

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 GYLFAÓTTIR, 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
 Katya VASILEVA, Assistant to the Bureau

Appendix 2 – Agenda

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

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

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