

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2024)57-DEC
12 February 2024

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress
Paris, France
Monday 12 February 2024**

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 approved the preliminary draft resolution amending the Rules and Procedures of the Congress, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)57-03.
6. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine and took note of the update on recent developments. It approved the Bureau declaration, set out in document CG-BUR(2024)57-04, as amended during the meeting, which will also be presented to the Congress for adoption at its next session.
7. The Bureau approved the preliminary draft recommendation on "The UN Pact for the Future: The essential role of local and regional authorities in global sustainable development" as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)57-15, as amended during the meeting.
8. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget of the Congress as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)57-05.
9. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations as set out in documents CG-BUR(2024)57-06 and CG-BUR(2024)57-06ADD REV.
10. The Bureau took note of the schedule of meetings as set out in document CG(2024)46-01 and approved the draft agenda of the 46th Session of the Congress as set out in document CG(2024)46-OJ.

It took note of the information on youth delegates for 2024, and approved the side events as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)57-07REV.

The Bureau also took note of the new procedure for tabling amendments.

11. The Bureau held an exchange of views with Mr Vladimir Astapenka, Deputy Head of National Crisis Management of Belarus (NAM) and Head of Mission for Democratic Belarus in Brussels.
12. The Bureau decided to postpone this item to its next meeting.
13. The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the appointment of two Congress advisors on constitutional matters as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)57-14 and appointed Ms Tania GROPPi (GIE Vice-President, Italy) and Mr Nikolaos-Komninos CHLEPAS (GIE Vice-President, Greece) as Congress advisors on constitutional matters.
14. The Bureau took note of the background elements on the participation of members set out in document CG-BUR(2024)57-12 and decided to revert to these matters at a future meeting.
15. The Bureau took note of the information on the activities of the committees.
16. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the elections in Serbia.
17. 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(2024)57-08 and of the interest of members in hearing more about these activities.
18. The Bureau took note of the situation of local elected representatives in Türkiye, including former Congress members Nurhayat ALTUN and Leyla GÜVEN.

The Bureau also took note of the situation in the Karabakh region.

19. The Bureau decided to grant the title of Partner of the European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) 2023 to the municipalities and the association proposed in document CG-BUR(2024)57-13.
20. The Bureau took note of the draft program of the Conference of national associations of local and regional authorities, to be held in Strasbourg on 6-7 June 2024.
21. The Bureau took note of the agenda of the High-level group meeting to take place with the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) in Paris and by videoconference on 12 February 2024.
22. The Bureau took note of several major events organised by the United Nations: Human Rights Go Local: UNESCO Academy and Conference 2024 (from 5 to 8 February 2024); Regional Forum on Sustainable development UNECE (13 and 14 March 2024); UN High Level Political Forum (from 8 to 17 July 2024) and the Fourth Forum of Mayors (from 30 September to 1 October 2024).
23. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe, and took note of the Political dialogue with the Committee of Ministers as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)57-09.
24. The Bureau took note of the information concerning the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly.
25. The Bureau took note of the Congress meetings in 2024 as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)57-10 and the dates for the sessions and Bureaux meetings in 2024 as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)57-11.
26. The Bureau took note that an updated version of the Congress Who's Who will shortly be available.
27. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)57-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
 Carla NUNES TAVARES, Portugal (L, SOC/G/DP)
 Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/DP)
 Lia MONTALTI, Italy (SOC/G/DP)
 David ERAY, Switzerland (R, PPE/CCE)
 Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/DP)
 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)

Chairs of committees

Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/DP), Current Affairs Committee
 Thibaut GUIGNARD, France (L, PPE/CCE), Monitoring Committee
 Catalin TOMA, Romania (R, EPP/CCE), 1st Vice-Chair, Governance Committee

Outgoing President

Leendert VERBEEK, Netherlands (R, SOC/G/DP)

Presidents of Congress political groups

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

Secretariat

Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress
 Claudia LUCIANI, Director of the Congress
 Daniel POPESCU, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions
 Stephanie POIREL, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities
 Sarah BURTON, Head of the Table Office and Secretary of the Bureau
 Dmitri MARCHENKOV, Head of the Communication Unit
 Yann PRIVAT, Assistant to the Bureau
 Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Bureau

