

CG-BUR(2024)60-DEC
12 September 2024

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress
Strasbourg, Room 11
Thursday 12 September 2024**

Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken

1. The President of the Congress, Mr Marc COOLS, opened the meeting. The list of participants is set out in Appendix 1.
2. The Bureau adopted the revised agenda as set out in Appendix 2.
3. The Bureau took note of the communication by the President of the Congress.
4. The Bureau took note of the communication by the Secretary General of the Congress.
5. The Bureau took note of the draft programme of the Conference of national associations of local and regional authorities, to be held in Strasbourg on 12-13 September 2024, and of the list of participants. It took note of the 4 proposed amendments received to the draft declaration and decided to support 2 of them.
6. The Bureau pursued its discussions on the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and held an exchange of views on recent developments in Ukraine.

It adopted a draft declaration on the destruction of cultural heritage in Ukraine, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-51, to be submitted to the plenary for adoption at its 47th session in October 2024.
7. The Bureau agreed to adopt by the written procedure the preliminary draft resolution on the integration of youth perspectives in local and regional democratic life, set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-45, to be submitted to the plenary for debate at its 47th session in October 2024, and to consult the Congress's thematic spokesperson on youth in this process.
8. The Bureau took note of the information on the situation in Georgia and considered that a high level visit should be carried out in order to ensure the pursuance of the political dialogue with Georgian authorities and civil society and better assess the impact of the new legislation on local governance and on local communities.
9. The Bureau took note of the information on the U20 2024 Summit and decided to appoint a representative to attend the Summit.
10. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget of the Congress.
11. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-46.
12. The Bureau approved the requests for granting honorary member status to Mr Leendert VERBEEK, former President of the Congress and former member of the delegation of the Netherlands, and to Mr Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, former Vice-President of the Congress and former member of the delegation of Belgium, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-53.

13. The Bureau approved the draft agenda of the 47th Session of the Congress as set out in document CG(2024)47-OJ, the timetable and deadlines for elections during the session as set out in document CG(2024)60-47, and the side-events as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-48.

It took note of the schedule of meetings as set out in document CG(2024)47-01 and of the list of youth delegates as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)-60-49 and asked the secretariat, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of its "Rejuvenating Politics" initiative, to write to heads of national delegations to ask what measures they take to integrate the youth delegate in respect of their country in their work.

14. The Bureau took note of the activities of the committees and approved the new terms of reference for committee activities set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-50.

15. The Bureau took note of the information concerning the activities of the Congress on local and regional elections and took note of the letter sent by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly to the Congress President concerning the creation of the Parliamentary Assembly Network of Election Observers and of the terms of reference of this network.

It appointed Stewart DICKSON as the Congress representative to the network.

16. The Bureau took note of the information on co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions.

17. The Bureau took note of the situation of local elected representatives in Türkiye, including former Congress members Nurhayat ALTUN and Leyla GÜVEN. It welcomed the release of Nurhayat ALTUN in May 2024.

18. The Bureau took note of the updated information on Congress Bureau rapporteurs, standing and deputy standing rapporteurs on human rights, thematic and deputy thematic spokespersons and Congress representatives in external bodies, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-52.

19. The Bureau took note of the oral report of the first meeting of the Accreditation Platform (11 September 2024) for ELoGE (European Label of Governance Excellence).

20. The Bureau took note of the proposed candidacies for the 2024 North-South Prize set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-54 and decided to nominate Fatimatou Mint ABDEL MALICK and João CAMPOS for the South and Anne HIDALGO and Jacek SUTRYK for the North.

21. The Bureau took note of the concept note and programme of the World Forum for Democracy and of the call for candidates from the Congress to participate in the Forum to be held in Strasbourg on 6-8 November 2024.

22. The Bureau took note of the information provided regarding the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly.

23. The Bureau took note of the Council of Europe Development Bank conference on homelessness to be held on 3 December 2024.

24. The Bureau took note of the information on the United Nations High Level Political Forum held in New York, 8-12 July 2024 and on upcoming events: the Summit of the Future to be held in New York on 22-23 September 2024; the Forum of Mayors to be held in Geneva on 30 September-1 October 2024; and the UNECE Workshop on housing affordability, to be held in Geneva on 2 October 2024.

25. The Bureau took note of the information on relations with former members of the Congress, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-56.

26. The Bureau took note of the Congress meetings in 2024, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-57, the dates of sessions and Bureau meetings in 2024, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-58, and the dates of sessions and Bureau meetings to be held in 2025 as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-59.

27. The Bureau took note of the revised version of the Congress Who's Who.
28. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)60-DEC.

