

## The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2023)52-DEC  
9 June 2023

### Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress Athens, Greece Friday 9 June 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. The Bureau took note that the new composition of the Group of Independent Experts would be effective as of 30 June 2023, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-50.
5. The Bureau took note of the Reykjavik Declaration and its appendices, approved the Bureau declaration on the follow-up to the summit, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-48REV, and agreed that the Congress' 2021-2026 priorities should be reviewed in the light of the summit; to this end it entrusted Bernd VÖHRINGER and Harald SONDEREGGER, in their capacity as rapporteurs on the 4th Summit and on the Congress priorities, with presenting the revised priorities for the Bureau's approval at the September bureau together with any other relevant proposals with a view to their adoption at the Congress' 45th Session in October 2023. The Bureau took note of the concept note and programme of the Congress side-event held on the eve of the summit and the Call for Action signed on this occasion by the participating European associations and institutions.
6. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine, took note of the letter from the United Kingdom delegation concerning the plight of Russian opposition activists and agreed to prepare a resolution for adoption at the 45th Session in October on this subject.
7. 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 9 June 2023.
8. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget for 2023, approved the preliminary draft recommendation on the Congress' budget and resources for 2024-2025 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-49, and approved the procedure of remote adoption of the draft recommendation by members of the Statutory Forum on 6 July 2023.
9. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-32REV.

10. The Bureau adopted the draft agenda of the 45th Session of the Congress, as set out in Document CG(2023)45-OJ. The Bureau took note of the schedule of meetings as set out in Document CG(2023)45-01, the timetable of elections as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-46 and the list of youth delegates for 2023 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-34.

For the purposes of the forthcoming committee and bureau elections in October, the Bureau approved the derogation to Rules 11.3, 47.12 and 63.2 of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-41REV, and the side events as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-33REV.

11. The Bureau approved the new terms of reference for committees activities as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-47.

12. The Bureau took note of the co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions.

13. The Bureau approved the revision of the criteria concerning granting of the title “Partner of the European Local Democracy Week” as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-43.

14. The Bureau took note of the calendar of local and regional elections in 2023 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-35, accepted the invitation to observe the local elections in the Republic of Moldova, to be held in October/November 2023, decided to observe local elections in Yerevan, Armenia to be held on 17 September, subject to receipt of the invitation, and regretfully decided to decline the invitation to observe the local elections in Norway, to be held on 11 September, due to the limited human resources in the Congress secretariat which will be already engaged in preparation of another observation mission at the same time.

15. The Bureau took note of the situation of local elected representatives in Türkiye, including former Congress members Nurhayat ALTUN and Leyla GÜVEN. With regard to Tunisia, the Bureau took note of the situation and authorised the organisation of a fact-finding mission for the Rapporteur on the South-Med Partnership if the right conditions were met.

16. The Bureau approved the request for granting of honorary member status to John WARMISHAM, former Vice-President and former member of the United Kingdom delegation, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-44.

17. The Bureau approved the application for Guest Observer status with the Congress made by the Union of Local Self-Government Bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-42.

18. The Bureau approved the request for patronage of the 2024 Winter School (University of Innsbruck), as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-45.

19. The Bureau took note of the communication to the Parliamentary Assembly on the activities of the Committee of Ministers by the Chair, Ms Thórdís KOLBRÚN REYKJÖRD GYLFAÐÓTTIR, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland.

20. The Bureau took note of the 2023 annual report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, as well as of the Priorities of the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 May 2023 – 15 November 2023). The Bureau also took note of the report of the 17th meeting of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG), held in Strasbourg on 27-28 April 2023. The Bureau took note of the Committee of Ministers’ reply to texts adopted by the Congress

21. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the Emperor Maximilian Prize 2023.

22. The Bureau took note of the Congress meetings in 2023 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-37 and the dates for the sessions and Bureaux meetings in 2023 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-38. The Bureau approved the draft calendar for 2024 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-36.

23. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)52-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)  
 Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine, (L, EPP/CCE)  
 Lia MONTALTI, Italy (R, SOC/G/PD)  
 Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia, (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)  
 Vladimir PREBILIC, Slovenia, (L, SOC/V/DP), President A.I.  
 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  
 Stephanie POIREL, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities  
 Dmitri MARCHENKOV, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions  
 Sabine ZIMMER, Head of Institutional relations Unit  
 Yann PRIVAT, Assistant to the Bureau  
 Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Bureau

## Appendix 2 – Agenda

1.	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>		
2.	<b>Adoption of the draft agenda</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-OJ</a> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)51-DEC</a>	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>
3.	<b>Communication by the President of the Congress</b>	<hr/>	
	Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress	<b>7.06</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-30REV</a>	<i>Info.</i>
4.	<b>Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress</b>		
	Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-31</a> <a href="#">Activity report</a> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)50-02REV</a>	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
5.	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, 16-17 May in Reykjavik, Iceland</b>	<a href="#">Register of damage – press release</a> <a href="#">Reykjavík Declaration</a> <a href="#">News</a>	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
		<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-48</a> <a href="#">CoR recommendations</a>	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>
	Congress side-event	<a href="#">Concept note and programme</a> <a href="#">Call for Action</a> <a href="#">News</a>	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
6.	<b>Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine</b>	<a href="#">Letter to the Congress President from the UK Delegation to the Congress</a>	<i>Info.</i>
		<a href="#">Press release – Russian opposition</a>	<i>Info.</i>
7.	<b>Bureaux of the chambers – meetings of 9 June 2023</b>	<a href="#">CPR-BUR(2023)38-OJ</a> <a href="#">CPL-BUR(2023)38-OJ</a>	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
8.	<b>Budget of the Congress</b>	<b>7.06</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-49</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
9.	<b>National delegations</b> Rapporteurs : Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD) Aleksandra MALETIĆ, Serbia (R, EPP/CCE)		
	Changes in the composition of the national delegations	<b>6.06</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-32REV</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
10.	<b>45th Session of the Congress, 24-26 October 2023</b>		
10.1	Elections during the session	<b>5.06</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-41REV</a> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-46</a>	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>

		Supporting signatures form	<i>Info.</i>
10.2	Schedule of meetings	<a href="#">CG(2023)45-01</a>	<i>Info.</i>
10.3	Approval of the draft agenda	<a href="#">CG(2023)45-OJ</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
10.4	Side events	<b>7.06</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-33REV</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
10.5	Youth delegates	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-34</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Activities of the committees</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-47</a> <b>7.06</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-50</a>	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions</b>		<i>Info.</i>
<b>13.</b>	<b>European Local Democracy Week – revision of criteria for partnership status</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-43</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Local and regional elections</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-35</a>	<i>Info.</i>
14.1	Local elections in the Republic of Moldova (October or November 2023)		<i>Dec.</i>
14.2	Local elections in Norway (11 September 2023)		<i>Dec.</i>
14.3	Local elections in Armenia (Yerevan, on 17 September 2023)		<i>Dec.</i>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Local and regional democracy</b>		<i>Info.</i>
15.1	Türkiye - situation of local elected representatives, including former Congress members Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven		
15.2	Tunisia		
<b>16.</b>	<b>Request for granting of honorary member status</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-44</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
<b>17.</b>	<b>Request for guest observer status with the Congress by the Union of Local Self-Government Bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-42</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
<b>18.</b>	<b>Request for patronage of the 2024 Winter School (University of Innsbruck)</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-45</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
<b>19.</b>	<b>Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)</b>	<a href="#">Communication on the activities of the Committee of Ministers</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>20.</b>	<b>Intergovernmental sector</b>		

20.1	Annual report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe	<a href="#">2023 annual report</a>	<i>Info.</i>
20.2	Priorities of the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 May 2023 – 15 November 2023)	<a href="#">CM/Inf(2023)10</a>	<i>Info.</i>
20.3	Committee of Ministers' reply to texts adopted by the Congress	<a href="#">CM/Cong(2023)Rec480-final</a>	<i>Info.</i>
20.4	Intergovernmental committees: European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) - 17th meeting, Strasbourg, 27-28 April 2023	<a href="#">Meeting report</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>21.</b>	<b>The Emperor-Maximilian-Prize 2023</b>		<i>Info.</i>
<b>22.</b>	<b>Congress meetings in 2023 and 2024</b>		
22.1	Bureaux meetings and sessions in 2023	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-38</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
22.2	All Congress meetings in 2023	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-37</a>	<i>Info.</i>
22.3	Bureaux meetings and sessions in 2024 proposed calendar	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)52-36</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
<b>23.</b>	<b>Other business</b>		
<b>24.</b>	<b>Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting</b>	CG-BUR(2023)52-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>

**Close of the meeting**

**Date of the next meeting: Friday 22 September 2023**