

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2026)71-DEC
2 April 2026

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress Strasbourg, France Thursday 2 April 2026

Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken

1. The President of the Congress, 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. It took note of the new composition of the Bureau and other elected functions as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)71-32 and held a session debriefing.
4. The Bureau took note of the activities of the committees. It approved new terms of reference for activities of the Governance Committee, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)71-29, and new terms of reference for activities of the Social Inclusion Committee, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)71-30.
5. The Bureau approved invitations to observe elections in United Kingdom on 7 May, Iceland on 16 May and Sweden on 13 September, and in Gagauzia (Republic of Moldova) on 21 June in case an invitation is extended, subject to the availability of resources.
6. The Bureau appointed Peter DRENT, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE), from the Governance Committee, as standing rapporteur on human rights and Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria (L, SOC/G/PD), from the Monitoring Committee, and Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG), from the Social Inclusion Committee as deputy standing rapporteurs on human rights.
7. The Bureau appointed certain new Bureau rapporteurs, Congress thematic spokespersons and Congress representatives in external bodies, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)71-31rev, and agreed to make the remaining appointments at its next meeting.
8. The Bureau took note of the creation of a new political group in the Congress.
9. The Bureau held an exchange of views regarding the contacts with members of the Russian democratic forces and decided to come back to this matter in more depth at its next meeting.
10. The Bureau took note of the invitation to hold its meeting on 18 June in Monaco, followed by a side-event the following morning, 19 June, on gender equality in political life. It took note of the Calendar of Bureau meetings and sessions in 2026 and 2027, as set out in documents CG-BUR(2026)71-26 and CG-BUR(2026)71-28, and of the statutory meetings of the Congress in 2026, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)71-27.
11. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)71-DEC.

Appendix 1 – List of participants

Members of the Bureau

Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE), President of the Congress
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD), President of the Chamber of Regions
Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD)
Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE)
Belinda GOTTARDI, Italy (L, SOC/G/PD)
Stephen SULTANA, Malta (R, SOC/G/PD)
Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)
Lidija BRADARA, Bosnia and Herzegovina (R, EPP/CCE)
Sinem DEDETAS, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD)
Melanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG)
Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)
Richard VERES, Czechia (L, PfE)

Chairs of committees

Kristoffer TAMSONS, Sweden, (R, EPP/CCE), Chair of the Monitoring Committee
Bernadette GEIEREGGER, Austria (L, EPP/CCE), Chair of the Governance Committee
Rachel BAILEY, United Kingdom (R, CRE), 1st Vice-Chair of the Social Inclusion Committee

Outgoing President

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG)

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, ECR)
Anna MAGYAR, Hungary (R, PfE)

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

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| 1. | Opening of the meeting | | |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda | CG-BUR(2026)71-OJ
CG-BUR(2026)70-DEC | <i>Dec.</i>
<i>Info.</i> |
| 3. | 50th Session of the Congress | | |
| 3.1 | Composition of the Bureau and other elected functions | CG-BUR(2026)71-32 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 3.2 | Session debriefing | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 4. | Activities of the Committees | | |
| 4.1 | Approval of terms of reference for committee activities | CG-BUR(2026)71-29
CG-BUR(2026)71-30 | <i>Dec.</i>
<i>Dec.</i> |
| 4.2 | Workplans | Workplan MON
Workplan GOV
Workplan SOC | |
| 5. | Local and regional elections | | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 6. | Appointment of standing rapporteurs on human rights | CG-BUR(2026)71-31 | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 7. | Bureau rapporteurs, thematic spokespersons and Congress representatives in external bodies | CG-BUR(2026)71-31rev | <i>Dec.</i> |
| 8. | Creation of a new political group in the Congress | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 9. | Russian democratic forces | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 10. | Congress sessions and Bureaux meetings | | |
| 10.1 | Invitation to hold a Bureau meeting outside Strasbourg or Paris | Invitation | <i>Info.</i> |
| 10.2 | Calendar Sessions and Bureaux meetings in 2026 | CG-BUR(2026)71-26 | <i>Info.</i> |
| | Congress statutory meetings 2026 | CG-BUR(2026)71-27 | <i>Info.</i> |
| | Calendar of Sessions 2027 | CG-BUR(2026)71-28 | <i>Info.</i> |
| 11. | Other business | | <i>Info.</i> |
| 12. | Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting | CG-BUR(2026)71-DEC | <i>Dec.</i> |
| | Close of the meeting | | |

Dates and places of next meetings:

- Monaco, Thursday 18 - Friday 19 June 2026
- Strasbourg, Friday 11 September 2026
- Strasbourg, Monday 26 and Thursday 29 October 2026
- Strasbourg, Tuesday 8 December 2026