

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2023)53-DEC
22 September 2023

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress Strasbourg, France Friday 22 September 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 decided to launch a written procedure for Bureau members in order to amend the preliminary draft resolution “Delivering on the Reykjavik summit: revised Congress priorities, working procedures and structures”, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-54, following the Reykjavik summit, and to instruct the Three Presidents to follow this procedure, with a view to its adoption at the Congress’ 45th Session in October 2023. The Bureau also decided to convene a meeting between the Committee’s Chairs, the Rapporteurs, and the President.
6. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine and held a brief online exchange with the ‘Reintegration of communities’ Forum, organised in Zaporizhzhia. The Bureau approved the preliminary draft resolution on the plight of anti-war political activists and prisoners of conscience in Russia, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-61.
7. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget for 2023 and of Recommendation 495(2023) adopted by the members of the Statutory Forum on 6 July 2023. The Bureau also took note of the summary of this recommendation, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-64.
8. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-53REV.
9. 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 procedure of elections during the session as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-62REV, the schedule of meetings as set out in Document CG(2023)45-01, the chairing of the plenary sittings set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-55, the list of youth delegates for 2023 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-63 and adopted the list of side-events as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-56.
10. The Bureau took note of the activities of the committees.

11. The Bureau took note of the calendar of local and regional elections in 2023 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-57. The Bureau also took note of the report of the election observation mission to Armenia (17 September 2023).
12. The Bureau took note of the situation of local elected representatives in Türkiye, including former Congress members Nurhayat ALTUN and Leyla GÜVEN. The Bureau took note of the actual situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and decided to follow it, in the light of its impact on local governance in the region. The Bureau took note of the situation in Albania regarding the detention of the Mayor-elect of Himarë and of the statement of the Congress spokesperson on Human Rights, Harald Bergmann, expressing concerns about it. The Bureau also took note of the situation in Tunisia.
13. The Bureau took note of the communication to the Parliamentary Assembly on the activities of the Committee of Ministers by the Chair, Mr Edgars RINKĒVIČS, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia (Strasbourg, 20 June 2023).
14. The Bureau took note of the Committee of Ministers' replies to texts adopted by the Congress.
15. The Bureau took note of the concept note, the call for participation as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-65, and other information related to the forthcoming World Forum for Democracy (6-8 November 2023).
16. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the European Committee of the Regions and Congress High-Level Group meeting to be held on 5 December.
17. The Bureau approved the proposed candidates for the North-South Prize 2023 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-58 and nominated Rafal TRZASKOWSKI, Mayor of Warsaw, Poland and Claudia LÓPEZ HERNÁNDEZ, Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia.
18. The bureau took note of several events organised under the auspices of the United Nations: High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New-York, 10-14 July 2023), United Nations SDG Summit (New-York, 18-19 September 2023), UNECE Forum of Mayors (Geneva, 2-3 October 2023), UNECE Committee on Urban development, housing and land management (Geneva, 4-6 October 2023), Fourth Winter Academy Human Rights Go Local 2024 (5-8 February 2024) – UNESCO and University of Graz.
19. The Bureau took note of the Congress meetings in 2023 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-59. The Bureau approved the calendar for 2024 as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-60.
20. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)53-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)
Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine, (L, EPP/CCE)
Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia, (L, EPP/CCE)

Chairs of committees

Joanne Louise LABAN, United Kingdom, (L, CRE/ECR) Current Affairs 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.
Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom, (R, CRE/ECR), 1st Vice-President

Secretariat

Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress
Stephanie POIREL, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Dmitri MARCHENKOV, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions
Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Bureau
Yann PRIVAT, Assistant to the Bureau

