

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE  
(CDDG)**

**REPORT OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> PLENARY MEETING  
10-11 September 2020, by videoconference**

Secretariat Memorandum  
prepared by the  
Directorate General of Democracy  
Democratic Governance Division

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## **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

Mr Markku Mölläri (Vice-Chair, Finland), Chair *ad interim*, opened the meeting and welcomed members and other participants. The list of participants appears in Appendix I. The Committee adopted its agenda as it appears in Appendix II.

## **2. Information on recent activities and developments**

### ***Statement by the Chair ad interim***

The Chair *ad interim* recalled the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council of Europe had proved to be able to grow at times of crisis. The CDDG had continued its activities showing flexibility and innovation. The Bureau of the CDDG had played an active role in moving forward the work of the Committee by holding five meetings since March 2020. Thanks to the engagement of the member States, it had been possible to collect information on a wide range of legal and policy measures to respond to the emergency and to organise the CDDG thematic meeting on "[A democratic governance response to Covid-19](#)" (18 June 2020, by videoconference). The CDDG should continue to work on the full breadth of its mandate, to help governments better serve their citizens and respond to their needs.

### ***Exchange of views with Ms Claudia Luciani, Director, Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance***

Ms Luciani praised the work of the CDDG and its pertinence in the present times. The information on national measures in response to Covid-19 collected by the CDDG was impressive. This work exemplified the role of the CDDG as an intergovernmental platform for exchange of information and experience. On the strength of this work, the CDDG should consider developing guidance for member States on how to deal with emergency situations. Its expertise and composition would be particularly relevant to this end, for instance on how to ensure collaboration and cooperation between different tiers of government or communicate with citizens. She also referred members to the Secretary General's [report](#) covering the Council of Europe's actions since the Helsinki Ministerial Meeting in May 2019 and the Organisation's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ms Luciani commended the decision of the Chair *ad interim* to consult the CDDG on the reply to be given to the Secretary General's letter asking Chairs of intergovernmental committees to provide input for the preparation of a four-year strategic framework. She updated the CDDG on the work of the CAHAI. Finally, she introduced Mr Christophe Speckbacher, who had joined the Secretariat of the CDDG.

In the ensuing discussion, CDDG members highlighted that the CDDG should seek to give a follow up to its current work on Covid-19, by providing guidance to member States on the key aspects of good governance and compliance with democratic standards which will ensure that a member State is well prepared to respond to emergencies when they arise. The CDDG should orient its work to the long-term and help member States tackle the crisis of citizens' trust, which was the main problem afflicting European democracies. It was hoped that the Athens Declaration would refer to the work of the CDDG in the area of democratic governance and the importance of continuing to apply the fundamental standards about democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the response to Covid-19.

### ***Information by the Secretariat***

The Secretariat presented the order of business. As regards working methods, a shared webpace had been set up for members of the CDDG and its working groups to access all the working documents and exchange documents online. In the light of Covid-19 and the impossibility to hold meetings in person, this shared webpace had become even more useful. Furthermore, it was likely that meetings would continue to be held online until the end of 2020. Even online, the success of the meeting depending on the active participation of CDDG members.

The CDDG took note of the information and the order of business.

### **3. State of implementation of the CDDG activities according to its terms of reference 2020-2021**

#### ***3.1. E-democracy***

The Secretariat recalled that the CDDG had adopted the Guidelines on e-democracy in the form of a toolkit at its 10<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting, in December 2019. At the same time, the CDDG had appointed three Rapporteurs asking them to review the document from an editorial point of view, in order to bring out a clear narrative. Subsequently, the Bureau had recommended that the Guidelines be updated with additional cases studies and to reflect developments in the area of artificial intelligence.

Mr Paul Rowsell (United Kingdom) and Ms Gordana Gapikj-Dimistrovska (North Macedonia), Rapporteurs, presented the Guidelines in the form of a toolkit. The Guidelines had been turned into a Handbook, a document which was technical and at the same time easy to read. The text set out a clear rationale for introducing e-democracy, was coherent and up-to-date. E-democracy could help tackle some democratic challenges. The emphasis that the handbook placed on equality of participation and non-discrimination was of particular value.

