CG(2026)50-OJ
1 April 2026

50th Session of the Congress

Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe
31 March - 2 April 2026

AGENDA[1]
PUBLIC MEETING

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English and French) and in German and Italian except where otherwise indicated.

Information on the provision of additional languages available for sittings (valid on the date shown above) is indicated throughout this agenda and on the timetable of meetings [CG(2026)50-01].

Key:
EN English
FR French
DE German
IT Italian
TR Turkish
UKR Ukrainian (debates indicated by **)
ESP Spanish (simultaneous unless otherwise indicated)

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[1] *Debates marked in blue are a contribution to the* New Democratic Pact for Europe

Monday 30 March 2026

Bureaux meetings [*EN/FR/DE*]	
9.45-10.30, Room 6	Bureau of the Chamber of Regions
9.45-10.30, Room 8	Bureau of the Chamber of Local Authorities
10.45-12.15 and 14.00-15.30, Room 10	Bureau of the Congress
Seminar for new Congress members 13.00-14.00	
Room 6	Information meeting open to all Congress members, national delegation secretaries and advisors *[EN/FR/DE/IT/TR/ESP passive]*
Congress Connect and Kudo drop-in help desk 14.00-15.00	
Room 6	Open to old and new Congress members and Secretaries of National delegations. *Please bring your smart phone, tablet or lap-top with you*
Political group meetings - 15.45-17.45	
Room 1	European People's Party Group in the Congress (EPP/CCE) *EN/FR/DE/IT/TR/ESP passive]*
Room 8	Group of Socialists, Greens and Progressive Democrats (SOC/G/PD) *EN/FR/DE/IT/TR/ESP passive]*
Room 6	Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG) *EN/FR/DE/IT/TR/ESP passive]*
Room 10	European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) [*EN/DE/IT/TR*]
Secretaries of national delegations meeting - 15.40-16.20	
Room 11	Information meeting *followed by a coffee break with the youth delegates*

Tuesday 31 March 2026

Plenary sitting *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR/**UKR]*

10.00-13.00, Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Tuesday 24 March 2026, 10.00*

10.00	**Opening of the 50th Session of the Congress** by the oldest Congress representative present
10.05	**Test vote** – reminder of the voting system and the request to speak procedure in the hemicycle
10.15	**Verification of new members' credentials** [CG(2026)50-04] [CG(2026)50-05] Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR) and Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG) Debate and vote on the draft resolution [CG(2026)50-02]*
10.40	**Election of the President of the Congress** **[deadline for candidatures: 18.00 Monday 30 March 2026** (Derogation from Rule 13.2.b of *the Rules and Procedures*, approved by the Bureau at its 69th meeting on 17 February 2026)] Presentation of the candidates (3 minutes each) Vote Results of the election
10.50	**Statement by the newly elected President of the Congress**
11.00	**Adoption of the agenda of the 50th Session** [CG(2026)50-OJ] **Adoption of the minutes of the last sitting of the 49th Session (30 October 2025)** [CG(2025)49-PV-03] **Adoption of the composition of Congress committees** [CG(2026)50-03]
11.05	**Congress Presidency: Statement by the outgoing President Marc COOLS** Exchange of views
11.25	**Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine: A Strategic Approach to Supporting the Recovery and Reconstruction of Ukraine at Local and Regional Levels**** Statements by: • Michael O'FLAHERTY, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe Questions • Oleksandr KORNIYENKO, First Deputy Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine / Vitalii BEZGHIN, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Territorial Set Up and Local Self-Government, Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine • Oleksii KULEBA, Deputy Prime Minister for the Restoration of Ukraine – Minister for Development of Communities and Territories, Ukraine (video message) Presentation of the draft resolution by the co-rapporteurs: Véronique BERTHOLLE, France (L, SOC/G/PD) and Amelie TARSCHYS INGRE, Sweden (R, ILDG) Debate Vote on the draft amendments [CG(2026)50-10-AMDT] and vote on the draft resolution [CG(2026)50-10]*
13.00	**Close of the sitting**
13.00	***EVENT:** Official opening of the Exhibition "Popular and traditional clothing"- Permanent Representation of the Republic of Moldova – Lobby of the hemicycle*