Appendix 2 – Agenda

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| 1. | Opening of the meeting | | |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda | CG-BUR(2024)57-OJ
CG-BUR(2023)56-DEC | <i>Dec.</i>
<i>Info.</i> |
| 3. | Communication by the President of the Congress | | |
| | Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress | 8.02 CG-BUR(2024)57-01REV | <i>Info.</i> |
| 4. | Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress | | |
| 4.1 | Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress | CG-BUR(2024)57-02 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 4.2 | 30 th anniversary of the Congress | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 5. | Amendment of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress | | |
| | Preliminary draft resolution amending the Rules and Procedures of the Congress | CG-BUR(2024)57-03 | <i>Dec.</i> |
| | Rapporteurs:
Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)
Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE) | | |
| 6. | Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine | | |
| 6.1 | Update on recent developments | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 6.2 | Preliminary draft declaration | 9.02 CG-BUR(2024)57-04 | <i>Dec.</i> |
| | Rapporteurs:
Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, GILD/ILDG)
Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE) | | |
| 7. | Congress contribution to the United Nations Summit of the Future, 22-23 September 2024 | | |
| | Preliminary draft recommendation “The UN Pact for the Future: The essential role of local and regional authorities in global sustainable development” | CG-BUR(2024)57-15 | <i>Dec.</i> |
| | Rapporteurs:
Carla NUNES TAVARES, Portugal (L, SOC/G/PD)
Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE) | | |
| 8. | Budget of the Congress | CG-BUR(2024)57-05 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 9. | National delegations | | |

	Changes in the composition of national delegations	CG-BUR(2024)57-06	<i>Dec.</i>
	Rapporteurs: Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, GILD/ILDG) Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, CRE/ECR)	9.02 CG-BUR(2024)57-06ADD REV	<i>Dec.</i>
10.	46th Session of the Congress, 26-28 March 2024		
10.1	Schedule of meetings	CG(2024)46-01	<i>Info.</i>
10.2	Approval of the draft agenda	8.02 CG(2024)46-OJ	<i>Dec.</i>
10.3	Youth delegates in 2024		<i>Info.</i>
10.4	Side events	7.02 CG-BUR(2024)57-07REV	<i>Dec.</i>
10.5	New procedure for tabling amendments		<i>Info.</i>
11.	[at 11.45am] Exchange of views with a representative of Belarusian democratic forces and civil society		<i>Info.</i>
	Vladimir Astapenka, Deputy Head of National Crisis Management of Belarus (NAM) and Head of Mission for Democratic Belarus in Brussels		
12.	[at 2pm] Thematic spokespersons	CG-BUR(2024)57-16	<i>Dec.</i>
13.	Constitutional advisors	CG-BUR(2024)57-14	<i>Dec.</i>
14.	Brainstorming on the participation of members	CG-BUR(2024)57-12	<i>Info.</i>
15.	Activities of the committees		<i>Info</i>
16.	Local and regional elections		<i>Info.</i>
	Serbia		
17.	Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions	CG-BUR(2024)57-08	<i>Info.</i>
18.	Local and regional democracy		<i>Info.</i>
18.1	Türkiye – situation of local elected representatives, including former Congress members Nurhayat Altun and Leyla Güven		
18.2	Situation in the Karabakh region		
19.	European Local Democracy Week (ELDW)		

	Partner 2023 – candidatures	CG-BUR(2024)57-13	<i>Dec.</i>
20.	Conference of national associations of local and regional authorities, Strasbourg, 6-7 June 2024	7.02 Draft programme	<i>Info.</i>
21.	European Committee of the Regions (CoR)		<i>Info.</i>
	High-level group meeting, Paris, 12 February 2024	Link to agenda	
22.	United Nations		<i>Info.</i>
22.1	Human Rights Go Local : UNESCO Academy and Conference 2024 (from 5 to 8 February 2024), Graz	link	
22.2	Regional Forum on Sustainable development UNECE (13 and 14 March), Geneva	link	
22.3	UN High Level Political Forum (from 8 to 17 July 2024)	link	
22.4	The Fourth Forum of Mayors, the "Cities Summit of the Future", UNECE (from 30 September to 1 October 2024), Geneva	link	
23.	Intergovernmental sector		<i>Info.</i>
23.1	75th anniversary of the Council of Europe		<i>Info.</i>
23.2	Political dialogue with the Committee of Ministers	CG-BUR(2024)57-09	<i>Info.</i>
24.	Parliamentary Assembly	Communication on the activities of the CM	<i>Info.</i>
25.	Congress sessions and Bureau meetings in 2024		<i>Info.</i>
25.1	All Congress meetings in 2024	CG-BUR(2024)57-10	
25.2	Calendar of Bureaux and sessions in 2024	CG-BUR(2024)57-11	
26.	Other business		<i>Info.</i>
	Congress Who's Who	link	
27.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2024)57-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>

Close of the meeting

**Date of the next meeting:
Strasbourg, Monday 25 March 2024**

to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat
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