

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2021)38-DEC-fin
26 May 2021

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress
Remote, Wednesday 26 May 2021
Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken**

1. The President of the Bureau, Mr Leendert VERBEEK opened the meeting. The list of participants appears in Appendix 1. The Bureau adopted the agenda as set out in Appendix 2.
2. The Bureau took note of the decisions of the last meeting of the Bureau on 24 March which had been adopted by written procedure on 6 April 2021 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)37-DEC.
3. The Bureau took note of the communication by the President of the Congress.
4. The Bureau took note of the of the communication by the Secretary General of the Congress, the Congress' cooperation activities and the Partnership agreement to strengthen co-operation between the city of Strasbourg and the Council of Europe.
5. The Bureau approved the composition of national delegations as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)38-14.
6. The Bureau took note of the terms of reference for Congress representatives to outside bodies as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)38-15 and appointed the following Bureau rapporteurs and representatives to outside bodies:
 - a. Bureau rapporteurs on the Verification of Credentials of New Members and New Appointment Procedures:
 - Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)
 - Aleksandra MALETIĆ, Serbia (R, EPP/CCE)
 - b. Bureau rapporteurs on the Budget and Resources of the Congress:
 - Antonija JOZIĆ, Croatia (L, EPP/CCE)
 - Lia MONTALTI, Italy (R, SOC/G/PD)
 - c. Bureau rapporteurs on the Congress Priorities for 2021-2026:
 - Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE)
 - Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE)
 - d. Bureau rapporteurs on the Congress Charter and Congress Rules and Procedures:
 - Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)
 - John WARMISHAM, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD)
 - e. Congress representatives to the North-South Centre and rapporteurs on the South-Mediterranean Partnership:
 - Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)
 - Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)
 - Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)
 - Carla DEJONGHE, Belgium (R, ILDG)

- f. Congress representatives to the Venice Commission's Council for Democratic Elections and Spokespersons on the Observation of Local and Regional Elections:
- Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (R, ILDG)
 - Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)
 - Randi MONDORF, Denmark (R, ILDG)
 - Vladimir PREBILIC, Slovenia (L, SOC/G/PD)

7. The Bureau examined the working methods of the Congress as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)38-18 and decided: to introduce a system of abridged reports – items discussed and decisions taken, to be adopted at the end of each meeting of the Congress bodies, and to hold committee meetings in camera notwithstanding the possibility of organising public hearings as required. The Bureau noted that the Secretariat will be proposing a draft revision of the Rules and Procedures in due course.

8. The Bureau took note of the use of the budget of the Congress for 2021 and the perspectives for the budget 2022 and asked heads of delegation to liaise with their respective national authorities in light of Recommendation 454 (2021), in the context of the preparation of the Council of Europe budget for 2022-2023.

9. The Bureau adopted the timetable of meetings as set out in Document [CG\(2021\)40-15](#) and the draft agenda of the second part-session of the 40th Session of the Congress as set out in Document CG(2021)40-02-OJprov, amended, and took note of the charring of the plenary sitting as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)38-INF28.

10. The Bureau took note of the information from committee chairs on their latest meetings and implementation of Congress priorities and approved the new terms of reference for reports as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)38-23, and the work plans of the committees as set out in Documents CG-MON(2021)20-02, CG-GOV(2021)17-01 and CG-CUR(2021)18-01.

11. With regard to local and regional democracy in Turkey, the Bureau took note with concern of the situation of Nurhayat ALTUN and of Leyla GÜVEN, former Congress members imprisoned in Turkey.

12. The Bureau took note of the request of the Georgian authorities to the Congress to observe the forthcoming municipal elections in Georgia and agreed to this request subject to prevailing sanitary conditions. The Bureau also took note of the calendar of local and regional elections in 2021 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)38- INF26.

13. The Bureau took note of the proposed candidates for the North-South Prize 2021 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)38-24 and agreed to put forward the candidatures of: the Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) for the South, and Marvin REES, Mayor of Bristol in the United Kingdom for the North.

14. The Bureau took note of the information concerning the World Forum for Democracy 2020/2021 - "Can Democracy Save the Environment".

15. The Bureau held an exchange of views with Ambassador Mårten EHNBERG, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe, Chair of the Rapporteur Group on Democracy of the Committee of Ministers (GR-DEM).

16. The Bureau took note of information on the 2nd Part of the Parliamentary Assembly's 2021 Session (Strasbourg, 19-22 April 2021).

17. With regard to the intergovernmental sector, the Bureau took note of the outcome of the 131st session of the Committee of Ministers held in Hamburg on 21 May 2021 and the priorities of the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

18. The Bureau took note of the meeting of the High-level Group of the European Committee of the Regions and Congress held on 22 April 2021 and agreed to nominate a representative to participate in the Selection Committee of the Adamowicz Award, and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a roadmap for co-operation with the European Committee of the Regions based on the proposals contained in the summary report of the above-mentioned meeting.

19. The Bureau approved the list of Congress meetings in 2021 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)38-16. The Bureau took note of the kind invitation from the Hungarian delegation to hold its September Bureau meeting in Veszprém, Hungary and agreed to this invitation subject to feasibility and prevailing sanitary conditions.

20. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting – list of items discussed and decisions taken.

