

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2026)69-DEC
 17 February 2026

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress Chişinău, Republic of Moldova Tuesday 17 February 2026

Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken

1. The Bureau heard a welcome address from the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, Sergiu Mihov, and the reply of the President of the Congress, Mr Marc Cools. The President 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 concerning the state of Congress consultations on the New Democratic Pact for Europe.
5. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and took note of the update on the contribution of the Congress to reforms in the field of decentralisation and multilevel governance, and of the forthcoming high-level dialogue to be held in Strasbourg on 1-2 April 2026. It reiterated the Congress's solidarity and the call for help to the population of Ukraine.
6. The Bureau took note of recent international developments affecting European regions.
7. The Bureau took note of the state of play as regards the renewal of delegations as from March 2026, as set out in documents CG-BUR(2026)69-04 and CG-BUR(2026)69-04ADD, as well as of new information concerning the renewal of the delegation of Ukraine. It held an exchange of views on the proposed composition of the delegation of Georgia, including in the light of information received regarding the withdrawal of one member of the delegation from the opposition. It decided to defer its decision in relation to this delegation pending contacts with the Congress's interlocutors in Georgia, with a view to ensuring political pluralism within the delegation. It approved the other delegations submitted. It noted that the approval of a national delegation to the Congress does not represent the taking of a position on the state of local democracy in the country concerned.

 As regards the current Congress delegations, it took note of the modifications to the composition of the national delegations as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)69-12.
8. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget of the Congress and of the membership of Congress political groups, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)69-03.
9. The Bureau took note that the preliminary draft resolution on Congress priorities 2026-2031 would be submitted for adoption by written procedure. It appointed Xavier Cadoret, France (L, SOC/G/PD) as co-rapporteur from the Chamber of Local Authorities.
10. The Bureau took note of the schedule of meetings for the 50th Session as set out in document CG(2025)50-01 and approved the draft agenda of the session as set out in document CG(2025)50-OJ.

It decided to modify the timetables for election during the 50th Session as follows:

- deadline for submission of candidacies to the post of President of the Congress: at the latest at **6pm** on the day before the opening of the sitting at which the election is to take place (derogation from Article 13.2.b of the Congress Rules and Procedures), i.e. deadline of 6pm on Monday, 30 March 2026;
- deadline for the submission of candidacies to the posts of presidents and vice-presidents of the Chambers: at the latest at **4½ hours** before the opening of the sitting at which the election is to take place (derogation from Rules 13.3.c and 13.4.b of the Congress Rules and Procedures), at 10am on Tuesday, 31 March 2026.

It took note of the information on youth delegates in 2026 and approved the side events as set out in the document CG-BUR(2026)69-07.

11. The Bureau took note of the workplans and the activities of the Monitoring and Social Inclusion Committees. It approved the new terms of reference for the activities of the Monitoring Committee, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)69-13.

12. The Bureau took note that apart from the appointment of a new rapporteur on Congress priorities 2026-2031 on behalf of the Chamber of Local Authorities, there had been no further changes to Congress Bureau rapporteurs, thematic spokespersons and representatives in external bodies.

13. The Bureau held an exchange of views on the situation in Georgia and Türkiye and on contacts with members of Russian democratic forces.

It took note of the report on the study visit to Poland regarding the situation of Belarusian democratic forces and diaspora, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)69-15, and agreed that draft terms of reference for a future report of the Congress would be presented to the Bureau for approval at its next meeting.

14. The Bureau heard statements from Alexei Buzu, Secretary General of the Government, State Chancellery; Ana Revenco, Director, Centre for Strategic Communication and Combating Disinformation; Ghenadie Marian, Head of Unit for EU-Moldova economic and sectoral cooperation; Natalia Eremia, President of Ialoveni District, Union of District Councils of Moldova (UCRM); Viorel Furdui, Executive Director, Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CALM); Marcel Bobeica, Mayor of Gangura commune, Ialoveni (CALM); Ion Ceban, Mayor of Chişinău (CALM) followed by an exchange of views.

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

16. The Bureau took note of the information regarding Congress activities in respect of local and regional elections as set out in the local and regional elections calendar 2026.

17. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the European Local Democracy Action Award set out in document CG-BUR(2026)69-11. It took note of the new logo and visual identity for the European Local Democracy Action (ELDA) and approved the requests of 29 applicants for the title of Partner of the European Local Democracy Week in 2025, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)69-14.

18. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the latest developments concerning the work of the CDDEM.

19. The Bureau took note of the update on the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly.

20. The Bureau took note of the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the European Association of Local Democracy (ALDA).

21. The Bureau took note of the Calendar of Bureau meetings and sessions in 2026, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)69-08 and approved the calendar of sessions in 2027, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)69-09.

22. The Bureau took note of the letter from the President of All1 Belgium Carla Dejonghe addressed to the President of the Congress, which had been transmitted to the Social Inclusion Committee for its consideration.

23. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)69-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
Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)
Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)
Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD)
Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE)
Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia (L, EPP/CCE)
Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)
Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)
Güneş PEHLIVAN, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD)
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)
Stephen SULTANA, Malta (R, SOC/G/PD)

Chairs of committees

Thibaut GUIGNARD, France (L, EPP/CCE), Chair of the Monitoring Committee
Nazia REHMAN, United Kingdom (R, SOC/G/PD), Chair of the Committee on Social Inclusion and Human Dignity

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/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
Sanja LESKOVAC, Assistant to the Table Office

Appendix 2 – Agenda**1. Opening of the meeting**

Opening addresses by:

- Sergiu Mihov, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova
- Marc Cools, President of the Congress

2. Adoption of the agenda

CG-BUR(2026)69-OJ
[CG-BUR\(2025\)68-DEC](#)

*Dec.
Info.*

3. Communication by the President of the Congress

Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress

16.02 [CG-BUR\(2026\)69-01](#)

Info.

4. Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress

Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress

[CG-BUR\(2026\)69-02](#)

Info.

5. Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine

Recent developments

Info.

6. Recent international developments affecting European regions

Info.

7. National delegations

Rapporteurs:

Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)

Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG)

7.1 Renewal of delegations: state of play

[CG-BUR\(2026\)69-04](#)
11.02 [CG-BUR\(2026\)69-04ADD](#)
12.02 [Letter](#) (confidential)

*Dec.
Dec.
Info.*

7.2 Modifications to the composition of national delegations

[CG-BUR\(2026\)69-12](#)

Dec.

8. Budget of the Congress

Membership of Congress political groups

[CG-BUR\(2026\)69-03](#)

Info.

9. Congress priorities 2026-2031

Rapporteur:
Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/V/DP)

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| 9.1 | Preliminary draft resolution on Congress priorities 2026-2031 | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 9.2 | Appointment of co-rapporteur from the Chamber of Local Authorities | <i>Dec.</i> |

10. 50th Session of the Congress, 31 March-2 April 2026

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|------|---|---|
| 10.1 | Schedule of meetings | CG(2026)50-01
<i>Info.</i> |
| 10.2 | Elections during the session | Document session
<i>Info.</i> |
| 10.3 | Approval of the draft agenda and appointment of rapporteurs | 13.02 CG(2026)50-OJ
<i>Dec.</i> |
| 10.4 | Youth delegates in 2026 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 10.5 | Side events | CG-BUR(2026)69-07
<i>Dec.</i> |

11. Activities of the committees

[CG-BUR\(2026\)69-13](#)
13.02 [Workplan MON](#)
Workplan GOV
[Workplan SOC](#)
Dec.
Info.
Info.
Info.

12. Standing rapporteurs on human rights, thematic spokespersons and representatives of the Congress in external bodies

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| 12.1 | Terms of reference of thematic spokespersons | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 12.2 | [Possibly] Appointments to vacant positions | <i>Dec.</i> |

13. Local and regional democracy

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| 13.1 | Georgia | <i>Info.</i> |
| 13.2 | Türkyie | <i>Info.</i> |
| 13.3 | Belarus | 12.02 CG-BUR(2026)69-16
<i>Info.</i> |
| 13.4 | Russian democratic forces | <i>Info.</i> |

**14. [14h30] Exchange of views with representatives of the local authorities of Republic of Moldova
Names to be added on Monday***Info.*

15.	[16h00] Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions		<i>Info.</i>
16.	Local and regional elections	link	<i>Info.</i>
17.	European Local Democracy Action (ELDA)		
17.1	Partner of the European Local Democracy Week 2025 – Candidatures	15.02 CG-BUR(2026)69-14	<i>Info.</i>
17.2	Concept note on the new prize	CG-BUR(2026)69-11	<i>Dec.</i>
17.3	New logo and visual identity for ELDA		<i>Info.</i>
18.	Intergovernmental sector		
18.1	[Possibly] Committee of Ministers' reply to texts adopted by the Congress		<i>Info.</i>
18.2	CDDEM (Steering Committee on Democracy)		<i>Info.</i>
19.	Parliamentary Assembly	Communication from the President of the CM to PACE	<i>Info.</i>
20.	Cooperation of the Congress with Partner organisations		<i>Info.</i>
21.	Congress sessions and Bureau meetings		
21.1	Calendar of sessions and Bureau meetings in 2026	CG-BUR(2026)69-08	<i>Info.</i>
21.2	Calendar of sessions in 2027	CG-BUR(2026)69-09	<i>Dec.</i>
22.	Other business	Letter	<i>Info.</i>
23.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2026)69-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>

Close of the meeting

Dates and places of next meetings:

- Strasbourg, Monday 30 March 2026
- Strasbourg, Thursday 2 April 2026
- Monaco, Thursday 18 June 2026
- Strasbourg, Friday 11 September 2026
- Strasbourg, Monday 26 and Thursday 29 October 2026
- Strasbourg, Tuesday 8 December 2026

to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat

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