renewed once.

Article 13 – Bureau

- a. Every steering and ad hoc committee may appoint a bureau consisting of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and a limited number of other members of the committee. The number of other members shall be specified in the committee's terms of reference. Any other committee may, if need be, appoint a bureau composed, normally, of not more than three members in addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair. The functions of the Bureau are:
- to assist the Chair in conducting the committee's business;
 - to supervise the preparation of meetings at the committee's request;
 - to ensure continuity between meetings as necessary;
 - to execute other additional specific tasks delegated by its Committee.

b. No decision on substantive issues shall be taken by the Bureau on behalf of the committee. In exceptional cases and due to time constraint, the Bureau may have recourse to the tacit approval of all the members of the committee through electronic communication, in order to expedite procedure on decisions requested by the Committee of Ministers.

c. Other members of the Bureau shall be appointed in the same manner as the Chair and Vice-Chair. They shall be appointed immediately after the Chair and Vice-Chair in accordance with an equitable distribution of posts, taking into account in particular geographical distribution, gender balance and, where relevant, legal systems.

d. The term of office of such members shall correspond to the duration of the mandate of the committee and may be renewed once. However, a member may, on expiry of her/his second term, be appointed Chair or Vice-Chair. In order to ensure partial replacement of the Bureau each year, the first term of at least one such member shall be limited to one year.

e. A member elected to replace another whose term of office has not expired shall complete her/his predecessor's term. The same shall apply to the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Article 14 – Working methods

a. Committees may appoint a rapporteur, a drafting committee or both.

b. Where necessary, in order to expedite the progress of their work, committees may entrust a rapporteur or a limited number of committee members with a specific task to be fulfilled by their next meeting, using primarily information technologies.

c. In exceptional cases, for specialised tasks that cannot be performed by a member of the committee or the Secretariat, committees may request the Secretary General to have recourse to consultants subject to the provisions of the relevant resolution and within the limits of budgetary appropriations.

d. Time- and cost-efficiency shall be a guiding principle for committee work, including best possible use of interactive technologies for networks and meetings.

e. Agenda items for information only shall be communicated to members in advance by electronic means allowing the committee to focus during its meeting on agenda items for decision.

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APPENDIX II

CDDG Bureau members since 2014

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Chair	Mr Paul-Henri PHILIPS (Belgium)	Mr Paul-Henri PHILIPS (Belgium)	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria)	Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria)	Ms Monika FILIPOVÁ (Slovak Republic) - resigned	To be elected
Vice-chair	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Paul-Henri PHILIPS (Belgium)	Mr Paul-Henri PHILIPS (Belgium)	M. Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy)	M. Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy)	Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI (Finland)	To be elected (the incumbent can run again)
Other members	Mr Alexander BALTHASAR (Austria) Ms Desislava DRAGOVA (Bulgaria) Mr Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy) Ms Paqui SANTONJA (Spain) Ms Greta ULLAND BILLING (Norway)	Mr Alexander BALTHASAR (Austria) Ms Desislava DRAGOVA (Bulgaria) Mr Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy) [Ms Paqui SANTONJA (Spain)]* Ms Inga NYHOLM (Finland) Ms Greta ULLAND BILLING (Norway)	Mr Alexander BALTHASAR (Austria) Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece) Mr Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy) Ms Inga NYHOLM (Finland) Ms Greta ULLAND BILLING (Norway)	[Mr Alexander BALTHASAR (Austria)]* Mr Damien FERAILLE (France) Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece) M. Francesco GIUSTINO (Italy) (Ms Inga NYHOLM (Finland))* Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria) [Ms Greta ULLAND BILLING (Norway)]* Ms Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland)	Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece) Mr Damien FERAILLE (France) Ms Milica MARKOVIC (Serbia) Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom) Ms Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland)	Ms Monika FILIPOVÁ (Slovak Republic) Ms Milica MARKOVIC (Serbia) Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI (Finland) Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom) Ms Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland)	Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria) Ms Natalia LAS HERAS OLIVETE (Spain) - resigned Mr Edwin LEFEBRE (Belgium), for one year Ms Milica MARKOVIC (Serbia) - resigned Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)	Mr Peter ANDRE (Austria) To be elected To be elected (the incumbent can run again) To be elected (the incumbent can run again) Mr Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)

* Replaced before the end of the term of office for the remainder of the mandate