

CG-BUR(2023)50-DEC
10 February 2023

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress
Strasbourg – Room 9
Friday 10 February 2023**

Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken

Before the opening of the meeting, the members of the Bureau expressed their deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the earthquakes that struck Türkiye and Syria on 6 February 2023 and observed a minute of silence in their memory.

On this occasion, the Bureau called for the urgent opening of more humanitarian corridors on the border between northern Syria and Türkiye.

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 and of the decision to replace the French phrase “Droits de l’Homme” by the more gender neutral “droits humains” in all its communications and documents. Official titles such as the *Convention européenne des droits de l’homme* and the *cour européenne des droits de l’homme* as well as texts prepared by others will not be affected.
5. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine and decided to prepare a draft declaration on the anniversary of the start of the war, to be approved by written procedure and presented for adoption at the forthcoming session.
6. 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 10 February 2023.
7. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget for 2023, including the subsidies to the political groups.
8. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-03REV.
9. The Bureau took note of the time-table of meetings of the 44th Session as set out in Document CG(2023)44-01, adopted the draft agenda of the 44th Session of the Congress as set out in Document CG(2023)44-OJ and approved the side events as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-07REV. The Bureau took note of the information on the youth delegates for 2023.

The Bureau took note that the forthcoming session would be entirely paperless, the only documents being printed would be the agenda, the session guide and the summary of reports.

10. The Bureau took note of the information on the activities of the committees and the composition of the Monitoring Committee following elections on 9 February as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-12. The Bureau also took note of the work plans of the committees and the abridged report of the Monitoring Committee meeting held on 9 February 2023. The Bureau approved the new terms of reference for a Monitoring Committee report on “Direct election of mayors as a means of promoting democracy and the autonomy of local self-government” as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-15.

The Bureau agreed to appoint a deputy Congress spokesperson on Youth at its next meeting in March.

11. The Bureau took note of the calendar of local and regional elections in 2023 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-08REV, and of the Congress delegation which would observe the repeat by-elections in Berlin (12 February 2023) as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-11.

The Bureau approved the invitation to observe the local elections in Albania on 14 May 2023.

12. The Bureau took note of the President's statement concerning the prison sentence imposed on Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Ekrem İMAMOĞLU and expressed its deepest concern in this regard. The Bureau also took note of the situation of Nurhayat ALTUN and Leyla GÜVEN, former members of the Turkish delegation to the Congress.

The Bureau took note of the 2022 Compilation report on the human rights violations in the Russia-occupied territories of Georgia and agreed to forward it to the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights.

13. The Bureau approved the candidatures for the title of Partner of the European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) 2022, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-06.

14. The Bureau took note of the decisions and state of preparation of the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe to be held on 16-17 May in Reykjavik, Iceland and approved, subject to possible revisions made by the co-rapporteurs and the President, the preliminary draft recommendation on *The future of the Council of Europe – Congress contribution to the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe on 16-17 May 2023 in Reykjavik, Iceland*, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-04.

The Bureau took note of the Political dialogue with the Committee of Ministers as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-13 and also took note of the Committee of Ministers' preliminary reply to texts adopted by the Congress.

15. The Bureau approved the preliminary draft recommendation on *Localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, its contribution to preparations for the United Nations SDG Summit (19-20 September 2023) as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-05, and discussed ways to ensure that the recommendations therein are disseminated and taken into consideration.

16. The Bureau took note of the summary report of the meeting of the European Committee of the Regions/Congress High-Level Group, held on 29 November 2022 in Brussels.

The Bureau took note that the Municipality of Michałowo, Poland, was the recipient of the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award; its Mayor, Marek NAZARKO, was presented with the award at the CoR plenary session on 8 February 2023. The Bureau also noted that a special mention was given to a mayor who has been held captive since March 2022, Oleksandr BABYCH, Mayor of Hola Prystan, Ukraine, as a symbolic representative of all abducted and illegally detained Ukrainian mayors.