In the ensuing exchange of views, CDDG members commended the work of the Rapporteurs be used by the working group and the centre of Expertise.

The CDDG gave its final approval to the Guidelines on e-democracy in the form of a toolkit (the [Handbook on e-democracy](#)), encouraging the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance to use it as a basis for developing tools and cooperation activities.

### *3.2. Public ethics*

The Secretariat recalled that the "[Guide on public ethics - Steps to implementing public ethics in public organisations](#)" was a living document and that the CDDG had agreed to update it on a regular basis. The CDDG updated the Guide with the addition of a case study.

Mr Alan Doig, expert of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance, presented the new [Toolkit](#) on public ethics addressed to national authorities, which was based on the above-mentioned [Guide](#) and the [Guidelines on public ethics](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers. The Toolkit was intended for public officials and organisations, especially for the legislature as well as for oversight, audit, regulatory, ombudsman and inspection bodies responsible for assessing and promoting uniform and continuing mainstreaming of public ethics. It provided practical guidance on how to implement a public ethics framework and included a benchmark (a self-assessment tool).

The Secretariat invited member States wishing to implement the [Toolkit](#) to request the assistance of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance.

The CDDG took note of the information and the Toolkit.

### *3.3. Democracy and technology*

The CDDG heard a presentation by Mr Almir Sahović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Chairperson of the working group on democracy and technology (GT-DT) on the progress of the work of the working group. It took note that Turkey had appointed an expert to join the working group. It heard an update from Mr Peter Andre (Austria), CDDG Rapporteur on democracy and technology and CDDG representative to the Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI), about the CAHAI's recent and forthcoming activities. On 21 September he would participate in the Policy Development Group (CAHAI-PDG).

In the ensuing discussion it was underlined that this work was of great importance and presented numerous interlinkages with other work currently under preparation in the Council of Europe.

### *3.4. Democratic accountability*

The CDDG heard a presentation by Mr Paul-Henri Philips (Belgium, Brussels Capital Region), Chairperson of the working group on accountability (GT-RE) on the progress of the work of the working group. It took note that Turkey had appointed an expert to join the working group.

### 3.5. *Stocktaking and exchange of views on priorities*

The Secretariat presented a memorandum describing the progress with the implementation of the CDDG terms of reference for 2020-2021. The Covid-19 pandemic had had an impact on the work of the Committee as some meetings had to be postponed or held online. In addition, resources had been devoted to collecting and sharing information on national policies and legislation to respond to the emergency and a thematic meeting on *A democratic governance response to Covid-19* had been organised.

The CDDG expressed satisfaction for the state of implementation of the terms of reference for 2020-2021. It decided to come back to the issue of future priorities during its 12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting, once the report on *Democratic governance and Covid-19* has been completed.

## **4. Secretary General's request for a contribution on general priorities and working methods**

The Chair *ad interim* drew the CDDG members' attention to the letter that the Secretary General of the Council of Europe had sent to all the Chairs of intergovernmental committees with a view to providing an input for the elaboration of a four-year strategic framework.

The CDDG took note of the letter by the Secretary General and thanked the Chair *ad interim* for consulting the Committee prior to drafting his reply. During the exchange of views, the following main points were raised:

- as regards key priorities, delivering good governance and building the trust of citizens and civil society at large in public institutions should feature more prominently in the work and discourse of the Council of Europe;
- the added value provided by the Council of Europe is in its ability to bring a voice to what is right or wrong as well as identifying and responding to emerging challenges;
- in addition to standard-setting and monitoring, more emphasis should be put on the added value of steering committees to act as a platform for exchange of information, experience and good practice, therefore enabling member States to support each other in achieving higher standards;
- the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance was a model of how the Council of Europe could provide practical support to member States based on Council of Europe standards in the area of good governance. Its link with the CDDG and its profile should be further strengthened;
- as regards governance and structures:
  - steering committees were the creative powerhouse of the Organisation and should be central to delivery of strategic objectives;
  - there should be greater dialogue, cooperation and coherence amongst Council of Europe bodies and structures, and flexibility in tackling emerging challenges and priorities;

