

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2023)56-DEC
4 December 2023

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress
Strasbourg, France
Monday 4 December 2023**

Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken

1. The President of the Congress, Mr Marc COOLS, 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 held an exchange of views on the matters to be regulated in the Congress's Rules and Procedures in order to establish the new structures approved at the 45th session of the Congress, following the 4th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, 16-17 May 2023 in Reykjavík, Iceland, as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)56-85. It took a position on matters to be regulated in the Rules and Procedures related to the creation of the new functions of standing rapporteur and deputy standing rapporteurs on human rights and decided to return to these matters, together with modifications concerning the compatibilities of various roles discussed at its meeting of June 2023, at its next meeting, on the basis of draft revisions to the Rules and Procedures.
6. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine and appointed Gunn-Marit Helgesen a rapporteur of the draft declaration that will be submitted to the Congress for adoption at its 46th Session.
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 4 December 2023.
8. The Bureau took note of the information concerning the implementation of the 2023 budget and of the adoption of the adjusted budget for 2024. It took note that political groups have a very limited budget, which does not allow them to organise certain activities every year. It considered that they should be allowed to allocate the amount remaining in their annual budget to a reserve for multiannual activities and invited the Secretary General to follow up on this request. It also underlined the need for adequate per diems and kilometric allowances as well as rapid reimbursements.
9. The Bureau took note of the changes in the composition of the national delegations, as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)56-87.
10. The Bureau took note of the follow-up to the 45th Congress Session.

11. The Bureau took note of the background elements set out in document CG-BUR(2023)56-88, held a brainstorming session on the participation of members and decided to revert to these matters at its next meeting.

12. The Bureau took note of the schedule of meetings as set out in document CG(2024)46-01 and of the preliminary draft agenda of the 46th Session of the Congress as set out in document CG(2024)46-OJprov1.

It took note of the Call for applications for youth delegates for 2024, as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)56-89.

13. The Bureau decided to maintain the current representatives in outside bodies and thematic spokespersons until March 2024, as set out in parts II and III of document CG-BUR(2023)56-95, and appointed Bureau rapporteurs as follows:

- a. Rapporteurs on *Verification of Credentials of New Members and New Appointment Procedures*:
 - Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, GILD/ILDG)
 - Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, CRE/ECR)
- b. Rapporteurs on *Budget and Resources of the Congress*:
 - Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)
 - Carla NUNES TAVARES, Portugal (L, SOC/G/PD)
- c. Rapporteurs on *Congress Charter and Congress Rules and Procedures*:
 - Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/DP)
 - Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, PPE/CCE)
- d. Rapporteurs on *Congress Priorities for 2021-2026*:
 - Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, PPE/CCE), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities
 - Tunç SOYER, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/DP), President of the Chamber of Regions

14. The Bureau took note of the activities of the committees and approved the terms of reference for an event by the Monitoring Committee, as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)56-91.

15. The Bureau took note of the calendar of local and regional elections.

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

17. The Bureau took note of the situation of local elected representatives in Türkiye, including former Congress members Nurhayat ALTUN and Leyla GÜVEN.

It decided to continue to follow the situations in Tunisia, the Karabakh region and the Middle East.

18. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the European Committee of the Regions and Congress High-Level Group meeting to be held on 12 February 2024.

It took note of the list of members of the Congress having a dual mandate, as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)56-86, and of the list of members of the Bureau, Chairs of the Commissions and Presidents of the Political Groups of the European Committee of the Regions of the European Union, as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)56-93.

It also took note that the chairperson of the Governance Committee would represent the President of the Congress to participate in the Jury of the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award 2023.

19. The Bureau took note of the Stocktaking of the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 May-15 November 2023) and of the Priorities of the Presidency of Liechtenstein of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (15 November 2023-17 May 2024).

It took note of the Committee of Ministers' replies to texts adopted by the Congress.

It took note of the Programme and Budget 2024-2027 of the Committee of Ministers, adopted at the latter's meeting held in Strasbourg from 21 to 23 November 2023, and of the terms of reference of the new intergovernmental Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM).

It also took note of the participation of the Congress in the World Forum for Democracy (6-8 November 2023).

20. The Bureau took note that an Assembly of the national associations of local and regional authorities would take place in Strasbourg on 6-7 June 2024.

21. The Bureau took note of the information concerning the meeting held on 10 November 2023 by the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre.

22. The Bureau took note of the list of Congress sessions and Bureau meetings in 2024, as set out in Document CG-BUR(2023)56-92.

23. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in document CG-BUR(2023)56-DEC.