Tuesday 31 March 2026

Chamber of Local Authorities *[EN/FR/DE/IT/TR/**UKR/ESP passive]*

14.30-18.00, Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Tuesday 24 March 2026, 10.00*

14.30	**Opening of the session of the chamber session** by the oldest representative sitting in the chamber
14.35	**Election of the President of the Chamber of Local Authorities** **[deadline for candidatures: 10.00 Tuesday 31 March 2026** (derogation from Rule 13.3.c of the *Rules and Procedures,* approved by the Bureau at its 69th meeting on 17 February 2026)] Presentation of the candidate(s) (3 minutes each) Vote Result of the election
14.50	**Statement by the newly-elected president of the chamber**
15.00	**Adoption of the draft agenda of the chamber** [CG(2026)50-OJ]
15.05	**Election of the 7 Vice-Presidents of the chamber** **[deadline for candidatures: 10.00 Tuesday 31 March 2026** (derogation from Rule 13.4.b of the *Rules and Procedures*, approved by the Bureau at its 69th meeting on 17 February 2026)] Presentation of the candidate(s) (3 minutes each) Vote
15.30	**Monitoring of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Lithuania** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs**:** Cecilia Feliczitasz FRIDERICS, Hungary, (L, ECR) and Gobnait NÍ MHUIMNEACÁIN, Ireland (L, ILDG) Debate and vote on the draft recommendation [CPL(2026)50-01]* **Statement by Vladislav KONDRATOVIČ, Minister of Interior, Lithuania** Questions
16.10	**Monitoring of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Monaco** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs**:** Jean-Paul BASTIN, Belgium (L, EPP/CCE) and Christine CHEVALLEY, Switzerland (L, ILDG) Debate and vote on the draft recommendation [CPL(2026)50-02]* **Statement by Lionel BEFFRE, Minister of Interior, Monaco** Questions
17.00	**Thematic debate: Access to healthcare under pressure: a challenge for all territories** [CPL(2026)50-03] Statements by: • Yves COPPIETERS, Minister of Health, Environment, Solidarity and Social Economy of Wallonia, Belgium • Bruno METZ, Mayor of Ettenheim, Germany • Ilias APOSTOLOPOULOS, Mayor of Papagos-Cholargos, Greece • Rayaa PONNLE, Ireland / Isabella Sophia LANING, The Netherlands, Congress youth delegates Debate
17.55	**Results of the election of the 7 vice-presidents of the Chamber of Local Authorities**
17.59	**Adoption of the abridged report of the session of the chamber** [CPL(2026)50-DEC]
18.00	**Close of the session of the chamber by the president**

Tuesday 31 March 2026

Chamber of Regions *[EN/FR/DE/IT/TR/UKR/ESP passive]*

14.30-18.00, Room 1

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Tuesday 24 March 2026, 10.00*

KUDO will be available from 13.30 for testing and checking by the members

14.30	**Opening of the session of the chamber session** by the oldest representative sitting in the chamber
14.35	**Election of the President of the Chamber of Regions** **[deadline for candidatures: 10.00 Tuesday 31 March 2026]** Presentation of the candidate(s) (3 minutes each) Vote Result of the election
14.50	**Statement by the newly-elected president of the chamber**
15.00	**Adoption of the agenda of the chamber** [CG(2026)50-OJ]
15.05	**Statement by the outgoing President of the Chamber of Regions** Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (SOC/G/PD) Exchange of views
15.20	**Election of the 7 Vice-Presidents of the chamber** **[deadline for candidatures: 10.00 Tuesday 31 March 2026]** Presentation of the candidate(s) (3 minutes each) Vote The result of the election will be given at the end of the session of the chamber
16.00	**Decentralisation and territorial organisation of power in Ukraine: current reforms and Congress support** [CPR(2026)50-03] Statements by: • Olena SHULIAK, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development • Tetiana YEGOROVA-LUTSENKO, President of the Ukrainian Association of District and Regional Councils, Chair of Kharkiv Regional Council • Ihor TEREKHOV, President of the Association of Frontline Cities and Communities of Ukraine, Mayor of Kharkiv, Kharkiv Region, Ukraine • Vadym BOYCHENKO, Head of Mariupol City Military Administration, elected Mayor of Mariupol, Donetsk Region, Ukraine Debate
17.10	**Squeezed out? Bringing regional history teaching to the fore** Presentation by the rapporteur: Peter DRENTH, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE) Statement by: Steven STEGERS, Executive Director of EuroClio, the European Association of History Educators Debate and vote on the draft resolution and the draft recommendation [CPR(2026)50-01]*
17.55	**Results of the election of the 7 vice-presidents of the Chamber of Regions**
17.59	**Adoption of the abridged report of the session of the chamber** [CPR(2026)50-DEC]
18.00	**Close of the session of the chamber by the President**

