

CG-BUR(2024)61-DEC  
14 and 17 October 2024

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress  
Strasbourg, France  
Monday 14 October and Thursday 17 October 2024**

**Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken**

**Monday 14 October**

1. The Vice-President of the Congress, Ms Gunn Marit HELGESEN, opened the meeting. The list of participants is set out in Appendix 1.
2. The Bureau adopted the revised agenda as set out in Appendix 2.
3. The Bureau took note of the written 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 pursued its discussions on the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and held an exchange of views on recent developments in Ukraine.
6. The Bureau took note of the follow-up to be given to the Conference of national associations of local and regional authorities, held in Strasbourg on 12-13 September 2024.
7. The Bureau endorsed the Outcome Statement of the UNECE 4th Forum of Mayors, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 30 September-1 October 2024.
8. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget of the Congress.
9. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)61-63 and adopted the draft resolution on the verification of new members' credentials, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)61-64.
10. The Bureau decided to hold a debate under Rule 26 on the situation in Georgia, adopted the draft declaration on the situation in Georgia as amended, and appointed Xavier CADORET, France (L,SOC/G/PD) to present the draft declaration in plenary.

It approved the revised draft agenda of the 47th Session of the Congress as set out in document CG(2024)47-OJrev and took note of the activities of the chamber sessions to be held on 16 October 2024.

It took note of the schedule of meetings as set out in document CG(2024)47-01, the list of youth delegates as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)61-67, the timetable and deadlines for elections during the session as set out in document CG(2024)60-47, the side-events as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)61-68, and the churning of the plenary sittings as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)61-66.

It took note of the replies so far received to the letter sent by the Secretary General of the Congress to heads of delegation following the Bureau meeting of 12 September 2024, asking how their delegations involved the youth delegate in respect of their country in its work.

11. The Bureau took note of the activities of the committees.

12. The Bureau took note of the information regarding local and regional elections.
13. The Bureau took note of the information on co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions.
14. The Bureau took note of the information on the situation in Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Cyprus.
15. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the international conference on “Multi-level governance for ensuring democracy and strengthening resilience at all levels of governance”, organised jointly with the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.
16. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the World Forum for Democracy to be held in Strasbourg on 6-8 November 2024 and approved the Congress delegation.
17. The Bureau decided to advise the Secretary General to approve the request for patronage of the 2025 Winter School on Federalism and Governance (University of Innsbruck), as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)61-65.

#### **Thursday 17 October**

18. The Bureau approved the new terms of reference for activities of the Governance Committee and Social Inclusion Committee, as set out in documents CG-BUR(2024)61-69 and CG-BUR(2024)61-70.
19. The Bureau took note of the updated information on Congress Bureau rapporteurs, standing and deputy standing rapporteurs on human rights, thematic and deputy thematic spokespersons and Congress representatives in external bodies, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)61-72, and appointed the following members to fill vacant functions:
  - Thematic spokesperson on Gender Equality: Nazia REHMAN, United Kingdom (R, SOC/G/DP)
  - Deputy thematic spokesperson on Gender Equality: Christa CARPELAN, Finland (R, EPP/CCE)
  - Thematic spokesperson on Environment and Climate Change: Meropi YDRAIOU, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)The functions of Bureau rapporteur on the Budget and Resources of the Congress, Bureau rapporteur on the Congress Priorities for 2021-2026 and Congress Deputy Representative to the North-South Centre remain to be filled.
20. The Bureau held a session debriefing and decided to include on the agenda of its next meeting items concerning the communication strategy of the Congress, the code of conduct of members and provisions on the promotion of gender equality and the protection of human dignity in the Congress, and the youth delegates programme, which is an integral part of its “Rejuvenating Politics” initiative.
21. The Bureau took note of the Congress meetings in 2024, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)61-70, and the dates of sessions and Bureau meetings to be held in 2025 as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)61-71.
22. The Bureau held an exchange of views with Ms Nurhayat ALTUN, following up on its Resolution 416 (2017) “Fact-finding mission on the situation of local elected representatives in Turkey and on the release of Ms ALTUN in May 2024.
23. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)61-DEC.

