

## The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2025)64-DEC  
24 and 27 March 2025

### **Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress Strasbourg, France Monday 24 March and Thursday 27 March 2025**

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

##### **Monday 24 March 2025**

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 draft 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 oral reports by the Chamber Presidents of the meetings of the Chamber Bureaux held on 24 March 2025.
6. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget of the Congress.
7. The Bureau took note of the schedule of meetings during the session as set out in document CG(2025)48-01, and of the timetable and deadlines for elections to be held during the session, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)63-17.

It adopted the revised draft agenda of the 48th Session of the Congress as set out in document CG(2025)48-OJ and approved the programme of chairing of the plenary sittings set out in document CG-BUR(2025)64-25.

It took note of the side events to be held during the session, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)64-26.

It took note of the list of youth delegates for 2025, set out in document CG(2025)48-05, and of the good practice guide for national delegations in their contacts with youth delegates as set out in the document CG-BUR(2025)64-30.

8. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)64-23 and adopted the draft resolution on the verification of new members' credentials, and new appointments procedures as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)64-24.
9. The Bureau pursued its discussions on the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and took note of the recent developments.
10. The Bureau held an exchange of views on the situation of local and regional democracy in Türkiye and approved a draft declaration on dismissals of mayors in Türkiye, to be submitted to the plenary for adoption during the debate to be held under the urgent procedure on 27 March 2025.

11. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the situation in Georgia and took note of the recent developments. It also took note of the Draft Congress Recommendation and Resolution, as set out in document CG(2025)48-17, approved by the three Presidents following their high-level visit to Georgia carried out on 3-4 February 2025.

12. In the light of the information provided, the Bureau decided to set up an Ad hoc Working Group on follow-up to the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy under Chapter XI of the Congress Rules and Procedures and approved its composition as set out in Appendix 3.

13. The Bureau took note of the 2024 Activity Report of the Centre of Expertise for Multilevel Governance, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)64-22.

14. The Bureau appointed Cecilia DALMAN EEK (Sweden, R, SOC/G/PD) as Bureau rapporteur for a democratic Belarus.

15. The Bureau held an exchange of views with the President of the GR-DEM, Ms Caitríona DOYLE, Ireland.

16. The Bureau held an exchange of views with the Standing Rapporteur on Human Rights, Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, (Austria, R, SOC/G/PD), on the work carried out during the first year since her appointment.

17. The Bureau took note of the information regarding local and regional elections.

18. The Bureau took note that no replies of the Committee of Ministers to Congress recommendations had been received since its previous meeting.

#### **Thursday 27 March 2025**

19. The Bureau approved the themes for the European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) for 2025-2026, as set in document CG-BUR(2025)64-21, and underlined a series of points to be taken into account in finalising proposals for reform of the ELDW, to be submitted to the Bureau at its next meeting.

19. The Bureau took note that no replies of the Committee of Ministers to Congress recommendations had been received since its previous meeting.

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

21. The Bureau held a Session debriefing.

22. The Bureau accepted the invitation of Malta to meet in Malta on 12 June 2025. It took note of the sessions and Bureau meetings to be held in 2025, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)64-28.

23. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)64-DEC.

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

### **Members of the Bureau**

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG), President of the Congress  
 Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD), President of the Chamber of Regions (only on 24 March)  
 Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities  
 Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE) (only on 24 March)  
 Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)  
 Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD)  
 David ERAY, Switzerland (R, PPE/CCE)  
 Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG)  
 Randi MONDORF, Denmark (R, GILD/ILDG) (only on 24 March)  
 Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia (L, EPP/CCE) (only on 27 March)  
 Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE)  
 Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)  
 Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)  
 Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)  
 Güneş PEHLIVAN, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD) (only on 27 March)  
 Joris BENGEOVOORD, Netherlands (L, SOC/G/PD) (only on 27 March)

### **Chairs of committees**

Jelena DRENJANIN, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE), Governance Committee  
 Nazia REHMAN, United Kingdom (R, SOC/G/PD), Committee on Social Inclusion and Human Dignity (only on 27 March)

