

CG-BUR(2024)59-DEC
6 June 2024

Online Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress

Thursday 6 June 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 pursued its discussions on the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and held an exchange of views on recent developments in Ukraine.
4. The Bureau took note of the communication by the President of the Congress.
5. The Bureau took note of the communication by the Secretary General of the Congress. It supported the Secretary General's proposal to examine the feasibility of opening the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122) to ratification by non-member States of the Council of Europe, and took note that the legal opinion of the Council of Europe's Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law had been requested.
6. The Bureau adopted the amendments to Administrative Rule No. 5 set out in document CG-BUR(2024)59-33.
7. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget of the Congress.
8. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations, as set out in documents CG-BUR(2024)59-34 and CG-BUR(2024)59-34ADD.
9. The Bureau held a discussion on mayors under pressure and decided that a report of the Congress should be prepared on this subject, on the basis of terms of reference to be approved by the written procedure.
10. The Bureau approved the preliminary draft agenda of the 47th Session of the Congress as set out in document CG(2024)47-OJ, took note of the schedule of meetings as set out in document CG(2024)47-01, and approved the side-events set out in document CG-BUR(2024)59-35.
11. The Bureau took note of the activities of the Committees between 25 March 2024 and 5 June 2024 and approved the new terms of reference for committee activities set out in document CG-BUR(2024)59-36. It took note of the proposed terms of reference for reports of the Governance Committee set out in document CG-GOV(2024)2-05 and document CG-GOV(2024)2-06, and agreed to examine these by written procedure should they be adopted by the Governance Committee at its forthcoming meeting of 11 June.
12. The Bureau took note of the information on local and regional elections in Türkiye, regretted that it had proved impossible to constitute a delegation to observe the local elections in Hungary on 9 June 2024 following the invitation forwarded by the Hungarian authorities on 28 May 2024 which left only 72

hours to form a delegation, and accepted the invitation to observe the local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to be held on 6 October 2024, possibly jointly with the OSCE-ODIHR.

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

14. The Bureau approved the Rules of Procedure of the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) Accreditation Platform as set out in Appendix I to document CG-BUR(2024)59-37, and took note of the draft ELoGE regulations set out in Appendix II to this document.

15. The Bureau took note of the information on the situation of local and regional democracy in member States. It took note of the situation of local elected representatives in Türkiye, including former Congress members Nurhayat ALTUN and Leyla GÜVEN. The Bureau took note of information provided regarding local and regional democracy in Kosovo* and Cyprus.

16. 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.

17. The Bureau heard a presentation given by Mr Giuseppe ZAFFUTO, Head of Division – Spokesperson of the Secretary General, Directorate of Communication, on the structures and functioning of the Council of Europe and held an exchange of views with him.

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

19. The Bureau took note of the Committee of Ministers' reply to Congress Recommendation 498 (2023), of the priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, of the 2024 annual report of the Secretary General, "Our rights, our future", and of the information provided on the work of the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM).

20. 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)59-38REV.

21. The Bureau took note of the information on the participation of members.

22. The Bureau took note of the proposals of the secretariat concerning relations with former Congress members.

23. The Bureau took note of the proposals of the president concerning the reciprocal communication between the Congress, the CoR, the CEMR and the AER of publications of shared interest.

24. The Bureau took note of the Congress meetings in 2024, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)59-40, the dates for the sessions and Bureaux meetings in 2024, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)59-41, and approved the calendar of Bureaux and sessions in 2025 as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)59-42REV2.

25. The Bureau held a discussion on honorary members of the Congress and agreed to come back to this item at its next meeting. It took note of the Congress Who's Who.

26. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)59-DEC.

* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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)
Lia MONTALTI, Italy (R, SOC/G/PD)
Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/DP)
David ERAY, Switzerland (R, PPE/CCE)
Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/DP)
Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, GILD/ILDG)
Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, PPE/CCE)
Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia (L, EPP/CCE)
Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, CRE/ECR)
Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)
Mario FAVA, Malta (R, SOC/G/DP)
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)

Chairs of committees

Thibaut GUIGNARD, France (L, PPE/CCE), Monitoring Committee
Jelena DRENJANIN, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE), Governance Committee
Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/DP), Social Inclusion Committee

Presidents of Congress political groups

Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE)
Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (L, GILD/ILDG)
Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, CRE/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
Delphine WEISSHAUPT, National Delegations Manager
Imogen HATTENVILLE, Assistant to the Table Office

Appendix 2 – Agenda

1.	Opening of the meeting		
2.	Adoption of the agenda	CG-BUR(2024)59-OJ CG-BUR(2024)58-DEC	<i>Dec. Info.</i>
3.	Communication by the President of the Congress		
	Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress	04.06 CG-BUR(2024)59-31	<i>Info.</i>
4.	Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress		
	Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress	05.06 CG-BUR(2024)59-32	<i>Info.</i>
5.	Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine		
	Recent developments		<i>Info.</i>
6.	Amendment of the Administrative Rules of the Congress		
	Draft amendments to Administrative Rule No. 5	CG-BUR(2024)59-33	<i>Dec.</i>
	Rapporteurs: Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD) Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)		
7.	Budget of the Congress		<i>Info.</i>
8.	National delegations		
	Changes in the composition of national delegations	CG-BUR(2024)59-34	<i>Dec.</i>
	Rapporteurs: Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR) Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG)	05.06 CG-BUR(2024)59-34ADD	
9.	Mayors under pressure		<i>Info.</i>
10.	47th Session of the Congress, 15-17 October 2024		
10.1	Preliminary draft agenda	CG(2024)47-OJ	<i>Dec.</i>
10.2	Schedule of meetings	CG(2024)47-01	<i>Info.</i>
10.3	Side events	CG-BUR(2024)59-35	<i>Dec.</i>

11.	Activities of Committees	CG-BUR(2024)59-36 CG-GOV(2024)2-05 CG-GOV(2024)2-06	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
12.	Local and regional elections		<i>Info.</i>
13.	Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions		<i>Info.</i>
14.	European Label of Governance Excellence (ELOGE)	CG-BUR(2024)59-37	<i>Dec.</i>
15.	Local and regional democracy		<i>Info.</i>
15.1	Türkiye – situation of local elected representatives, including former Congress members Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven		
15.2	Kosovo*		
15.3	Cyprus		
16.	Conference of national associations of local and regional authorities, Strasbourg, 12-13 September 2024	Draft programme	<i>Info.</i>
17.	[At 2pm] Structures and functioning of the Council of Europe		<i>Info.</i>
	Presentation by Giuseppe Zaffuto, Directorate of Communication		<i>Info.</i>
18.	Parliamentary Assembly	Communication on the activities of the Committee of Ministers	<i>Info.</i>
19.	Intergovernmental sector		
19.1	Committee of Ministers' reply to texts adopted by the Congress	CM/Cong(2024)Rec498-final	<i>Info.</i>
19.2	Priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 May 2024 – 13 November 2024)	CM/Inf(2024)9	<i>Info.</i>
19.3	2024 report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe: "Our rights, our future"	2024 annual report	<i>Info.</i>
19.4	Congress participation in intergovernmental committees		

* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

20.	Congress standing rapporteurs on human rights, thematic spokespersons and representatives in external bodies	05.06 CG-BUR(2024)59-38REV	<i>Info.</i>
21.	Participation of members		<i>Info.</i>
22.	Relations with former Congress members		<i>Info.</i>
23	Reciprocal communication between the Congress, the CoR, the CEMR, the AER, ... of publications of shared interest		
24.	Congress sessions and Bureau meetings in 2024		
24.1	All Congress meetings in 2024	CG-BUR(2024)59-40	<i>Info.</i>
24.2	Calendar of Bureaux and sessions in 2024	CG-BUR(2024)59-41	<i>Info.</i>
24.3	Proposed calendar of Bureaux and sessions in 2025	05.06 CG-BUR(2024)59-42	<i>Dec.</i>
25.	Other business		<i>Info.</i>
25.1	Honorary members of the Congress		
25.2	Congress Who's Who	link	
26.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	06.06 CG-BUR(2024)59-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>

Close of the meeting

**Date of the next meeting:
Strasbourg, Thursday 12 September 2024**

**to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat
→ congress.bureau@coe.int**