

CG-BUR(2023)51-DEC
20 March 2023

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress
Strasbourg – Room 9
Monday 20 March 2023**

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 pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine and took note of the draft Congress declaration on the anniversary of the start of the war, to be presented for adoption at the forthcoming session, based on the Bureau declaration of 21 February 2023.
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 20 March 2023.
7. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget for 2023.
8. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)51-18, and the preliminary draft resolution on the verification of new members' credentials as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)51-19.
9. The Bureau took note of the schedule of meetings of the 44th Session as set out in Document CG(2023)44-01 and adopted the draft agenda of the 44th Session of the Congress as set out in Document CG(2023)44-OJ. The Bureau took note of the chiring of the plenary sittings, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)51-20 and of the list of youth delegates for 2023, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2022)51-21. The Bureau also took note of the side events as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)51-27.
10. The Bureau took note of the information on the co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)51-22.
11. The Bureau took note of the updated list of Congress thematic spokespersons, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)51-23.
12. The Bureau took note of the calendar of local and regional elections as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)51-24 and regretfully decided to decline the invitation to observe the elections for the Governor (Bashkan) of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia and the partial elections in the Popular Assembly of Gagauzia, Republic of Moldova, to be held on 30 April 2023, due to the limited human resources at the Congress secretariat which will be already engaged in a preparation of another observation mission at the same time.
13. The Bureau took note of the situation of local elected representatives in Türkiye, including former Congress members Nurhayat ALTUN and Leyla GÜVEN as well as the mayor of Istanbul.

The Bureau also took note, with concern, of the situation of local democracy in Tunisia following the dissolution of local councils elected in May 2018 and that the seats in the Tunisian Partner for Local

Democracy delegation would be vacant as a consequence. In this respect, the Bureau agreed to mandate the Rapporteur on the South-Med Partnership, Xavier CADORET, to follow developments until the next local elections, which the Bureau expressed its willingness to observe, and report back to the Bureau. It decided to keep under review the status of Partner for Local Democracy granted to Tunisia, in the light of the evolving situation with a view to potential suspension of the status should the situation deteriorate.

14. The Bureau heard a presentation by Bryony RUDKIN, Congress Spokesperson on the European Local Democracy Week and approved the new biennial theme of the European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) for 2023-2024: “Local communities: putting democratic resilience at the forefront.”

15. 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, including the Congress side-event on the margins of the summit. The Bureau took note of the draft recommendation on “Embedding democracy at grassroots level: the future of the Council of Europe and the role of the Congress therein - Congress contribution to the 4th 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(2023)44-10.

16. The Bureau took note of the draft recommendation on “Localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals”, the Congress’ contribution to the United Nations SDG Summit (19-20 September 2023) as set out in Document CG(2023)44-13.

17. The Bureau took note of the list of Congress sessions and Bureau meetings in 2023, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)51-26 and also took note of the list of all Congress meetings in 2023, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)51-25.

18. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)51-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
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)
Teuvo HATVA, Finland, (GILD-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
Rafael BENITEZ, Director 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)51-OJ CG-BUR(2023)50-DEC	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>
3.	Communication by the President of the Congress	CG-BUR(2023)51-16	<i>Info.</i>
	Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress		
4.	Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress	14.03 CG-BUR(2023)51-17	<i>Info.</i>
	Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress		
5.	Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine	Draft Congress declaration News 1 News 2 News 3 News 4 News 5	<i>Info.</i>
6.	Bureaux of the chambers – meetings of 20 March 2023	CPR-BUR(2023)37-OJ CPL-BUR(2023)37-OJ	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
7.	Budget of the Congress		<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	CG-BUR(2023)51-18	<i>Dec.</i>
	Preliminary draft resolution on the verification of new members’ credentials and new appointment procedures	14.03 CG-BUR(2023)51-19	<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	Chairing of the plenary sittings	CG-BUR(2023)51-20	<i>Info.</i>
9.4	Youth delegates for 2023	CG-BUR(2023)51-21	<i>Info.</i>
9.5	Side events	15.03 CG-BUR(2023)51-27REV	<i>Info.</i>

10.	Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions	CG-BUR(2023)51-22	<i>Info.</i>
11.	Congress thematic spokespersons	CG-BUR(2023)51-23	<i>Info.</i>
12.	Local and regional elections	CG-BUR(2023)51-24	<i>Dec.</i>
13.	Local and regional democracy		<i>Info.</i>
13.1	Türkiye - situation of local elected representatives, including former Congress members Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven		
13.2	Tunisia	14.03 News	<i>Dec.</i>
		15.03 FNCT Press release	<i>Info.</i>
14.	European Local Democracy Week	News	<i>Info.</i>
		CG-BUR(2023)51-28	<i>Dec.</i>
15.	Intergovernmental sector		
15.1	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	<i>Info.</i>
		CG(2023)44-10	<i>Info.</i>
15.2	Congress Summit side event	Draft programme	<i>Info.</i>
16.	United Nations SDG Summit (19-20 September 2023)	CG(2023)44-13	<i>Info.</i>
17.	Congress meetings in 2023	CG-BUR(2023)51-25	<i>Info.</i>
		CG-BUR(2023)51-26	<i>Info.</i>
18.	Other business		
19.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2023)51-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>

Close of the meeting

Date of the next meeting: Friday 9 June 2023 (Athens, Greece)