- dialogue with NGOs, civil society and other international organisations should be strengthened;
- the visibility of the Organisation should be reinforced with more effective external communications;
- as regards working methods:
  - the crisis offered an opportunity to the Council of Europe to modernise its image and working methods through digitalisation;
  - holding online meetings prevented members of steering committees from establishing effective working relations; holding hybrid meetings should be considered;
  - ministerial conferences with a specialised focus could be helpful to provide momentum to work in some circumstances;
- as regards the issue of standards:
  - the Covid-19 crisis reiterated the relevance of the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance for all tiers of government. There would be added value in a recommendation of the Committee of Ministers, clearly extending their application and relevance to the central level of government;
  - when finalising its report on Democratic governance and Covid-19, the CDDG may propose the Committee of Ministers to prepare a recommendation or guidelines on multilevel governance and their importance for emergency situations, drawing from the best practice identified in the current crisis.

In concluding the discussion, the Chair *ad interim* thanked the members for their contributions. Those who wished to provide additional elements were invited to transmit them in writing to the Secretariat by 18 September 2020, for consideration.

## **5. Democratic governance and Covid-19**

### ***Consideration of a draft report***

The Secretariat presented the [draft report on "Democratic Governance and Covid-19"](#) and its three addenda: a compendium of replies by member States to Rapid Response Service No. 38 on "Democratic governance and Covid-19" ([add. I](#)), the results of a survey conducted in Serbia in the context of the implementation of a project of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance ([add. II](#)), and a compendium of the key-note addresses from the thematic meeting held on 18 June ([add. III](#)). The draft was based on the replies to the questionnaire, the discussions held during the thematic meeting of 18 June 2020 and guidance from the Bureau. The latter had recommended in particular to include an executive summary with sharp key messages. Some chapters still needed further elaboration and updating, especially the last one on exit strategies. The CDDG could approve this report at its 12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting. This would leave time for member States to send replies or updates, including for publication on the Covid-19 dedicated [webpage](#).

The Secretariat of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance presented the key findings of two surveys conducted amongst local authorities in relation to the management of the pandemic:

- the "[Survey on the functioning of local self-government units in Serbia during COVID-19](#)" which had been conducted in the context of the programme [Human Resources Management in local self – government – phase 2](#);
- and a survey conducted in the context of the project "[Democratic development, Decentralisation and Good Governance in Armenia](#)".

During the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that the next version of the report should underline the following elements:

- the financial effort deployed by governments for support measures;
- the need to avoid that the crisis is invoked as an excuse not to carry out important pending reforms;
- the role of local authorities which are better placed to understand problems and needs of communities;
- the need for prioritisation and innovation in the management of the epidemic itself in addition to the continued supply of public services.

As a result of the discussion, the CDDG agreed to examine a revised version of the draft report at its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, in view of its final approval. It encouraged members to reply to the Rapid Response Service No. 38 and/or to send updates by 16 October 2020, with a view to contributing to the preparation of the report and to updating the webpage providing information on national responses to the Covid-19 emergency.

### ***Exchange of views with the Venice Commission***

The CDDG heard a presentation by Ms Simona Granata-Menghini, Secretary *ad interim* of the Venice Commission, on elections in the Covid-19 pandemic, in the light of the recent report by the Venice Commission on "[Respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law during states of emergency](#)". She referred in particular to chapter K of the above report, pointing out a variety of factors that should guide the decision whether to postpone or hold elections in the context of a health crisis. There was no general rule or recipe and the context could vary greatly across different countries.

During the ensuing exchange, some members shared their own national experience as regards holding or postponing elections during the Covid-19 pandemic. They brought up issues such as the feasibility of generalising remote voting and mandatory voting, for how long elections could be postponed, the impact of political consensus, possible arrangements regarding the duration of mandates of outgoing and incoming elected officials.

## **6. European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE)**

The Secretariat presented the new [webpage](#) dedicated to the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE), recalling the new ELoGE [regulations](#) which had been approved in March 2020.