Wednesday 1 April 2026 - Committee meetings *[EN/FR/DE/IT/TR/ESP passive]*	
Monitoring Committee	8.15-9.45, Room 1
Social Inclusion Committee	8.15-9.45, Room 9
Governance Committee	8.15-9.45, Room 10

Wednesday 1 April 2026

Plenary sitting *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR]*

10.00-13.00, Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Wednesday 25 March 2026, 10.00*

10.00	**Statement by Bjørn BERGE, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe** Questions
10.45	**Free elections at the local and regional level** Statement by Kevin CASAS-ZAMORA, Secretary General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) Presentation by the rapporteur: Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (R, ILDG) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and the draft recommendation [CG(2026)50-12]* *This debate is a contribution to the* New Democratic Pact for Europe
12.00	**Tackling violence against elected officials** Statement by Eider INUNCIAGA SERNA, Councillor for Basque Language, Public Services, Civic Engagement, Agenda 2030 and Internationalisation, Bilbao City Council, Spain Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Katrien PARTYKA, Belgium (R, PPE/CCE) and Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and draft recommendation [CG(2026)50-13]* *This debate is a contribution to the* New Democratic Pact for Europe
13.00	**Suspension of the sitting**
13.00	***EVENT:*** *Official Opening of the Exhibition: "My Black-and-White Shadows: Memento Mori", followed by Tzigane céleste concert by Djiben, Roma musicians and reception - Roma and Travellers Division, Council of Europe, Lobby of the hemicycle*

Wednesday 1 April 2026

Plenary sitting *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR]*

14.30-19.00, Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Wednesday 25 March 2026, 10.00*

14.30	**Adoption of the minutes of the sitting of the Congress and of the chambers on 31 March 2026** [CG(2026)50-PV-01] [CPL(2026)50-PV] and [CPR(2026)50-PV]
14.32	**Results of the elections of the posts of vice-chairs of the committees** Communication by the President of the Congress
14.35	**Adoption of texts approved by the chambers** [CG(2026)50-08]
14.36	**Republic of Moldova's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (14 November 2025 – 14 May 2026)** **Statement by Alexei BUZU, Secretary General of the Government, on behalf of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers** Oral reply to written questions [CG(2026)50-22] *Deadline for tabling written questions: Monday 30 March 2026, 16.00*
15.15	**International disorder, regional consequences** Debate
16.15	**Safeguarding local democracy in Georgia: Fact-finding report** Presentation by the rapporteur: Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (R, ILDG) Debate Vote on the amendment [CG(2026)50-14-AMDT] and vote on the draft resolution and the draft recommendation [CG(2026)50-14]*
17.15	**Strengthening the capacities of local and regional authorities in the use of artificial intelligence** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Truls GIHLEMOEN, Norway (R, ECR) and Annika VAIKLA, Estonia (L, ILDG) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and the draft recommendation [CG(2026)50-17]* *This debate is a contribution to the* New Democratic Pact for Europe
18.15	**Social rights at local and regional levels** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD) and Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and draft recommendation [CG(2026)50-18]* *This debate is a contribution to the* New Democratic Pact for Europe
19.00	**Close of the sitting**
19.00	***EVENT:** Launch of the European Commission-Council of Europe joint initiative "Local Observatory on Reform Agendas Implementation (LORAI)", followed by reception – Institutional Partnerships, Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities, Lobby of the hemicycle*