## **Appendix 1 – List of participants**

### **Members of the Bureau**

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG), President of the Congress (17 October only)  
 Cecilia DALMAN EEK, (R, SOC/G/PD), President of the Chamber of Regions (17 October only)  
 Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)  
 Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)  
 Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD)  
 David ERAY, Switzerland (R, EPP/CCE)  
 Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG)  
 Randi MONDORF, Denmark (R, ILDG) (14 October only)  
 Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia (L, EPP/CCE) (14 October only)  
 Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)  
 Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)  
 Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE) (14 October only)

### **Chairs of committees**

Thibaut GUIGNARD, France (L, EPP/CCE), Monitoring Committee (14 October only)  
 Paolo BELTRAMINELLI, Switzerland (L, PPE/CCE), 1st Vice-Chair, Governance Committee (14 October only)  
 Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom, (L, SOC/G/DP), Social Inclusion Committee (14 October only)

### **Presidents of Congress political groups**

Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE)  
 Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD) (17 October only)  
 Vladimir PREBILIC, Slovenia (L, SOC/G/PD) (14 October only)  
 Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (L, ILDG)

### **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  
 Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Table Office  
 Ayana TISSERANT, Assistant to the Table Office

**Appendix 2 – Agenda**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>		
<b>2.</b>	<b>Adoption of the agenda</b>	CG-BUR(2024)61-OJ <a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)60-DEC</a>	<i>Dec. Info.</i>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Communication by the President of the Congress</b>		
	Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-61</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress</b>		
	Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-62</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine</b>		
	Update on recent developments		<i>Info.</i>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Follow-up of the conference of national associations of local and regional authorities, Strasbourg, 12-13 September 2024</b>	<a href="#">Declaration</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>7.</b>	<b>4th Forum of Mayors, United Nations, Geneva, 30 September-1 October 2024</b>	<a href="#">Outcome statement (English only)</a>	<i>Info.</i>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Budget of the Congress</b>		<i>Info.</i>
<b>9.</b>	<b>National delegations</b>		
9.1	Changes in the composition of national delegations	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-63</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
9.2	Preliminary draft resolution on the verification of new members’ credentials  Rapporteurs: Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR) Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG)	<b>11.10</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-64</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
<b>10.</b>	<b>47th Session of the Congress, 15-17 October 2024</b>		
10.1	Possible urgent questions		<i>Dec.</i>
10.2	Elections during the session	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)60-47 Signature form</a>	<i>Info. Info.</i>
10.3	Schedule of meetings	<a href="#">CG(2024)47-01</a>	<i>Info.</i>

10.4	Approval of the draft agenda	<a href="#">CG(2024)47-OJ</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
10.5	Chairing of the plenary sittings	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-66REV</a>	<i>Info.</i>
10.6	Youth delegates	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-67</a>	<i>Info.</i>
10.7	Side events	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-68</a>	<i>Info.</i>
11.	<b>Activities of Committees</b>	<a href="#">CG-GOV(2024)3-OJprov</a> <a href="#">CG-SOC(2024)4_OJ_prov</a> <a href="#">9.10 CG-MON(2024)04-OJprov</a>	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
12.	<b>Local and regional elections</b>		<i>Info.</i>
13.	<b>Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions</b>		<i>Info.</i>
14.	<b>Local and regional democracy</b>		<i>Info.</i>
14.1	Georgia		
14.2	Azerbaijan		
14.3	Cyprus		
15.	<b>Intergovernmental sector</b>		
	International conference “Multi-level governance for ensuring democracy and strengthening resilience at all levels of governance”, organised jointly with the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers	<a href="#">Communique</a> <a href="#">8.10 Multilevel Governance (English only)</a>	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
16.	<b>World Forum for Democracy (6-8 November 2024)</b>		
	Approval of composition of Congress delegation	<a href="#">10.10 CG-BUR(2024)61-73 Programme</a>	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>
17.	<b>Request for granting patronage of the Council of Europe</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-65</a>	<i>Dec.</i>
	<b>[Thursday 18 October]</b>		
18.	<b>New terms of reference for Committee activities</b>	<a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-69</a> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-74</a>	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Dec.</i>

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| 19.  | <b>Permanent rapporteurs of the Congress on human rights, thematic spokespersons and representatives in external bodies</b> | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-72</a> | <i>Dec.</i>  |
| 20.  | <b>10.10 Session debriefing</b>   |                                   | <i>Info.</i> |
| 21.  | <b>Congress sessions and Bureau meetings</b>  |                                   | <i>Info.</i> |
| 21.1 | All Congress meetings in 2024   | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-70</a> |              |
| 21.2 | Calendar of Bureaux and sessions in 2025  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2024)61-71</a> |              |
| 22.  | <b>Other business</b>   |                                   | <i>Info.</i> |
|      | Congress Who's Who  | <a href="#">link</a>              |              |
| 23.  | <b>Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting</b>   | CG-BUR(2024)61-DEC                | <i>Dec.</i>  |

**Close of the meeting**

**Date of the next meeting:  
Strasbourg, Thursday 5 December 2024**

**to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat  
→ [congress.bureau@coe.int](mailto:congress.bureau@coe.int)**