

CG-BUR(2022)45-DEC
21 March 2022

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress
Monday 21 March 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. 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 the information on the meetings of the Bureau of the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Bureau of the Chamber of Regions held on 21 March 2022.
6. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the situation in Ukraine and took note of the decisions of the Committee of Ministers in particular Resolutions CM/Res(2022)1 and 2 and that the Russian Federation is no longer a member State of the Council of Europe.

It further noted that a special debate would be held on the first day of the session during which the Bureau declaration would be presented by the President for adoption by the Congress as set out in Document CG(2022)42-21 and endorsed the rapporteur amendments as set out in Documents CG(2022)42-21AMDT and CG(2022)42-21AMDT2. The consolidated version of the draft declaration, taking into account the amendments proposed in Documents CG(2022)42-21-AMDT and CG(2022)42-21-AMDT2 is set out in Appendix III.

The Bureau decided to mobilise its network and contacts to support local and regional authorities in Ukraine and to develop on its website a section on the situation in Ukraine to enable members and associations to publish initiatives for assistance to Ukrainian towns and cities.

7. The Bureau took note of the information on the implementation of the budget for 2022. It took note of the non-payment, by the Russian Federation, of its contribution and reiterated its call at its extraordinary meeting on 28 February, for member States to ensure the budgetary sustainability of the Organisation and to prevent the Council of Europe from suffering any financial damage. In this respect, the Bureau took note that it would be informed of contingency measures implemented by the Organisation to address the situation.
8. The Bureau continued its discussions on the functioning and working methods of the Congress, in light of the contribution by national delegations to the Congress, national associations and political groups and agreed to resume consideration of this issue with a view to drawing conclusions at the Bureau meeting in June.
9. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)45-27 and the preliminary draft resolution on the verification of new members' credentials and new appointment procedures as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)45-38.
10. The Bureau took note of the timetable of meetings and adopted the draft agenda of the 42nd Session of the Congress, as set out in Documents CG(2022)42-01 and CG(2022)42-OJ. The Bureau took note of the charring of the plenary sittings, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)45-35 and of the list of youth delegates for 2022, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)45-34. The Bureau further agreed that, in order to facilitate debates, Russian translation and Russian interpretation would exceptionally be provided during the 42nd Session.

11. The Bureau took note of the information on the activities of the committees. Furthermore, it thanked Hasan AKGÜN, Mayor of Büyükçekmece, Turkey for his kind invitation to hold a meeting of the Monitoring Committee on 30 June 2022 and gave its approval subject to the Congress' rules on budgetary neutrality. It took note of the report by the Chair of the Current Affairs Committee on follow-up to the statement issued on 4 November 2021 by the Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) concerning Bulgaria and instructed the Chair of the Current Affairs Committee to send a letter to the Head of the Bulgarian delegation in this respect.
12. The Bureau took note of the co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)45-36 and decided to organise a presentation of Congress co-operation activities in the October session.
13. The Bureau took note of the list of Bureau rapporteurs and representatives in outside bodies, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)45-29.
14. The Bureau took note of the list of Congress thematic spokespersons, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)45-30.
15. The Bureau took note of the request for Partner for Local Democracy status with the Congress by the Kyrgyz Republic as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)45-39, held an exchange of views on this request and decided to pursue its consideration at its next meeting in June.
16. The Bureau approved the request for Observer Partner status with the Congress of the Foundation for the Economy and Sustainable Development of the Regions of Europe (FEDRE).
17. The Bureau took note of the calendar of local and regional elections as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)45-32.
18. The Bureau took note of the situation of regional democracy in Turkey and of the situation of Nurhayat ALTUN and Leyla GÜVEN, former members of the Turkish delegation to the Congress.
19. The Bureau took note of the composition of statutory bodies of the Congress' European partner institutions as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)45-37.
20. The Bureau took note that the first Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award had been presented to Henriette REKER, the Lord Mayor of Cologne, Germany.
21. The Bureau took note of the list of Congress meetings in 2022 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)45-33.
22. 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)45-DEC.

Appendix 1 – List of participants

Members of the Bureau

Leendert VERBEEK, Netherlands, (R, SOC/G/PD), President of the Congress [remote]
 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)
 Tunç SOYER, Turkey, (R, SOC/G/PD) [remote]
 Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia, (L, EPP/CCE)
 Lia MONTALTI, Italy (R, SOC/G/PD) [remote]
 John WARMISHAM, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD)
 Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden, (R, SOC/G/PD)
 Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)

Chairs of committees

Thomas ANDERSSON, Sweden, (R, ILDG), Current Affairs Committee
 Jelena DRENJANIN, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE), Governance Committee [remote]
 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)

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 Committees
 Fatima NOUICER, Co-Secretary to the Bureau
 Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Bureau

