The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2026)74-DEC
26 and 29 October 2026

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress
Strasbourg, France
Monday 26 October and Thursday 29 October 2026

Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken

Monday 26 October

1. The 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 communication by the President of the Congress.

4. The Bureau took note of the communication by the Secretary General of the Congress and of his intention to submit his candidacy for re-election in October 2027.

5. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the Council of Europe reform.

6. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and took note of the update on recent developments.

7. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget of the Congress set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-89 (Restricted).

8. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the renewal of delegations not renewed at the 50th Session in March 2026 in accordance with Rule 3.6 of the Congress Rules and Procedures, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-70. It approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-71 and adopted the draft resolution on the verification of new members' credentials, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-72.

9. The Bureau took note of the oral reports by the Chamber Presidents of the meetings of the Chamber Bureaux held on 26 October 2026.

10. The Bureau took note of the timetable and deadlines for elections during the session, schedule of meetings as set out in document CG(2026)51-01, chairing of the plenary sittings as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-74, the side-events as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-75 and the list of youth delegates as set out in document CG(2026)51-06.

Following a request from a Bureau member, it decided to hold an urgent debate on "Towards a healthy environment from the local level up", in accordance with Rule 23.8 of the Congress Rules and Procedures, and approved the revised draft agenda of the Session as set out in document CG(2026)51-OJrev.

The Bureau took note of the information on speaking arrangements for plenary and chamber debates as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-73.

11. The Bureau approved the revision of the terms of reference of the Ad hoc Working Group on the New Democratic Pact for Europe to cover matters related to the reform of the Council of Europe, as set

out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-79, and appointed Harald SONDEREGGER (Austria, R, EPP/CCE) and Belinda GOTTARDI (Italy, L, SO/G/PD) as Bureau rapporteurs on the reform.

12. The Bureau took note of the information regarding Congress activities in respect of the observation of local and regional elections. It took note of the invitations received to observe the elections in Lithuania (7 March 2027) and in Norway (12-13 September 2027) and agreed to decide on these observation missions at a future meeting.

13. Bureau took note of the information on the situation in Albania, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Türkiye.

14. The Bureau took note of the information on the round table organised by the Parliamentary Assembly's Platform for Dialogue with Russian Democratic Forces on 28 September 2026

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 the World Forum for Democracy to be held in Strasbourg on 2-3 November 2026 and of the composition of the Congress delegation as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-82.

17. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the latest developments concerning the work of the European Local Democracy Action (ELDA).

18. The Bureau took note of the Committee of Ministers' reply to Congress Recommendation 547 (2026) "How are social rights guaranteed at the local and regional levels? A comparative study based on selected country examples".

19. The Bureau adopted a statement on the Demonstrations and social unrest in Europe.

20. The Bureau held an exchange of views with the standing rapporteur on human rights, Peter DRENTH, (Netherlands, R, EPP/CCE). It took note of the information regarding missions, meetings and statements of the Standing Rapporteurs on Human Rights, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-81

Thursday 29 October

21. The Bureau took note of timeline for the election of the Secretary General of the Congress in 2027, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-83 and agreed to appoint members to the preselection committee at the later date (item examined in restricted *in camera* format and in the absence of the incumbent).

22. The Bureau took note of the revised Session agenda.

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

24. The Bureau took note of the information concerning Bureau rapporteurs, standing rapporteurs on human rights, thematic spokespersons and representatives in external bodies, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-80.

25. The Bureau took note of the calendar of Bureau meetings and sessions in 2026 and 2027, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-76 and CG-BUR(2026)74-77, and of Congress statutory meetings up to February 2027, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-78.

26. The Bureau took note of the information concerning the winners of the North-South Prize.

27. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)74-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, Sweeden (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)
Randi MONDORF, Denmark (R, GILD) (26 October only)
Mihkel JUHKAMI, Estonia (L, PPE/CCE)
Stephen SULTANA, Malta (R, SOC/G/PD) (26 October only)
Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)
Melanie LEPOULTIER, France (ILDG)
Eke FOLKERTS, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE) (29 October only)
Richard VERES, Czechia (L, PfE)
Khumar MAMMADOVA, Azerbaijan (R, ECR) (29 October only)

Outgoing President

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG)

Committee Chairs

Kristoffer TAMSON, Sweeden (R, EPP/CCE)
Emil BROBERG, Austria (L, EPP/CCE), 1st Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee

Presidents of Congress political groups

Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE) (26 October only)
Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD)
Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (R, ILDG) (26 October only)
James MOLONEY, Ireland (L, ILDG), 1st Vice-President of the ILDG (29 October only)
Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, ECR)
Anna MAGYAR, Hungary (R, PfE) (26 October only)