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

Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE) (only on 24 March)  
 Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD)  
 Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (L, ILDG) (only on 24 March)  
 Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, ECR)

### **Secretariat**

Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress  
 Claudia LUCIANI, Director of the Congress  
 Daniel POPESCU, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions  
 Stéphanie POIREL, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities  
 Sarah BURTON, Head of the Table Office and Secretary of the Bureau  
 Euan RODDIN, Head of the Statutory Activities Division  
 Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Table Office  
 Sanja LESKOVAC, Assistant to the Table Office

**Appendix 2 – Agenda****[Monday 24 March 2025]**

- |           |   |  |                              |
|-----------|---|--|------------------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Opening of the meeting</b>   |  |                              |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Adoption of the agenda</b>   | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)64-OJ</a><br><a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)63-DEC</a>                | <i>Dec.</i><br><i>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(2025)64-19</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(2025)64-20</a>  | <i>Info.</i>                 |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Chamber sessions: meetings of 24 March 2025</b>  | <a href="#">CPR-BUR(2025)43-OJ</a><br><b>18.03</b> <a href="#">CPL-BUR(2025)43-OJ</a>  | <i>Info.</i><br><i>Info.</i> |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Budget of the Congress</b>   |  | <i>Info.</i>                 |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>48th Session of the Congress, 25-27 March 2025</b>   |  |                              |
| 7.1       | Schedule of meetings  | <a href="#">CG(2024)48-01</a>  | <i>Info.</i>                 |
| 7.2       | Elections during the session  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)63-17</a>  | <i>Info.</i>                 |
| 7.3       | Approval of the draft agenda  | <a href="#">CG(2024)48-OJ</a>  | <i>Dec.</i>                  |
| 7.4       | Chairing of the plenary sittings  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)64-25</a>  | <i>Info.</i>                 |
| 7.5       | Side events   | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)64-26</a>  | <i>Info.</i>                 |
| 7.6       | Youth delegates in 2025   | <a href="#">CG(2025)48-05</a> [list]<br><a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)64-30</a> [guide]      | <i>Info.</i><br><i>Info.</i> |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>National delegations</b>   |  |                              |
|           | Rapporteurs :<br>Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)<br>Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG) |  |                              |
| 8.1       | Modifications of the composition of national delegations  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)64-23</a><br><b>21.03</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)64-23ADD</a> | <i>Dec.</i><br><i>Dec.</i>   |

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|------|---|--|-------|
| 8.2  | Preliminary draft resolution on the verification of new members' credentials and new appointment procedures   | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)64-24</a>              | Dec.  |
| <br> |   |  |       |
| 9.   | <b>Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine</b>   |  |       |
|      | Recent developments   |  |       |
| <br> |   |  |       |
| 10.  | <b>Local and regional democracy</b>   |  |       |
|      | Türkiye - Adoption of draft declaration on dismissals of mayors in Türkiye  |  | Dec.  |
| <br> |   |  |       |
| 11   | <b>Situation in Georgia</b>   |  |       |
| 11.1 | Report on the situation of local and regional democracy in Georgia<br><br>Rapporteurs :<br>Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD)<br>Bernd VOEHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE) | <a href="#">CG(2025)48-17</a>                  | Info. |
| 11.2 | Recent developments   |  | Info. |
| 12.  | <b>Reykjavik Principles for Democracy – follow-up</b>   |  | Info. |
| <br> |   |  |       |
| 13.  | <b>Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions</b>  |  |       |
|      | 2024 Activity Report of the Centre of Expertise for Multilevel Governance   | <b>18.03</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)64-22</a> | Info. |
| <br> |   |  |       |
| 14.  | <b>Belarus</b>  |  |       |
|      | Appointment of a Congress rapporteur for a democratic Belarus   |  | Dec.  |
| <br> |   |  |       |
| 15.  | <b>[11:00]</b><br><b>Exchange of views with the Chair of the GR-DEM, Ms Caitríona DOYLE, Permanent Representative of Ireland</b>  | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)64-29</a>              | Info. |

