

CG-BUR(2021)42-DEC  
6 December 2021

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress  
Strasbourg  
6 December 2021  
Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken**

1. The President of the Congress, Mr Leendert VERBEEK, opened the meeting. The list of participants appears in Appendix 1.
  2. The Bureau adopted the 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 information on the meetings of the Bureau of the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Bureau of the Chamber of Regions held on 6 December 2021.
  6. The Bureau took note of the information on the implementation of the 2021 budget and the budget for 2022-2023 and adopted a declaration on the Congress budget 2022-2023 as set out in Appendix 3.
  7. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)42-44.
  8. The Bureau took note of the timetable of meetings, as set out in Document CG(2021)42-01, and adopted the draft agenda of the 42nd Session of the Congress, as set out in Document CG(2021)42-OJ, and entrusted the President to make changes to the order of items as discussed. The Bureau also took note of the call for candidatures for youth delegates for 2022 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)42-INF73.
  9. The Bureau took note of the list of Bureau rapporteurs and representatives in outside bodies, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)42-45, and agreed to resume the discussion at a future meeting.
  10. The Bureau considered the situation concerning the Congress thematic spokespersons, appointed the following three thematic spokespersons:
    - a. Thematic Spokesperson on the European Local Democracy Week:  
Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom, (L, SOC/G/PD)
    - b. Thematic Spokesperson on Human Rights:  
Harald BERGMANN, Netherlands (L, ILDG)
    - c. Thematic Spokesperson on Digitalisation and artificial intelligence:  
David ERAY Switzerland (R, EPP/CCE)
- and decided that the other thematic spokespersons would be appointed at a later stage.
11. The Bureau took note of information on the Monitoring Committee activities and of the meetings of the Current Affairs Committee and of the Governance Committee held on 18 and 19 November 2021 respectively as set out in Documents CG/CUR(2021)19-DEC and CG/GOV(2021)19-DEC.
  12. The Bureau took note of the calendar of local and regional elections as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)42-INF76, and of the observation of local and regional elections held in Denmark on 16 November 2021 and the observation of the elections of the local self-government bodies held in Armenia 1-6 December 2021. The Bureau entrusted the three presidents with following up the feasibility of observing the municipal elections in the Netherlands on 16 March 2022 following receipt of an invitation.
  13. With respect to Turkey, the Bureau reiterated its concern at the situation of opposition politicians in long term detention, notably that of Nurhayat ALTUN and Leyla GÜVEN, former members of the Turkish delegation to the Congress.

14. The Bureau took note of the discussions within the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) on the Council of Europe contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and on the Council of Europe policy toward neighbouring regions and relations with other organisations and the Congress' contribution thereto.

15. The Bureau took note of the Stocktaking of the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (21 May – 17 November 2021) and of the Priorities of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 November 2021 – 20 May 2022) as set out respectively in Documents CM/Inf(2021)20 and CM/Inf(2021)21.

16. The Bureau took note of the list of Congress meetings in 2021 and 2022 as set out in CG-BUR(2021)42-INF78.

17. The Bureau continued its follow-up to the brainstorming on the functioning and working methods of the Congress.

18. The Bureau adopted the present Abridged report of the meeting – List of items discussed and decisions taken as set out in Document CG-BUR(2021)42-DEC.

## 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  
 Xavier CADORET, France, (L, SOC/G/PD) - online  
 Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)  
 Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece, (L, EPP/CCE) - online  
 Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg, (L, ILDG) - online  
 Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia (L, EPP/CCE) - online  
 Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia, (L, EPP/CCE)  
 Lia MONTALTI, Italy (R, SOC/G/PD) - online  
 John WARMISHAM, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD) – online  
 Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden, (R, SOC/G/PD) - online  
 Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)  
 Alexander DROZDENKO, Russian Federation, (R, EPP/CCE) - online

### Chairs of committees

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

### Presidents of Congress political groups

Marc COOLS, Belgium, (L, ILDG)  
 Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, Belgium, (R, SOC/G/PD) - online  
 Thibaut GUIGNARD, France, (L, EPP/CCE), 1st Vice-president  
 Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom, (R, ECR), 1st Vice-president – online

### 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  
 Stephanie POIREL, Head of the Division of Statutory Activities  
 Fatima NOUICER, Co-Secretary to the Bureau  
 Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Bureau

**Appendix 2 – Agenda**

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|------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| <b>1.</b>  | <b>Opening of the meeting</b>   |  |                              |
| <b>2.</b>  | <b>Adoption of the draft agenda</b>   | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2021)42-OJ</a>  | <i>Dec.</i>                  |
| <b>3.</b>  | <b>Communication by the President of the Congress</b>   |  | <i>Info.</i>                 |
|            | Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2021)42-INF70</a>   |                              |
| <b>4.</b>  | <b>Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress</b>   |  | <i>Info.</i>                 |
|            | Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2021)42-INF71</a><br><a href="#">CG-BUR(2021)42-INF79</a> | <i>Info.</i><br><i>Info.</i> |
| <b>5.</b>  | <b>Bureaux of the chambers – meetings of 6 December 2021</b>  | <a href="#">CPL-BUR(2021)31-OJ</a><br><a href="#">CPR-BUR(2021)31-OJ</a>     | <i>Info.</i><br><i>Info.</i> |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>Budget of the Congress</b>   | <b>3.12.2021</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2021)42-46</a>                           | <i>Dec.</i>                  |
|            | Implementation of the 2021 Budget   |  |                              |
|            | Budget for 2022-2023  |  |                              |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>National delegations</b>   |  | <i>Dec.</i>                  |
|            | Rapporteurs :<br>Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD) and<br>Aleksandra MALETIĆ, Serbia (R, EPP/CCE). |  |                              |
|            | Changes in the composition of the national delegations  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2021)42-44</a>  | <i>Dec.</i>                  |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>42nd Session of the Congress</b>   |  | <i>Info.</i>                 |
| 8.1        | Timetable of meetings   | <a href="#">CG(2022)42-01</a>  | <i>Info.</i>                 |
| 8.2        | Adoption of the draft agenda  | <a href="#">CG(2022)42-OJ</a>  | <i>Dec</i>                   |
| 8.3        | Call for candidatures for youth delegates for 2022  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2021)42-INF73</a>   | <i>Info.</i>                 |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>Bureau rapporteurs and representatives in outside bodies</b>                                       | <a href="#">CG(2021)42-45</a>  | <i>Dec.</i>                  |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Congress thematic spokespersons</b>  |  | <i>Dec.</i>                  |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Activities of the committees</b>   | <a href="#">CG-CUR(2021)19-DEC</a><br><a href="#">CG-GOV(2021)19-DEC</a>     | <i>Info.</i>                 |

