

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2025)65-DEC
12 June 2025

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress Gozo, Malta Thursday 12 June 2025

Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken

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 agenda as set out in Appendix 2.
3. The Bureau took note of the communication by the President of the Congress and of the Bureau members and participants who had recently represented the Congress at external events.
4. The Bureau took note of the communication by the Secretary General of the Congress and of the Congress Highlights, as set out in document CG(2025)48-19.
5. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and took note of the recent developments. The Bureau reiterated its support to Ukraine.
6. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget of the Congress.
7. The Bureau took note of the information on the organisation of plenary sessions, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)65-40, and decided not to extend the duration of sessions beyond two and a half days.
8. The Bureau took note of the schedule of meetings of the 49th Session of the Congress, as set out in document CG(2025)49-01, and approved the preliminary draft agenda of the session as set out in document CG(2025)49-OJ, including some modifications approved during the meeting.
9. The Bureau approved the changes in the composition of the national delegations set out in documents CG-BUR(2025)65-33, CG-BUR(2025)65-33ADD, CG-BUR(2025)65-33ADD2 and CG-BUR(2025)65-33ADD3 and decided not to make any changes to Rule 3.11 of its Rules and Procedures.
10. The Bureau instructed its rapporteurs on the Congress Charter and Rules and Procedures to draw up proposed amendments to the Congress Rules and Procedures to enable it to address cases of sexual and other forms of harassment effectively.
11. The Bureau took note of the situation of local and regional democracy in Armenia.

The Bureau took note of the information regarding the recent event held in Cyprus.

The Bureau pursued its discussion on the situation in Georgia and took note of recent developments.

The Bureau took note of the situation of local and regional democracy in Türkiye, following the visit carried out to Istanbul and Ankara on 5-6 May 2025 by the President, co-rapporteur on Türkiye Bryony Rudkin and the standing rapporteur on human rights, Gudrun Mosler-Törnström, during which

the delegation met with the mayor of Istanbul, M. İmamoğlu. It took note that dialogue with the authorities was continuing and that a second visit would be carried out at the end of June.

The Bureau took note of the situation of democratic forces of Belarus.

12. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the follow-up to informal contacts with civil society of the Russian Federation.

13. The Bureau took note of the workplans and activities of the committees and approved the terms of reference for the activities of the Monitoring Committee as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)65-37, for the Social Inclusion Committee as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)65-39, and for the Governance Committee, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)65-41.

14. The Bureau approved the preliminary themes and proposal for reform of the European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) 2025, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)65-34.

15. The Bureau took note of the Calendar of Bureaux and sessions in 2025, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)65-35 and adopted the Calendar of Bureaux and sessions in 2026, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)65-36rev. The Bureau also took note of the forward planning for 2027.

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

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

18. The Bureau took note of the information regarding ELoGE (European Label of Governance Excellence).

19. The Bureau took note of the communication on the activities of the Committee of Ministers presented to the Parliamentary Assembly on 9 April 2025 by Mr Xavier Bettel, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Luxembourg and of the work under way, in cooperation with the Assembly, in the framework of the development by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on a New Democratic Pact.

20. The Bureau took note of the information provided concerning the work of the CDDEM following its 3rd plenary meeting held in Strasbourg on 26-27 May 2025. The Bureau took note of the Committee of Ministers' replies to Congress Recommendations 512 (2024) "Fostering a circular economy at local and regional level" and 517 (2024) "Ageing communities – ensuring access to quality social care for older persons". The Bureau took note of the information on activities in the intergovernmental sector.

It also took note of the Priorities of the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 May 2025 – 13 November 2025) and of the Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for 2025.

21. The Bureau heard a video message from the Honourable Owen Bonnici, Minister for Culture, Lands and Local Government, and held an exchange of views with:

- Honourable Alison Zerafa Civelli – Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government
- Respectable Samuel Azzopardi – President of the Gozo Regional Council
- Respectable Brian Azzopardi – Mayor of the City of Victoria

22. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)65-DEC.