Appendix 1 – List of participants

Members of the Bureau

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, GILD/ILDG), President of the Congress
Tunç SOYER, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD), President of the Chamber of Regions
Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, PPE/CCE), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, PPE/CCE)
Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/DP)
Randi MONDORF, Denmark, (ILDG)
Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia (L, EPP/CCE)
Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, PPE/CCE)
Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)
Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, CRE/ECR)
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)

Chairs of committees

Heiner KLEMP, Germany, (R, SOC/G/PD), 1st Vice-Chair Monitoring Committee
Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/DP), Social Inclusion Committee

Presidents of Congress political groups

Danela ARSOVSKA, North Macedonia (L, 1st Vice-President of the EPP/CCE)
Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (L, ILDG)
Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, ECR)

Secretariat

Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress
Claudia LUCIANI, Director of the Congress
Daniel POPESCU, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions
Stephanie POIREL, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Sarah BURTON, Head of the Table Office and Secretary of the Bureau
Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Table Office
Ayana TISSERANT, Assistant to the Table Office

Appendix 2 – Agenda

1.	Opening of the meeting		
2.	Adoption of the agenda	CG-BUR(2024)60-OJ CG-BUR(2024)59-DEC	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>
3.	Communication by the President of the Congress		
	Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress	CG-BUR(2024)60-43	<i>Info.</i>
4.	Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress		
	Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress	6.09 CG-BUR(2024)60-44	<i>Info.</i>
5.	Conference of national associations of local and regional authorities, Strasbourg, 12-13 September 2024	Draft Programme Draft declaration List of participants	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
6.	Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine		
6.1	Update on recent developments		<i>Info.</i>
6.2	Adoption of a draft declaration on the destruction of cultural heritage in Ukraine	CG-BUR(2024)60-51	<i>Dec.</i>
	Rapporteurs: Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG) Gunn-Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)		
7.	“Rejuvenating Politics” Initiative: 10 years of revitalising democracy		
	Presentation of a draft resolution (<i>for adoption by the written procedure</i>)	11.09 CG-BUR(2024)60-45	<i>Dec.</i>
	Rapporteurs: Randi MONDORF, Denmark (R, ILDG) Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD)		
8.	Situation in Georgia	6.09 – Confidential CG-BUR(2024)60-60	<i>Info.</i>
9.	U20 2024		
9.1	Information on the U20 2024 Summit	Link	<i>Info.</i>
9.2	Endorsement by the Bureau of the draft co-chairs statement	Draft statement	<i>Dec.</i>

SUSPENSION OF MEETING

10:30am

*Signature of a memorandum of understanding
between the Ukrainian Association of Rayon and Oblast Councils and the Congress*

10.	Budget of the Congress		<i>Info.</i>
11.	National delegations		
	Changes in the composition of national delegations	CG-BUR(2024)60-46	<i>Dec.</i>
	Rapporteurs: Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR) Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG)		
12.	Request for granting honorary member status	CG-BUR(2024)60-53	<i>Dec.</i>
13.	47th Session of the Congress, 15-17 October 2024		
13.1	Elections during the session	CG-BUR(2024)60-47 Signature form	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>
13.2	Schedule of meetings	CG(2024)47-01	<i>Info.</i>
13.3	Approval of the draft agenda	CG(2024)47-OJ	<i>Dec.</i>
13.4	Side events	CG-BUR(2024)60-48	<i>Dec.</i>
13.5	Youth delegates	CG-BUR(2024)60-49	<i>Info.</i>
14.	Work of the committees	CG-BUR(2024)60-50 CG-MON(2024)02-01	<i>Info.</i>
15.	Local and regional elections	10.09 AS/Elect (2024) 02 Letter for the attention of the President of the Congress	<i>Info.</i> <i>Dec.</i>
16.	Congress cooperation activities in member States and neighboring regions		<i>Info.</i>
17.	Local and regional democracy		<i>Info.</i>
17.1	Türkiye - situation of local elected representatives, including former Congress members Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven		
18.	Permanent rapporteurs of the Congress on human rights, thematic spokespersons and representatives in external bodies	CG-BUR(2024)60-52	<i>Info.</i>

19.	ELoGE (European Label of Governance Excellence)		<i>Info.</i>
	Oral report of the first meeting of the Accreditation Platform (11 September 2024)		
20.	North-South Prize		
	Candidacies for the 2024 North-South Prize	CG-BUR(2024)60-54	<i>Dec.</i>
21.	World Forum for Democracy	Concept note Programme CG-BUR(2024)60-55	<i>Info.</i>
22.	Parliamentary Assembly		
23.	Intergovernmental sector		<i>Info.</i>
23.1	[Possibly] Replies from the Committee of Ministers to texts adopted by the Congress	CM/Cong(2024)Rec...-final	
23.2	Council of Europe Development Bank Conference on homelessness, 2 December 2024		
24.	United Nations		<i>Info.</i>
24.1	UN High Level Political Forum, New York, 8-12 July 2024		
24.2	Summit of the Future, New York, 22-23 September 2024		
24.3	Forum of Mayors, Geneva, 30 September-1 October 2024		
24.4	UNECE, Workshop on housing affordability, Geneva, 2 October 2024		
25.	Relations with former Congress members	CG-BUR(2024)60-56	<i>Info.</i>
26.	Congress sessions and Bureau meetings in 2024		<i>Info.</i>
26.1	All Congress meetings in 2024	CG-BUR(2024)60-57	
26.2	Calendar of Bureau meetings and Sessions in 2024	CG-BUR(2024)60-58	
26.3	Calendar of Bureau meetings and Sessions in 2025	CG-BUR(2024)60-59	
27.	Other business		<i>Info.</i>
	Congress Who's Who	link	
28.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2024)60-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>
	Close of the meeting		

**Date of the next meeting:
Strasbourg, Monday 14 October 2024**

**to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat
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