Appendix 2 – Agenda

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|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Opening of the meeting | | |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda | CG-BUR(2023)53-OJ
CG-BUR(2023)52-DEC | <i>Dec.
Info.</i> |
| 3. | Communication by the President of the Congress | | |
| | Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress | CG-BUR(2023)53-51 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 4. | Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress | | |
| | Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress | CG-BUR(2023)53-52 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 5. | Follow-up to the 4th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, 16-17 May in Reykjavik, Iceland (Rapporteurs : Harald Sonderegger, Austria (R, EPP/CCE) and Bernd Voehringer, Germany (L, EPP/CCE)) | | |
| | Preliminary draft resolution “Delivering on the Reykjavik summit: revised Congress priorities, working procedures and structures”. | CG-BUR(2023)53-54 | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 6. | Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 6.1 | Update on recent developments in Ukraine | link
link | <i>Info.
Info.</i> |
| 6.2 | Preliminary draft resolution on the plight of anti-war political activists and prisoners of conscience in Russia | CG-BUR(2023)53-61 | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 7. | Budget of the Congress | REC 495(2023) | <i>Info.</i> |
| | Summary of the Congress budget recommendation (REC 495(2023)) | CG-BUR(2023)53-64 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 8. | National delegations
Rapporteurs :
Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)
Aleksandra MALETIĆ, Serbia (R, EPP/CCE) | | |
| | Changes in the composition of the national delegations | 20.09 CG-BUR(2023)53-53REV | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 9. | 45th Session of the Congress, 24-26 October 2023 | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 9.1 | Elections during the session | 20.09 CG-BUR(2023)53-62REV | <i>Info.</i> |

9.2	Schedule of meetings	CG(2023)45-01	<i>Info.</i>
9.3	Approval of the draft agenda	CG(2023)45-OJ	<i>Dec.</i>
9.4	Chairing of the plenary sittings	CG-BUR(2023)53-55	<i>Info.</i>
9.5	Side-events	CG-BUR(2023)53-56	<i>Dec.</i>
9.6	Youth delegates	CG-BUR(2023)53-63	<i>Info.</i>
10.	Activities of the committees		<i>Info.</i>
11.	Local and regional elections	CG-BUR(2023)53-57	<i>Info.</i>
	Local elections in Armenia on 17 September 2023		
12.	Local and regional democracy		<i>Info.</i>
12.1	Türkiye - situation of local elected representatives, including former Congress members Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven	link 20.09 link	
12.2	Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh	20.09 link	
12.3	Situation in Albania		
13.	Committee of Ministers	Communication on the activities of the Committee of Ministers	<i>Info.</i>
14.	Intergovernmental sector		<i>Info.</i>
	Committee of Ministers' reply to texts adopted by the Congress	CM/Cong(2023)Rec483-final CM/Cong(2023)Rec476-final CM/Cong(2023)Rec478-final	
15.	World Forum for Democracy (6-8 November 2023)	Concept note CG(BUR(2023)53-65 (Call for participation)	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
16.	European Committee of the Regions		<i>Info.</i>
	High-Level Group meeting on 5 December in Strasbourg		
17.	North-South Centre		<i>Info.</i>
	Candidates for the North-South Prize 2023	CG-BUR(2023)53-58	<i>Dec.</i>
18.	United Nations		<i>Info.</i>

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|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 18.1 | High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New-York, 10-14 July 2023) | | |
| 18.2 | United Nations SDG Summit (New-York, 18-19 September 2023) | | |
| 18.3 | UNECE Forum of Mayors (Geneva, 2-3 October 2023) | | |
| 18.4 | UNECE Committee on Urban development, housing and land management (Geneva, 4-6 October 2023) | | |
| 18.5 | Fourth Winter Academy Human Rights Go Local 2024 (5-8 February 2024) – UNESCO and University of Graz | Concept note | |
| 19. | Congress meetings in 2023 and 2024 | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 19.1 | All Congress meetings in 2023 | CG-BUR(2023)53-59 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 19.2 | Calendar of Bureaux and Sessions in 2024 | CG-BUR(2023)53-60 | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 20. | Other business | | |
| 21. | Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting | CG-BUR(2023)53-DEC | <i>Dec.</i> |

Close of the meeting

Date of the next meeting: 23 October 2023