Appendix 2 – Agenda

1.	Opening of the meeting		
2.	Adoption of the agenda	CG-BUR(2022)45-OJprov CG-BUR(2022)44-DEC CG-BUR(2022)43-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>
3.	Communication by the President of the Congress		
	Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress	CG-BUR(2022)45-24	<i>Info.</i>
4.	Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress		
	Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress	CG-BUR(2022)45-25 Activity report	<i>Info.</i>
5.	Bureaux of the chambers – meetings of 21 March 2022	CPR-BUR(2022)33-OJ 18.03 CPL-BUR(2022)33-OJ	<i>Info.</i>
6.	Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine	CG(2022)42-21 CG-BUR(2022)45-26 18.03 CG(2022)42-21-AMDT	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Dec.</i>
7.	Budget of the Congress Implementation of the Budget for 2022		<i>Info.</i>
8.	Follow-up to the brainstorming on the functioning and working methods of the Congress		<i>Info.</i>
9.	National delegations Rapporteurs : Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD) and Aleksandra MALETIĆ, Serbia (R, EPP/CCE)		
9.1	Changes in the composition of the national delegations	16.03 CG-BUR(2022)45-27REV	<i>Dec.</i>
9.2	Preliminary draft resolution on the verification of new members' credentials and new appointment procedures	18.03 CG-BUR(2022)45-38	<i>Dec.</i>
10.	42nd Session of the Congress		
10.1	Schedule of meetings	CG(2022)42-01	<i>Info.</i>
10.2	Adoption of the draft agenda	CG(2022)42-OJ	<i>Dec.</i>
10.3	Chairing of the plenary sittings	18.03 CG-BUR(2022)45-35REV	<i>Info.</i>
10.4	Youth delegates in 2022	16.03 CG-BUR(2022)45-34REV	<i>Info.</i>

11.	Activities of the committees		
	Follow up to the 4 November 2021 statement by the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)	Link	<i>Info.</i>
12.	Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions	CG-BUR(2022)45-36	<i>Dec.</i>
13.	Congress representatives in outside bodies	CG-BUR(2022)45-29	<i>Info.</i>
14.	Congress thematic spokespersons	CG-BUR(2022)45-30	<i>Info.</i>
15.	Request for Partner for Local Democracy status by the Kyrgyz Republic	CG-BUR(2022)45-39	<i>Dec.</i>
		CG-BUR(2022)45-40	<i>Dec.</i>
16.	Request for Observer Partner status with the Congress by the Foundation for the Economy and Sustainable Development of the Regions of Europe (FEDRE)	CG-BUR(2022)45-31	<i>Dec.</i>
17.	Local and regional elections	18.03 CG-BUR(2022)45-32	<i>Info.</i>
18.	Local and regional democracy		
18.1	Turkey	News	<i>Info.</i>
18.2	Situation of Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven		
19.	Congress' European partner institutions	CG-BUR(2022)45-37	<i>Info.</i>
20.	European Committee of Regions (CoR)		
	Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award 2021	News	<i>Info.</i>
21.	Congress meetings	CG-BUR(2022)45-33	<i>Info.</i>
22.	Other business		
23.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2022)45-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>
	Close of the meeting		
	Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 14 June 2022		

Appendix 3 –Consolidated version of the draft declaration

The Russian Federation's war against Ukraine

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities:

1. Bearing in mind the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Resolutions CM/Res(2022)1 and CM/Res(2022)2 [and CM/Res(2022)...] ;
2. bearing in mind United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-11/1 Aggression against Ukraine, adopted on 2 March 2022;
3. condemns in the strongest terms, the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine, which constitutes a blatant breach of international law and the Statute of the Council of Europe;
4. deplores the loss of life, human suffering and destruction caused by the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine which has resulted in an unprecedented number of refugees and internally displaced persons on the European continent, not seen since the Second World War;
5. calls on the Russian Federation to immediately and unconditionally cease its war in Ukraine, stop the bombing of civilian infrastructures and residential areas, ensure humanitarian corridors for safe evacuation of civilians, stop human rights and international humanitarian law violations, and withdraw its troops;
6. expresses its full and resolute support to Ukraine and its solidarity with its people who demonstrate admirable firmness and courage in defending their country;
7. condemns the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and the recognition by the Russian Federation of the Ukrainian oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent entities, and denounces attempts to establish a similar illegal entity in the Kherson oblast of Ukraine;
8. expresses its unwavering commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders;
9. 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;
10. 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;
11. stresses that the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine 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;
12. further stresses that the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine seriously undermines the capacity for local and regional authorities in Ukraine to operate and inflicts tremendous serious suffering on the Ukrainian people;
13. recognises the key role that local and regional authorities in Ukraine are playing in addressing the disastrous humanitarian consequences faced by citizens as a result of the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine;
14. condemns the intimidation, abduction and killing of Ukrainian local and regional elected representatives by the Russian forces;
15. calls for the immediate release of the abducted elected representatives;

16. 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;

17. welcomes the efforts of local and regional authorities of the member States of the Council of Europe and their associations in support for their Ukrainian counterparts and citizens;

18. calls for the Russian Federation to respect its obligations under international law including international humanitarian law.

The Congress 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 and support for the Ukrainian nation, its people and its authorities.