17. The Bureau took note of the list of Congress sessions and Bureau meetings in 2023, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-09 and approved the list of all Congress meetings in 2023, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-10.

18. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)50-DECprov.

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
 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)
 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
 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

Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress
 Dolores RÍOS TURÓN, Head of the Table Office and Secretary of the Bureau
 Dmitri MARCHENKOV, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions
 Stephanie POIREL, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities
 Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Bureau
 Yann PRIVAT, Assistant of the Bureau

Appendix 2 – Agenda

1.	Opening of the meeting		
2.	Adoption of the draft agenda	CG-BUR(2023)50-OJ CG-BUR(2022)49-DEC	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>
3.	Communication by the President of the Congress	CG-BUR(2023)50-01 9.02 Presentation by the President to the Ministers' Deputies	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
	Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress		
4.	Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress	8.02 CG-BUR(2023)50-02REV	<i>Info.</i>
5.	Russian Federation's war against Ukraine		<i>Info.</i>
6.	Bureaux of the chambers – meetings of 10 February 2023	CPR-BUR(2023)36-OJ CPL-BUR(2023)36-OJ	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
7.	Budget of the Congress	CG-BUR(2023)50-14	<i>Info.</i>
8.	National delegations Rapporteurs : Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD) and Aleksandra MALETIĆ, Serbia (R, EPP/CCE)		
	Changes in the composition of the national delegations	7.02 CG-BUR(2023)50-03REV	<i>Dec.</i>
9.	44th Session of the Congress, 21-23 March 2023		<i>Info.</i>
9.1	Schedule of meetings	CG(2023)44-01	<i>Info.</i>
9.2	Approval of the draft agenda	CG(2023)44-OJ	<i>Dec.</i>
9.3	Youth delegates for 2023		<i>Info.</i>
9.4	Side events	8.02 CG-BUR(2023)50-07REV	<i>Dec.</i>
10.	Activities of the committees	9.02 CG-BUR(2023)50-12 6.02 CG-CUR(2023)-02 CG-GOV(2023)-02 CG-MON(2023)-02 CG-BUR(2023)50-15 CG-MON(2023)1-DEC	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>
11.	Local and regional elections	9.02 CG-BUR(2023)50-08REV	<i>Info.</i>

11.1	Elections for the Berlin House of Representatives and the twelve Berlin District Councils (12 February 2023)	CG-BUR(2023)50-11	<i>Info.</i>
11.2	Local elections in Albania (14 May 2023)		<i>Dec.</i>
12.	Local and regional democracy	News	<i>Info.</i>
	Türkiye - Situation of Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven		
13.	European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) Partner of the European Local Democracy Week 2022 - candidatures	CG-BUR(2023)50-06	<i>Dec.</i>
14.	Intergovernmental sector		
14.1	4 th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, 16-17 May in Reykjavik, Iceland	CG-BUR(2022)47-70 8.02 CG-BUR(2023)50-04	<i>Info.</i> <i>Dec.</i>
		The Reykjavik Summit of the Council of Europe: United around values in the face of extraordinary challenges	<i>Info.</i>
14.2	<i>Committee of Ministers</i>		<i>Info.</i>
14.2.1	Political dialogue with the Committee of Ministers	CG-BUR(2023)50-13	<i>Info.</i>
14.2.2	Committee of Ministers' reply to texts adopted by the Congress	CM/Del/Dec(2022)1450/12.1	<i>Info.</i>
15.	United Nations SDG Summit (19-20 September 2023)	CG-BUR(2023)50-05	<i>Dec.</i>
16.	European Committee of the Regions (CoR)		
16.1	European Committee of the Regions/Congress of the Council of Europe High-Level Group (29 November 2022)	Summary report	<i>Info.</i>
16.2	Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award 2022	News	<i>Info.</i>
17.	Congress meetings in 2023	CG-BUR(2023)50-09	<i>Info.</i>
		CG-BUR(2023)50-10	<i>Dec.</i>
18.	Other business		
19.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2023)50-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>

Close of the meeting

Date of the next meeting: Monday 20 March 2023