

CG-BUR(2022)44-DEC  
28 February 2022

**Extraordinary meeting of the Bureau of the Congress  
Remote, Monday 28 February 2022**

**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 is set out in Appendix 1.
2. Concerning the situation in Ukraine, the Bureau took note of the statements by the Council of Europe institutions including those of the Congress President, and developments concerning the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly.
3. The Bureau took note of the decision of the Committee of Ministers of 25 February 2022 to suspend the rights of representation of the Russian Federation in the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly and was informed about the further consideration of this issue and decisions to be taken by the Committee of Ministers at its meeting on 2 March 2022.
4. The Bureau endorsed the statement of the President of the Congress of 24 February and strongly condemned the Russian military attack against Ukraine, a flagrant violation of international law and the Statute of Council of Europe, and the principles and values it stands for. It expressed its full solidarity with Ukraine and its people and deplored the loss of lives and the damaging consequences of the unjustified aggression. It urged the Russian authorities to immediately cease the hostilities and withdraw their troops from Ukraine and choose the path of diplomacy and peaceful settlement of the conflict.
5. Further to that, the Bureau approved a declaration as set out in Appendix 3 and agreed to submit it for adoption by the Congress at its next session (22-24 March).
6. In addition, the Bureau called on the member States of the Council of Europe to ensure the budgetary sustainability of the Organisation and to prevent the Council of Europe from suffering any financial damage, as a result of the decisions taken by the Committee of Ministers concerning the suspension of the rights of representation of the Russian Federation in the Council of Europe.
7. The Bureau adopted the present Abridged report of the meeting – List of items discussed and decisions taken as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)44-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)  
Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)  
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece, (L, EPP/CCE)  
Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg, (L, ILDG)  
Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia (L, EPP/CCE)  
Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia, (L, EPP/CCE)  
Lia MONTALTI, Italy (R, SOC/G/PD)  
John WARMISHAM, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD)  
Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden, (R, SOC/G/PD)  
Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)  
Alexander DROZDENKO, Russian Federation, (R, EPP/CCE)

### **Chairs of committees**

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

### **Outgoing President**

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

### **Presidents of Congress political groups**

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

### **Statutory Partner**

Magnus BERNTSSON, President of the Assembly of European Regions

### **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  
Stephanie POIREL, Head of the Division of Statutory Committees  
Fatima NOUCER, Co-Secretary to the Bureau  
Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Bureau

**Appendix 2 – Agenda**

1. **Opening of the meeting**
2. **Adoption of the draft agenda** [CG-BUR\(2022\)44-OJprov](#) *Dec.*
3. **Situation in Ukraine** *Info.*
  - a. **Background information** [CG-BUR\(2022\)44-21](#)
  - b. **Adoption of a declaration** [CG-BUR\(2022\)44-22](#) *Dec.*
4. **Other business** [CG-BUR\(2022\)44-23](#) *Dec.*
5. **Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting** CG-BUR(2022)44-DEC *Dec.*

**Close of the meeting**

**Date of the next meeting: Monday 21 March 2022**

### **Appendix 3 – Bureau declaration on the situation in Ukraine**

The Bureau of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities the Council of Europe, held an extraordinary meeting on 28 February 2022 and adopted the following Declaration:

The Bureau,

1. condemns in the strongest terms, the armed attack on Ukraine by the Russian Federation, which constitutes a blatant breach of international law and the Statute of the Council of Europe;
2. urges the Russian Federation to immediately and unconditionally cease its military operations in Ukraine and withdraw its troops;
3. deplores loss of life, human suffering and destruction caused by the Russian aggression and expresses its support to Ukraine and its solidarity with its people;
4. condemns the recognition by the Russian Federation of the Ukrainian oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent entities and the previous annexation of Crimea;
5. expresses its unwavering commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders;
6. underlines the fundamental role of the Council of Europe, as an organisation founded in the aftermath of the Second World War, to defend human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe, and ensure the peaceful coexistence of nations in Europe;
7. recalls, in this respect, that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress;
8. stresses that the armed attack on Ukraine by the Russian Federation constitutes an attack on the principles and values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law which the Council of Europe stands for, promotes and defends; and that this war makes it impossible for local authorities in Ukraine to operate and inflicts serious suffering on the Ukrainian people;
9. underlines the role of the Congress in contributing to the aim and objectives of the Council of Europe and in building up local and regional democracy, the values of which are deeply rooted in the Ukrainian nation, identity and institutions;
10. calls for the Russian Federation to respect its obligations under the Statute and under international law;
11. considers that it is impossible to co-operate with the Russian delegation in the Congress until the territorial integrity of Ukraine is restored; and
12. welcomes the Committee of Ministers' decision of 25 February 2022 to suspend the Russian Federation from its rights of representation in the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 8 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and calls on the Committee of Ministers to take the necessary additional decisions as soon as possible so that the suspension also applies to the Congress.

The Bureau stresses that democracy, multilevel governance and human rights are stronger than war, stands firmly by Ukraine and its people, and calls on all local and regional communities of Europe, and beyond, to stay united and determined in their solidarity with the Ukrainian nation, its people and its authorities.