Appendix 1 – List of participants

Members of the Bureau

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, GILD/ILDG), President of the Congress
Tunç SOYER, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/DP), President of the Chamber of Regions
Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, PPE/CCE), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, PPE/CCE)
Carla NUNES TAVARES, Portugal (L, SOC/G/PD)
Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/DP)
David ERAY, Switzerland (R, PPE/CCE)
Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/DP)
Randi MONDORF, Denmark (R, GILD/ILDG)
Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, GILD/ILDG)
Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, PPE/CCE)
Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia (L, EPP/CCE)
Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, CRE/ECR)
Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)
Mario FAVA, Malta (R, SOC/G/DP)
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)

Chairs of committees

Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/DP), Current Affairs Committee
Jelena DRENJANIN, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE), Governance Committee
Thibaut GUIGNARD, France (L, PPE/CCE), Monitoring Committee

Presidents of Congress political groups

Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE)
Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (L, GILD/ILDG)
Vladimir PREBILIC, Slovenia (L, SOC/V/DP), A.I.
Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, CRE/ECR)

Secretariat

Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress
Sarah BURTON, 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
Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Bureau
Yann PRIVAT, Assistant to the Bureau

Appendix 2 – Agenda

- | | | | |
|------------|---|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | Opening of the meeting | | |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda | CG-BUR(2023)56-OJ
CG-BUR(2023)55-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)56-83 | <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)56-84 | <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 2023 in Reykjavík, Iceland | | <i>Info.</i> |
| | Changes to the Congress's Rules and Procedures to establish new structures approved at the 45th session of the Congress | CG-BUR(2023)56-85 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 6. | Russian Federation's war against Ukraine | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 7. | Bureaux of the chambers – meetings of 4 December 2023 and work programmes | CPR-BUR(2023)40-OJ
CPL-BUR(2023)40-OJ | <i>Info.
Info</i> |
| 8. | Budget of the Congress | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 8.1 | Implementation of the budget in 2023 | | |
| 8.2 | Budget for 2024 | | |
| 8.3 | Budgets of political groups | | |
| 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 | CG-BUR(2023)56-87 | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 10. | Follow-up to the 45th Session of the Congress, 24-26 October 2023 | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 11. | Brainstorming on the participation of members | 1.12 CG-BUR(2023)56-88 | <i>Info.</i> |

12.	46th Session of the Congress, 26-28 March 2024		
12.1	Schedule of meetings	CG(2024)46-01	<i>Info.</i>
12.2	Approval of the preliminary draft agenda	CG(2024)46-OJ	<i>Dec.</i>
12.3	Call for applications for youth delegates for 2024	CG-BUR(2023)56-89	<i>Info.</i>
13.	Bureau rapporteurs and Thematic spokespersons ** PLEASE NOTE: this item will be taken in the afternoon	CG-BUR(2023)56-90 CG-BUR(2023)56-95	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>
14.	Activities of the committees	CG-CUR(2023)1_04 CG-GOV(2023)4_01 4.12 CG-MON(2023)2 30.11 CG-BUR(2023)56-91	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Dec.</i>
15.	Local and regional elections		<i>Info.</i>
16.	Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions		<i>Info.</i>
16.1	Belarus		
16.2	Kosovo*		
17.	Local and regional democracy		<i>Info.</i>
17.1	Türkiye - situation of local elected representatives, including former Congress members Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven		
17.2	Tunisia		
17.3	Situation in the Karabakh region	Declaration 7(2023)	
17.4	Situation in the Middle East		
18.	European partner institutions of the Congress	CG-BUR(2023)56-94	<i>Info.</i>
18.1	European Committee of the Regions High-Level Group meeting on 12 February 2024 in Paris	CG-BUR(2023)56-86 CG-BUR(2023)56-93	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
18.2	Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award	CG-BUR(2023)56-96	<i>Dec.</i>
19.	Intergovernmental sector		
19.1	Stocktaking of the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 May – 15 November 2023)	CM/Inf(2023)25	<i>Info.</i>

19.2	Priorities of the Presidency of Liechtenstein of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (15 November 2023 – 17 May 2024)	CM/Inf(2023)26	<i>Info.</i>
19.3	Committee of Ministers' reply to texts adopted by the Congress	CM/Cong(2023)Rec484-final	<i>Info.</i>
19.4	Intergovernmental committees	CM(2023)131-addfinal_p.87-90	<i>Info.</i>
19.5	World Forum for Democracy (6-8 November 2023)	link	<i>Info.</i>
20.	Assembly of national associations of local and regional authorities, Strasbourg, 6-7 June 2024		<i>Info.</i>
21.	North-South Centre		<i>Info.</i>
22.	Congress sessions and Bureau meetings in 2024	CG-BUR(2023)56-92	<i>Info.</i>
23.	Other business		<i>Info.</i>
24.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2023)56-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>

Close of the meeting

**Date of the next meeting:
Paris, 12 February 2024**

**to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat
→ congress.bureau@coe.int**

* 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.