

CG-BUR(2024)62-DEC
5 December 2024

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress
Strasbourg, France
Thursday 5 December 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 revised 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 pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine.
 6. The Bureau adopted a declaration on the situation in Georgia.
 7. The Bureau took note of the information concerning the implementation of the 2024 budget and of the adoption of the adjusted budget for 2025.
 8. The Bureau took note of the changes in the composition of the national delegations, as set out in documents CG-BUR(2024)62-80 and CG-BUR(2024)62-80ADD.
 9. The Bureau approved the communication strategy of the Congress as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)62-83.
 10. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the Rejuvenating Politics initiative of the Congress as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)62-86.
- It decided to maintain the duration of youth delegates' mandate at one year.
- It decided to continue collecting the best practices of national delegations in their contacts with youth delegates, and to make these practices available to all delegations.
- It agreed to the request of the delegation of Morocco, Partner for Local Democracy, to allow for the appointment of a youth delegate in respect of Morocco as from 2025, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules and Procedures on Partners for Local Democracy, in particular as regards the fact that their travel and subsistence expenses cannot be covered by the ordinary budget of the Congress.
11. The Bureau took note of the information on gender equality in the Congress contained in document CG-BUR(2024)62-79 and held an exchange of views.
 12. The Bureau took note of the schedule of meetings as set out in document CG(2024)48-01 and approved the preliminary draft agenda of the 48th Session of the Congress as set out in document CG(2024)48-OJprov.

It appointed Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG) and Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE) as Bureau rapporteurs on the Second World Summit for Social Development.

It took note of the call for applications for youth delegates for 2025.

13. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the Code of Conduct for Congress members, as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)62-87, and invited its rapporteurs on the Congress Rules and Procedures to propose at the next Bureau meeting elements that should be taken into account regarding in particular youth delegates and harassment and gender-based violence.

14. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the steps to be taken in the event of the possible opening of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122) to non-member states.

15. The Bureau took note of the calendar of local and regional elections and accepted the invitations to observe the elections to the Parliament of Hamburg planned for 2 March 2025, with a delegation comparable to the one deployed for capital cities in the past, and the local elections to be held in Finland on 13 April 2025, subject to the availability of funds.

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 information on the situation of local democracy in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Morocco, and Belarus. It agreed in principle to include Moroccan observers in election observation missions and to begin reflecting on the creation of a delegation of the democratic forces of Belarus.

18. The Bureau took note of the Stocktaking of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 May-15 November 2024) and of the Priorities of the Presidency of Luxembourg of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (15 November 2024-17 May 2025).

It took note of the Committee of Ministers' reply to Recommendation 502 (2024) "Local and regional authorities as actors and guarantors of the rule of law" of the Congress.

19. The Bureau took note of the contribution of the Congress to the World Forum for Democracy (6-8 November 2024).

20. 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)62-84.

The Bureau appointed Fabio TRAVAGLINI, Italy (L, EPP/CCE) as Congress Deputy Representative to the North-South Centre.

The Bureau appointed Cecilia DALMAN EEK (R, SOC/G/PD) as Bureau rapporteur on the Congress Priorities for 2021-2026.

The function of Bureau rapporteur on the Budget and Resources of the Congress remains to be filled.

21. The Bureau accepted the invitation from Luxembourg to hold the Bureau meeting of 10 February 2025 in Luxembourg and took note and of the dates of sessions and Bureaux meetings to be held in 2025 as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)62-85. It decided that the December 2025 Bureau meeting would be held in the week of 15 December 2025 in Paris.

22. The Bureau took note of the Congress Who's Who.

23. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in document CG-BUR(2024)62-DEC.

Appendix 1 – List of participants

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG), President of the Congress
Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE) President of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD), President of the Chamber of Regions
Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)
Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)
David ERAY, Switzerland (R, EPP/CCE)
Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG)
Randi MONDORF, Denmark (R, ILDG)
Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE)
Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)
Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)

Presidents of Congress political groups

Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE)
Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD)
Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (L, ILDG)
Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, CRE)

Secretariat

Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress
Claudia LUCIANI, Director of the Congress
Daniel POPESCU, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions
Sarah BURTON, Head of the Table Office and Secretary of the Bureau
Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Table Office

Appendix 2 – Agenda

1.	Opening of the meeting		
2.	Adoption of the agenda	CG-BUR(2024)62-OJ CG-BUR(2024)61-DEC	<i>Dec.</i> <i>Info.</i>
3.	Communication by the President of the Congress		
	Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress	CG-BUR(2024)62-76	<i>Info.</i>
4.	Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress		
	Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress	CG-BUR(2024)62-77	<i>Info.</i>
5.	Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine		<i>Info.</i>
	Update on recent developments		
6.	Situation in Georgia	Draft declaration	<i>Dec.</i>
	Adoption of a draft Bureau declaration on the situation in Georgia		
7.	Budget of the Congress		<i>Info.</i>
8.	National delegations	CG-BUR(2024)62-80	<i>Dec.</i>
	Rapporteurs : Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR) Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG) Changes in the composition of national delegations		
9.	Visibility of the Congress	CG-BUR(2024)62-83 Press review 47th Session 29.11 Press review 46th Session	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
10.	Rejuvenating Politics initiative	CG-BUR(2024)62-86	<i>Dec.</i>
11.	Gender equality in the Congress		
11.1	Gender representation in the Congress	5.12 CG-BUR(2024)62-79	<i>Info.</i>

12.	48th Session of the Congress, 25-27 March 2025		
12.1	Schedule of meetings	CG(2024)48-01	<i>Info.</i>
12.2	Approval of the preliminary draft agenda and appointment of rapporteurs	CG(2024)48-OJ	<i>Dec.</i>
12.3	Call for applications for youth delegates for 2025	News	<i>Info.</i>
13.	Code of Conduct for Congress members	CG-BUR(2024)62-87	<i>Info.</i>
14.	Opening of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122) to non-member states		<i>Info.</i>
15.	Local and regional elections	Invitation Finland 2025	<i>Dec.</i>
16.	Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions		<i>Info.</i>
17.	Local and regional democracy		<i>Info.</i>
17.1	Armenia		
17.2	Azerbaijan		
17.3	Türkiye		
17.4	Morocco		
17.5	Belarus		
18.	Intergovernmental sector		
18.1	Stocktaking of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 May – 15 November 2024)	CM/Inf(2024)16	<i>Info.</i>
18.2	Priorities of the Presidency of Luxembourg of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (15 November 2024 – 17 May 2025)	CM/Inf(2024)17	<i>Info.</i>
18.3	Committee of Ministers' reply to texts adopted by the Congress	CM/Cong(2024)Rec502-final	<i>Info.</i>
19.	World Forum for Democracy (6-8 November 2024)		
	Congress contribution to the World Forum for Democracy 2024	News	<i>Info.</i>

20.	Permanent rapporteurs on human rights, thematic spokespersons and representatives of the Congress in external bodies	CG-BUR(2024)62-84	<i>Dec.</i>
	Appointments to vacant positions		
21.	Congress sessions and Bureau meetings		
21.1	Invitation(s) to hold (a) Bureau meeting(s) outside Strasbourg or Paris	Invitation Luxembourg 2025	<i>Dec.</i>
21.2	Calendar of Bureaux and sessions in 2025	CG-BUR(2024)62-85	<i>Info.</i>
22.	Other business		
	Congress Who's Who	link	<i>Info.</i>
23.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2024)62-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>
	Close of the meeting		
	Date and place of the next meeting: Luxembourg, Monday 10 February 2025		
	to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat → congress.bureau@coe.int		