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 26 October 2026]

1.	**Opening of the meeting**		
2.	**Adoption of the agenda**	CG-BUR(2026)74-OJ CG-BUR(2026)73-DEC	*Dec.* *Info.*
3.	**Communication by the President of the Congress**		
	Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress	CG-BUR(2026)74-67	*Info.*
4.	**Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress**		
	Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress	CG-BUR(2026)74-68	*Info.*
5.	**Council of Europe Reform**	SG/Inf(2026)22 (see Cloud)	*Info.*
6.	**Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine**		
	Recent developments		*Info.*
7.	**Budget of the Congress**	CG-BUR(2026)74-69	*Info.*
8.	**National delegations**		
	Rapporteur: Mélanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG)		
8.1	Renewal of delegations not renewed at the 50th Session	CG-BUR(2026)74-70	*Dec.*
8.2	Modifications of the composition of national delegations	CG-BUR(2026)74-71	*Dec.*
8.3	Preliminary draft resolution on the verification of new members' credentials and new appointment procedures	**23.10** CG-BUR(2026)74-72	*Dec.*
9.	**Chamber sessions: meetings of 26 October 2026**		*Info.*
10.	**51st Session of the Congress, 27-29 October 2026**		
10.1	Schedule of meetings	CG(2026)51-01	*Info.*
10.2	Elections during the session	Calendar of elections	*Info.*
10.3	[Possibly] Request for urgent debate		*Dec.*
10.4	Approval of the draft agenda	CG(2026)51-OJ	*Dec.*

10.5	Speaking arrangements for plenary and chamber debates	CG-BUR(2026)74-73 CG-BUR(2026)72-38	*Info.*
10.6	Chairing of plenary sittings	CG-BUR(2026)74-74	*Info.*
10.7	Side events	CG-BUR(2026)74-75	*Info.*
10.8	Youth delegates	CG(2026)51-06	*Info.*
11.	**New Democratic Pact for Europe**		
	Modification of the terms of reference of the Ad hoc Working Group on the New Democratic Pact for Europe	CG-BUR(2026)74-79	*Dec.*
12.	**Local and regional elections**	Calendar 2027 Invitation Lithuania Invitation Norway	*Info.* *Dec.* *Dec.*
13.	**Local and regional democracy**		*Info.*
13.1	Albania		*Info.*
13.2	Georgia		*Info.*
13.3	Republic of Moldova		*Info.*
13.4	Türkiye		*Info.*
14.	**Russian democratic forces in exile**		*Info.*
15.	**Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions**		*Info.*
16.	**World Forum for Democracy 2026**		
	Composition of Congress delegation	CG-BUR(2026)74-82	*Info.*
17.	**European Local Democracy Action (ELDA)**		*Info.*
18.	**Intergovernmental sector**		
	Committee of Ministers' replies to texts adopted by the Congress	CM/Cong(2026)Rec547-final	*Info.*
19.	**[13:30]** **Demonstrations and social unrest in Europe**	Declaration	*Dec*.
20.	**[14:00]** **Exchange of views with the Standing Rapporteur on Human Rights** Peter DRENTH, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE)	CG-BUR(2026)74-81	*Info.*

[14:30]
Joint meeting of the Congress Bureau and the Ad hoc working group on the New Democratic Pact for Europe

See separate agenda

[Thursday 29 October 2026]

21.	**Election of the Secretary General of the Congress (October 2027)** ***Item to be examined in restricted in camera format***		*Dec.*
	Establishment of the pre-selection committee	CG-BUR(2026)73-64 CG-BUR(2026)74-83	
22.	**51st Session of the Congress**		
22.1	Possible urgent questions		*Dec.*
22.2	Chairing of plenary sittings (revised)	CG-BUR(2026)74-74rev2	*Info.*
22.3	Debriefing		*Info.*
23.	**Activities of the Committees**		*Info.*
	[Possibly] Approval of terms of reference for committee activities		*Dec.*
24.	**Bureau rapporteurs, thematic spokespersons and Congress representatives in external bodies**		
	Current situation	CG-BUR(2026)74-80	*Info.*
25.	**Congress sessions and Bureau meetings**		
25.1	Calendars of Bureaux and sessions in 2026 and 2027	CG-BUR(2026)74-76 CG-BUR(2026)74-77	*Info.* *Info.*
25.2	Congress meetings till end February 2027	CG-BUR(2026)74-78	*Info.*
26.	**Other business**		*Info.*
27.	**Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting**	CG-BUR(2026)74-DEC	*Dec.*

Close of the meeting

Date and place of next meetings:
- **Strasbourg, France, Tuesday 8 December 2026**
- **Bar, Montenegro, Wednesday 10 February 2027**