

## The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2023)54-DEC  
23 October 2023

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress  
Strasbourg, France  
Monday 23 October 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 took note of the draft resolution “Delivering on the Reykjavik summit: revised Congress priorities, working procedures and structures”, as set out in document CG(2023)45-12-AMDT, with a view to its adoption at the Congress’s 45th Session in October 2023 and agreed to examine the implementation of the resolution at its future meetings.
6. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine and took note of the draft resolution on the plight of anti-war political activists and prisoners of conscience in Russia, as set out in document CG(2023)45-19-AMDT, with a view to its adoption at the Congress’s 45th Session in October 2023.
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 23 October 2023.
8. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget for 2023.
9. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations, as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)54-69, and the preliminary draft resolution on the verification of new members’ credentials as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)54-70.
10. The Bureau adopted and decided to include in the draft sessional agenda, in accordance with Rule 26.2.b, a draft declaration on “The humanitarian situation in Karabakh and neighbouring cities and regions”, and appointed Bernd Vöhringer (L, EPP/CCE) as rapporteur.

The Bureau took note of the procedure of elections during the session as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)54-77 and the schedule of meetings as set out in document CG(2023)45-01 and 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 chairing of the plenary sittings as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)54-72 and of the list of youth delegates for 2023 as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)54-73. It also took note of the list of side-events during the session as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)54-71.

11. 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)54-74.

12. The Bureau took note of the calendar of local and regional elections in 2023 as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)54-75 , and decided to observe the local elections to be held in Serbia on 17 December 2023, subject to receipt of the invitation and subject to the availability of funds.

13. 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 situation in the Karabakh region and decided to continue to follow it. The Bureau took note of the situation in the Middle East and decided to continue to follow it.

14. 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.

It decided to forward to the Parliamentary Assembly its Briefing Note to Kosovo, prepared in October 2022, in order to contribute to Assembly's examination of the request for accession of Kosovo\*.

15. The Bureau took note of the Committee of Ministers' reply to texts adopted by the Congress.

16. The Bureau took note of the participation of the Congress in the forthcoming World Forum for Democracy (6-8 November 2023), as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)54-76.

17. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)54-DECprov.

\* All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

## 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)  
 Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, GILD/ILDG)  
 Tunç SOYER, Turkey (R, SOC/G/PD)  
 Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia (L, EPP/CCE)  
 Lia MONTALTI, Italy (R, SOC/G/PD)  
 Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia (L, EPP/CCE)  
 Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD)  
 Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)  
 Teuvo HATVA, Finland (R, GILD/ILDG)

### Chairs of committees

Joanne LABAN, United Kingdom (R, GILD/ILDG), Current Affairs Committee (A.I)  
 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), A.I.  
 Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, ECR)

### Partners

Christian SPAHR, France, European Assembly of Regions (EAR)

### Secretariat

Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress  
 Sarah BURTON, 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 to the Bureau

## Appendix 2 – Agenda

- |      |  |   |                        |
|------|--|---|------------------------|
| 1.   | <b>Opening of the meeting</b>  |   |                        |
| 2.   | <b>Adoption of the agenda</b>  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-OJ</a><br><a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)53-DEC</a>               | <i>Dec.<br/>Info.</i>  |
| 3.   | <b>Communication by the President of the Congress</b>  |   |                        |
|      | Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress   | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-66</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)54-67</a>   | <i>Info.</i>           |
| 5.   | <b>Follow-up to the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, 16-17 May in Reykjavik, Iceland</b><br><b>(Rapporteurs : Harald Sonderegger, Austria (R, EPP/CCE) and Bernd Voehringer, Germany (L, EPP/CCE))</b> | <a href="#">CG(2023)45-12</a>   | <i>Info.</i>           |
| 6.   | <b>Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine</b>  | <a href="#">CG(2023)45-19</a>   | <i>Info.</i>           |
| 7.   | <b>Bureaux of the chambers – meetings of 23 October 2023</b>   | <a href="#">CPR-BUR(2023)39-OJ</a><br><b>18.10</b> <a href="#">CPL-BUR(2023)39-OJ</a> | <i>Info.<br/>Info.</i> |
| 8.   | <b>Budget of the Congress</b>  |   | <i>Info.</i>           |
| 9.   | <b>National delegations</b><br>Rapporteurs :<br>Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)<br>Aleksandra MALETIĆ, Serbia (R, EPP/CCE)  |   |                        |
| 9.1  | Changes in the composition of the national delegations   | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-69</a>   | <i>Dec.</i>            |
| 9.2  | Preliminary draft resolution on the verification of new members’ credentials   | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-70</a>   | <i>Dec.</i>            |
| 10.  | <b>45th Session of the Congress, 24-26 October 2023</b>  |   |                        |
| 10.1 | Possible urgent questions  |   | <i>Info.</i>           |
| 10.2 | Elections during the session   | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-77</a>   | <i>Info.</i>           |
| 10.3 | Schedule of meetings   | <a href="#">CG(2023)45-01</a>   | <i>Info.</i>           |

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10.4	Approval of the draft agenda	<a href="#">CG(2023)45-OJ</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
10.5	Chairing of the plenary sittings	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-72</a>	<i>Info.</i>
10.6	Youth delegates	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-73</a>	<i>Info.</i>
10.7	Side-events	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-71</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-74</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Local and regional elections</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-75</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Local and regional democracy</b>		
13.1	Türkiye - situation of local elected representatives, including former Congress members Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven		<i>Info.</i>
13.2	Situation in the Karabakh region	<b>18.10</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-78REV</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
13.3	Situation in the Middle East		<i>Info.</i>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Parliamentary Assembly</b>	<a href="#">Communication on the activities of the Committee of Ministers</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Committee of Ministers</b>		
	Committee of Ministers' reply to texts adopted by the Congress	<a href="#">CM/Cong(2023)Rec481-final</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>16.</b>	<b>World Forum for Democracy (6-8 November 2023)</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2023)54-76</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>17.</b>	<b>Other business</b>		<i>Info.</i>
<b>18.</b>	<b>Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting</b>	CG-BUR(2023)54-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>

#### Close of the meeting

**Date of the next meeting:**  
Strasbourg, 26 October 2023

to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat  
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