Thursday 2 April 2026

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress

8.30-9.15, Room 10 *[EN/FR/DE/IT]*

Thursday 2 April 2026

Plenary sitting *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR]*

9.30-13.00, Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Thursday 26 March 2026, 10.00*

9.30	**Adoption of the draft minutes of the sittings of the Congress on 1 April 2026** [CG(2026)50-PV-02am] and [CG(2026)50-PV-02pm]
9.35	**Implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights by local and regional authorities: lessons from the case law of the European Court of Human Rights** Statement by Mattias GUYOMAR, President of the European Court of Human Rights Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM**,** Austria (L, SOC/G/PD) and Mélanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG) **Human Rights Handbook – Freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association** Presentation by the co-rapporteur**:** Peter DRENTH, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE) Debate Vote on the draft resolution and recommendation [CG(2026)50-15]* Vote on the draft resolution [CG(2026)50-16]* *This debate is a contribution to the* New Democratic Pact for Europe
10.30	**Thematic debate: From borders to boroughs: global movements, local responses** Statements by: • Fatma ŞAHIN, Mayor of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Türkiye • Elena CARLETTI, President of the Equal Rights and Opportunities Commission of the Region of Emilia Romagna, Italy Debate *This debate is a contribution to the* New Democratic Pact for Europe
11.30	**Election observation missions** Presentation of the reports: Local elections in Kosovo** (12 October 2025) : presented by: Belinda GOTTARDI, Italy (L, SOC/G/PD) [CG(2026)50-19] Local elections in Estonia (19 October 2025): rapporteur: Jana FISCHEROVA, Czechia (L, ECR) Local elections in North Macedonia (19 October 2025): rapporteur: Gobnait NI MHUIMNEACAIN, Ireland (L, ILDG) Local elections in San Marino, (23 November 2025) rapporteur: Christa CARPELAN, Finland (L, EPP/CCE) Debate and vote on the draft recommendations: Estonia: [CG(2026)50-20]*; North Macedonia [CG(2026)50-21]*; San Marino [CG(2026)50-23]* ** All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo
12.59	**Adoption of the abridged report of the 50th Session** [CG(2026)50-DEC]
13.00	**Close of the 50th Session by the President of the Congress**

MEMBERS' ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO:

- Electronic voting: votes in the plenary sittings will be held using the electronic voting system for all representatives or duly designated substitutes who registered for the session before 20 March 2026.
- Participants are reminded that access to the hemicycle is strictly limited to holders of badges which indicate the specific hemicycle symbol.
- The conditions and deadlines for tabling amendments (congress.session@coe.int): at the latest at 10.00, 7 days before the day when the texts to which they refer are to be discussed. Amendments must be signed by 5 delegates from at least two delegations for texts debated in plenary sittings or by five delegates from at least two national delegations sitting in a chamber for texts debated in that chamber.
- Registration of speakers: the registration of speakers for the debates should be done directly in Congress Connect.
- Finance Office: Office 1140
- Table office for any other question: Offices 1155
- SPEAKING TIMES APPLIED IN THE DEBATES -
  Rule 30 paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress

6. Speaking time for delegates is limited as follows:

   a. Single rapporteurs presenting reports: ten minutes;

   b. Co-rapporteurs presenting reports: six minutes each;

   c. Single rapporteurs replying to debates: five minutes;

   d. Co-rapporteurs replying to debates: three minutes each;

   e. Chairs of committees replying to debates (at their request): three minutes;

   f. Other speakers (except on personal statements; on setting the agenda; on any procedural question or on amendments): three minutes;

   g. Speakers on personal statements; on setting the agenda; on any procedural question or on amendments or sub-amendments: one minute.

7. When sufficient time is not available for all speakers to be heard for the times provided under Rule 30.6, the President may decide that speaking time will be reduced or that not all those who have entered their name in the register may speak.