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|------------|--|--|--------------|
| <b>12.</b> | <b>Local and regional elections</b>  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2021)42-INF76</a>                   | <i>Info.</i> |
| 12.1       | Local and regional elections in Denmark, 16 November 2021  | <a href="#">CG037(2021)</a>                            | <i>Info.</i> |
| 12.2       | Invitation to observe the municipal elections in Netherlands, 16 March 2022  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2021)42-43</a>                      | <i>Dec.</i>  |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>Local and regional democracy: Turkey</b>  |  | <i>Info.</i> |
|            | Situation of Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven  |  | <i>Info.</i> |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>Contribution to the Council of Europe policy toward neighbouring regions and relations with other organisations</b>       | GR-EXT(2021)14<br><br>GR-EXT(2021)11<br>SG/Inf(2021)14 | <i>Info.</i> |
| <b>15.</b> | <b>Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe</b>   |  | <i>Info.</i> |
| 15.1       | Stocktaking of the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (21 May – 17 November 2021)   | <a href="#">CM/Inf(2021)20</a>                         | <i>Info.</i> |
| 15.2       | Priorities of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 November 2021 – 20 May 2022) | <a href="#">CM/Inf(2021)21</a>                         | <i>Info.</i> |
| <b>16.</b> | <b>Congress meetings</b>   | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2021)42-INF78</a>                   | <i>Info</i>  |
| <b>17.</b> | <b>Follow-up to the brainstorming on the functioning and working methods of the Congress</b>                                 |  | <i>Dec.</i>  |
| <b>18.</b> | <b>Other business</b>  |  |              |
| <b>19.</b> | <b>Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting</b>  | CG-BUR(2021)42-DEC                                     | <i>Dec.</i>  |

**Close of the meeting**

**Date of the next meeting: Friday 11 February 2022**

to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat  
→ [congress.bureau@coe.int](mailto:congress.bureau@coe.int)

**Appendix 3 – Bureau declaration on the Congress budget 2022-2023**

CG-BUR(2021)42-46

The Bureau of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, in light of the Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/Res(2021)22 approving the Council of Europe Programme for 2022-2025 and the Budget for 2022, as well as the Budget for 2023 on a provisional basis:

1. Welcomes the Committee of Minister's decision to adopt a budget for 2022 and 2023 taking into account inflation in line with the principle of Zero Real Growth;
2. Thanks the heads of its national delegations for their support in light of Congress Recommendation 454 (2021) on the Budget of the Congress for 2022-2023;
3. Regrets that the Congress' requests as set out in its Recommendation 454 (2021) on the Budget of the Congress for 2022-2023 have not been met;
4. Further regrets that the Congress' call to concentrate activities of the Council of Europe for and with local and regional authorities under the Congress has not been met;
5. Welcomes the measures proposed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and approved by the Committee of Ministers in respect of monitoring bodies, including the Congress, to address the backlog caused by the delays due to Covid-19, including operational and staff resources;
6. Underlines, however, that these measures do not address the structural staff problems of the Congress which have led to delays in monitoring of the European Charter of Local Self-Government resulting in the fact that for more than one fifth of member States the monitoring cycle is longer than 5 years;
7. Commits to continuing to improve its functioning and working methods and to identify resources outside the Council of Europe budget in order to allow the Congress to fulfil its mandate and achieve the expected results;
8. Resolves to assess the possibilities proposed by national delegations and national authorities and to take decisions about activities to be continued or discontinued in view of the available ordinary and extrabudgetary resources;
9. Invites national delegations, national associations of local and regional authorities, and national authorities of member States to facilitate the Congress' return to a capacity to fulfil its mandate as set out in the Congress Charter by:
  - a. seconding staff to the Congress secretariat and
  - b. making voluntary contributions to finance concrete activities and projects such as the European Local Democracy Week, the Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion, the Pact of Towns and Regions against Sexual Exploitation of Children, the Summit of Mayors against Radicalisation or other activities, which are not fully funded;
10. Invites the Secretary General and the Committee of Ministers to make full use of the Congress' unique role in the institutional architecture of the Council of Europe and its potential to achieve the objective of improving democracy, human rights and the rule of law serving the women, men and children living in our 47 member States.

**Copies sent to:**

Permanent representations of the Council of Europe  
General Directorates of the Council of Europe  
All Congress Members  
Secretaries of national delegations to the Congress  
Congress staff members