Appendix 1 – List of participants

Members of the Bureau

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG), President of the Congress
 Cecilia DALMAN EEK, (R, SOC/G/PD), President of the Chamber of Regions
 Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)
 Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)
 David ERAY, Switzerland (R, EPP/CCE)
 Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD)
 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)

Chairs of committees

Soeren SCHUMACHER, Germany (R, SOC/G/PD), 1st Vice Chair of the Monitoring Committee
 Paolo BELTRAMINELLI, Switzerland (L, PPE/CCE), 1st Vice Chair of the Governance Committee
 Nazia REHMAN, United Kingdom (R, SOC/G/PD), Chair of the Social Inclusion and Human Dignity Committee

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
 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

1.	Opening of the meeting		
2.	Adoption of the agenda	CG-BUR(2025)65-OJ CG-BUR(2025)64-DEC	<i>Dec. Info.</i>
3.	Communication by the President of the Congress		
	Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress	CG-BUR(2025)65-31	<i>Info.</i>
4.	Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress		
4.1	Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress	CG-BUR(2025)65-32	<i>Info.</i>
4.2	Congress Highlights	CG(2025)48-19	<i>Info.</i>
5.	Ukraine		<i>Info.</i>
5.1	Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine – Recent developments		<i>Info.</i>
5.2	Congress support to Ukraine		<i>Info.</i>
6.	Budget of the Congress	Rec 520 (2025)	<i>Dec.</i>
7.	Organisation of plenary sessions	CG-BUR(2025)65-40	<i>Dec.</i>
8.	49th Session of the Congress, 28-29 October 2025		
8.1	Schedule of meetings	CG(2025)49-01	<i>Info.</i>
8.2	Approval of the preliminary draft agenda	CG(2025)49-OJ	<i>Dec.</i>
9.	National delegations		
	Rapporteurs: Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR) Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG)		
9.1	Changes in the composition of national delegations	CG-BUR(2025)65-33 10.06 CG-BUR(2025)65-33ADD 11.06 CG-BUR(2025)65-33ADD.2 11.06 CG-BUR(2025)65-33ADD.3	<i>Dec. Dec. Dec.</i>
9.2	Seats vacant for more than six months	CG-BUR(2025)65-38	<i>Dec.</i>

10. Gender equality

Rapporteurs on Congress Charter and Rules and Procedures:

Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)

Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)

[CG-BUR\(2025\)65-43](#)
[Background document](#)
[CG-BUR\(2024\)62-79](#)

Dec.
Info.
Info.

11. Local and regional democracy

11.1 Armenia

Info.

11.2 Cyprus

Info.

11.3 Georgia

11.4 Türkiye

Confidential

10.06 [CG-BUR\(2025\)65-42REV](#)

Info.

Confidential

[Interview](#)

Info.

11.5 Belarus

Info.

12. Follow-up to informal contacts with civil society – Russian Federation

Info.

13. Activities of the committees

[CG-BUR\(2025\)65-37](#)
[CG-BUR\(2025\)65-39](#)
[CG-BUR\(2025\)65-41](#)
[CG-MON\(2025\)02-1](#)
[CG-GOV\(2025\)2-01prov](#)

Dec.
Dec.
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Info.
Info.

14. European Local Democracy Week (ELDW)

Proposals for reform and preliminary themes for 2025-2026

[CG-BUR\(2025\)65-34](#)

Dec.

15. Congress sessions and Bureau meetings

15.1 Calendar of Bureaux and sessions in 2025

[CG-BUR\(2025\)65-35](#)

Info.

15.2 Calendar of Bureaux and sessions in 2026

12.06 [CG-BUR\(2025\)65-36REV](#)

Dec.

15.3 Forward planning for 2027

Info.

16. Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions

2024 Activity Report of the Centre of Expertise for Multilevel Governance

[CG-BUR\(2025\)64-22](#)

Info.

17.	Local and regional elections		<i>Info.</i>
18.	ELoGE (European Label of Governance Excellence)		<i>Info.</i>
19.	Parliamentary Assembly	Communication on the activities of the Committee of Ministers	<i>Info.</i>
20.	Intergovernmental sector		
20.1	CDDEM – 3rd plenary meeting, Strasbourg, 26-27 May 2025	CDDEM(2015)15	<i>Info.</i>
20.2	Committee of Ministers' reply to texts adopted by the Congress	CM/Cong(2025)Rec512-final CM/Cong(2025)Rec517-final	<i>Info.</i> <i>Info.</i>
20.3	Priorities of the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (17 May 2025 – 13 November 2025)	CM/Inf(2025)9	<i>Info.</i>
20.4	2025 Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe	link	<i>Info.</i>
21.	Other business		
22.	[15:00] Exchange of views with representatives of the Maltese authorities		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Honourable Alison Zerafa Civelli – Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government - Respectable Samuel Azzopardi – President of the Gozo Regional Council - Respectable Brian Azzopardi – Mayor of the City of Victoria 		
23.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2025)65-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>

Close of the meeting

Date and place of next meetings:

- **Strasbourg, Friday 12 September 2025**
- **Strasbourg, Monday 27 October 2025**
- **Paris, Monday 15 December 2025**

to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat
→ congress.bureau@coe.int