Appendix 1 – List of participants

Members of the Bureau

Leendert VERBEEK, Netherlands, (R, SOC/G/PD), President of the Congress
Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany, (L, EPP/CCE), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria, (R, EPP/CCE), President of the Chamber of Regions
John WARMISHAM, United Kingdom, (L, SOC/G/PD)
Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway, (R, EPP/CCE)
Xavier CADORET, France, (L, SOC/G/PD)
Aleksandra MALETIĆ, Serbia, (R, EPP/CCE)
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece, (L, EPP/CCE)
Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg, (L, ILDG)
Lia MONTALTI, Italy, (R, SOC/G/PD)
Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia, (L, EPP/CCE)
Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden, (R, SOC/G/PD)
Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia, L, EPP/CCE)
Alexander DROZDENKO, Russian Federation, (R, EPP/CCE)

Outgoing President

Anders KNAPE, Sweden, (L, EPP/CCE)

Chairs of committees

Gudrun MÖSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria, (L, SOC/G/PD), Monitoring Committee
Jelena DRENJANIN, Sweden, (L, EPP/CCE), Governance Committee
Thomas ANDERSSON, Sweden, (R, ILDG), Current Affairs Committee

Chairs of Congress political groups

Anders KNAPE, Sweden, (L, EPP/CCE), *ad interim*
Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, Belgium, (R, SOC/G/PD)
Marc COOLS, Belgium, (L, ILDG)
Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine, (R, ECR)

Secretariat

Andreas KIEFER, Secretary General of the Congress
Rafael BENITEZ, Director of the Congress
Dolores RÍOS TURÓN, Head of the Table Office and Secretary of the Bureau
Renate ZIKMUND, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Dmitri MARCHENKOV, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions
Fatima NOUICER, Co-Secretary to the Bureau
Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Bureau

Appendix 2 – Agenda

- Opening of the meeting
1. Adoption of the draft agenda [CG-BUR(2021)38-OJprov]
 2. Decisions taken by the Bureau - Remote meeting (24 March 2021) [CG-BUR(2021)37-DEC]
 3. Communication by the President of the Congress [CG-BUR(2021)38-INF24]
 4. Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress [CG-BUR(2021)38-INF25]
[CG-BUR(2021)38-INF30]
[CG-BUR(2021)38-INF27]
 5. National delegations [CG-BUR(2021)38-14]
 6. Bureau rapporteurs and representatives in outside bodies [CG-BUR(2021)38-13]
[CG-BUR(2021)38-15]
 7. Reflection on the working methods of the Congress [CG-BUR(2021)38-18]
 - 7.1 Adoption of abridged reports of the meetings – list of items discussed and decisions taken
 - 7.2 Public nature of committee meetings
 8. Budget of the Congress [CG(2021)40-06]
 - 8.1 Budget for 2021
 - 8.2 Perspectives for 2022
 9. 40th Session (second part-session)
 - 9.1 Timetable of meetings [CG(2021)40-15]
 - 9.2 Draft agenda [CG(2021)40-OJ-02]
 - 9.3 Chairing of the plenary sittings of the session [CG-BUR(2021)38-INF28]
 10. Committees
 - 10.1 Information from committee chairs on their meetings and activities [CG-MON(2021)20-OJprov]
[CG-GOV(2021)18-OJprov]
[CG-CUR(2021)18-OJprov]
 - 10.2 New terms of reference for committee activities [CG-BUR(2021)38-25]
 - 10.3 Work plans of the committees and Congress priorities [CG-BUR(2021)38-17]
[CG-MON(2021)20-02]
[CG-GOV(2021)17-01]
[CG-CUR(2021)18-01]
 11. Local and regional democracy
 - 11.1 Turkey – situation of Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven
 12. Local and regional elections
 - 12.1 Invitation to observe the local elections in Georgia [CG-BUR(2021)38-20]
 - 12.2 Calendar of local and regional elections 2021 [CG-BUR(2021)38-INF26]
 13. North-South Centre
 - 13.1 Candidates for the North-South Prize 2021 [CG-BUR(2021)38-24]
 14. World Forum for Democracy 2020/2021 – “Can Democracy Save the Environment ?”
 15. Exchange of views with Ambassador Mårten EHNBERG, [CG-BUR(2021)38-INF33]
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe,
Chair of the Rapporteur Group on Democracy
of the Committee of Ministers (GR-DEM)
 16. Parliamentary Assembly - 2nd Part of the 2021 Session (Strasbourg, 19-22 April 2021)

CG-BUR(2021)38-DEC

- 17. Intergovernmental sector
 - 17.1 Committee of Ministers - 131st Session of the Committee of Ministers Hamburg, 21 May 2021
 - 17.1.2 Report by the German Presidency [CM/Inf(2021)8]
 - 17.1.3 Priorities of the Hungarian Presidency [CM/Inf(2021)9]
 - 17.2 Intergovernmental committees
 - Abridged report of the 13th CDDG meeting (Strasbourg, 15-16 April 2021) [CDDG(2021)12]
- 18. European Committee of the Regions - Meeting of High-level Group (22.04.2021)
 - 18.1 Meeting of High-level Group (22.04.2021)
 - 18.2 Participation in the Evaluation Committee of the Adamowicz Award
- 19. Congress meetings in 2021 [CG-BUR(2021)38-16]
 - 19.1 Bureau meeting in September 2021: invitation to Veszprém, Hungary [CG-BUR(2021)38-19]
- 20. Other business
- 21. Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting [CG-BUR(2021)38-DEC]