*SUSPENSION OF MEETING*

**at 12:00**

*Signature of a memorandum of co-operation  
between the All-Ukrainian Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities  
and the Congress (**Room 8**)*

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| 16. | <b>[14:00]</b> |  | Info. |
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**Exchange of views with the Standing Rapporteur on Human Rights, Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria (R, SOC/G/PD)**

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|------------|--|---|--|
| <b>17.</b> | <b>Local and regional elections</b>  |   | <i>Info.</i>                                 |
| <b>18.</b> | <b>European Local Democracy Week (ELDW)</b>  |   |  |
|            | Approval of themes for 2025-2026 and proposals of reform                                 | <b>19.03</b> <a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)64-21</a>  | <i>Dec.</i>                                  |
| <b>19.</b> | <b>Intergovernmental sector</b>  |   |  |
|            | [Possibly] Replies from the Committee of Ministers to the texts approved by the Congress |   | <i>Info.</i>                                 |
|            | <b>[Thursday 27 March 2025]</b>  |   |  |
| <b>20.</b> | <b>Activities of the Committees</b>  | <a href="#">CG-SOC(2025)1_OJ</a><br><a href="#">CG-MON(2025)02-OJ</a><br><a href="#">CG-GOV(2025)1-OJ</a> | <i>Info.</i><br><i>Info.</i><br><i>Info.</i> |
| <b>21.</b> | <b>Debriefing from the Session</b>   |   | <i>Info.</i>                                 |
| <b>22.</b> | <b>Congress sessions and Bureau meetings</b>   |   |  |
| 22.1       | Invitation to hold a Bureau meeting outside Strasbourg or Paris                          | <a href="#">Invitation Malta 2025</a>   | <i>Info.</i>                                 |
| 22.2       | Calendar of Bureaux and sessions in 2025   | <a href="#">CG-BUR(2025)64-28</a>   | <i>Info.</i>                                 |
| <b>23.</b> | <b>Other business</b>  | <a href="#">Invitation AIMF (French only)</a><br><a href="#">Draft programme AIMF (French only)</a>       | <i>Info.</i><br><i>Info.</i>                 |
| <b>24.</b> | <b>Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting</b>                                    | CG-BUR(2025)64-DEC  | <i>Dec.</i>                                  |

**Close of the meeting**

**Date and place of the next meeting:**  
**Malte, Thursday 12 June 2025**

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

### **Appendix 3 – Ad hoc Working Group on follow-up to the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy**

#### **Composition**

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG), President of the Congress  
Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD), 1st Vice-President of the Congress  
Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE), 2nd Vice-President of the Congress

Thibaut GUIGNARD, France (L, EPP/CCE), Chair of the Monitoring Committee  
Jelena DRENJANIN, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE), Chair of the Governance Committee  
Nezia REHMAN, United Kingdom (R, SOC/G/PD), Chair of the Social Inclusion Committee

Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria (R, SOC/G/PD), Standing Rapporteur for Human Rights  
Melanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG), Deputy Standing Rapporteur for Human Rights  
Peter DRENT, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE), Deputy Standing Rapporteur for Human Rights

Nezia REHMAN, United Kingdom (R, SOC/G/PD), Thematic Spokesperson on Gender Equality  
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE), Thematic Spokesperson on European Local Democracy Week  
Meropi YDRAIOU, Greece (L, EPP/CCE), Thematic Spokesperson on the Environment and Climate Change  
David ERAY, Switzerland (R, EPP/CCE), Thematic Spokesperson on Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence  
Véronique BERTHOLLE, France (L, SOC/G/PD), Thematic Spokesperson on Youth  
Danela ARSOVSKA, North Macedonia (L, EPP/CCE), Thematic Spokesperson on Ethics and Prevention of Corruption  
Heather BRANNAN-MCVEY, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD), Thematic Spokesperson on Migration and Integration

Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE), President of the EPP/CCE political group  
Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD), President of the SOC/G/PD political group  
Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (L, ILDG), President of the ILDG political group  
Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, ECR), President of the ECR political group

One youth delegate