ELoGE enabled local authorities to measure their compliance with the [Twelve Principles of Good Democratic Governance](#), and to strengthen governance in line with these principles. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance continued to provide support to the implementation of ELoGE in Greece, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, as well as two regions – Friuli Venezia Giulia in Italy and the Basque Country in Spain. Member States were encouraged to promote or join ELoGE.

The CDDG also held an exchange of views with Mr Helfried Carl, Senior Director of the Innovation in Politics Institute, on the [European Capital of Democracy](#), an initiative supported by the Council of Europe. It used the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance and the ELoGE indicators in the process of self-evaluations by the candidate cities. Members of the Committee were invited to support and help promote this initiative.

## **7. Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers**

Following a presentation by Mr Konstantin Kvachakidze, the CDDG took note of the achievements of the Georgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers in the period November 2019-May 2020. It also took note of the priorities of the Greek Presidency for the period May-November 2020, on the basis of a presentation by Ms Eleni Kallinikou.

## **8. World Forum for Democracy**

The CDDG was informed that the 2020 edition of the World Forum for Democracy with the title "Can Democracy Save the environment?" would be postponed to November 2021 and that a series of online events, to which the CDDG itself could actively contribute, would be launched as from November 2020 with a view to preparing the ground for it.

## **9. Activities of other Council of Europe bodies and structures**

The Secretariat updated the CDDG on activities of particular relevance for the work of the Committee which had taken place since the 10<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting, at the level of the Committee of Ministers, the Secretary General, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Venice Commission, the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and other Council of Europe bodies, as they appear in document ([CDDG\(2020\)11](#)). Many of these activities had to do with the particular challenges for human rights, democracy and the rule of law posed by the Covid-19 and national responses.



The Secretariat recalled the adoption by the Committee of Ministers, on 11 March 2020 (1370th meeting), of the [guidelines on public ethics](#), which had been drafted by the CDDG: the member States were invited to make the widest possible use of the guidelines, to ensure their translation into their official languages and dissemination to public organisations in their respective countries.

The CDDG heard an update by the representative of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (CINGO), Mr Gerhard Ermischer. He referred to the current work done mostly online with a focus on the Covid-19 and its consequences. He referred to the important support work done by NGOs but also to the current challenges faced by many NGOs in performing oversight functions and the risk that certain restrictions to their activities remained in place even when the emergency was over.

The CDDG heard presentations by the Secretariat of the Elections and Civil Society Division regarding the development of new tools such as the Electoral Laboratory [Eleclab](#)), and of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance on their ongoing and future activities.

Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE), member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), informed the CDDG that work was going on mostly remotely or through the Standing Committee of the Assembly. Within PACE, five reports were recently adopted or under preparation that dealt with various consequences of the pandemic, including from the angles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Mr Grin announced that he would soon reach the end of his mandate as General Rapporteur on local and regional authorities.

The CDDG took note of the above information.

## **10. Elections to the Bureau of the CDDG**

The Secretariat presented the state of play as regards posts to be filled in the Bureau, as outlined in document [CDDG\(2020\)13](#). Given the likelihood that the 12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting would be held online, the Secretariat provided information as regards online voting through the Kudo videoconferencing platform. A deadline for putting forward candidatures would be set ahead of the plenary meeting. A test of the voting system would be organised.

In the ensuing discussion it was suggested that candidates provide background information to introduce themselves ahead of the elections.

The CDDG took note of the information and asked its Bureau to suggest in due course measures to enable members to present information supporting their candidatures.

## **11. Other business**

Mr Paul-Henri Philips (Belgium) informed the CDDG that a new ambassador had been appointed as the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the Council of Europe. He proposed that the Ambassador be invited to participate in an exchange of views with the CDDG. The Chair *ad interim* suggested that this proposal be considered by the Bureau when preparing the draft agenda of the 12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting.

## **12. Concluding remarks by Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy**

In her concluding remarks, Ms Snežana Samardžić-Marković highlighted the importance of the CDDG in the democracy pillar of the Organisation, emphasising the diversity of matters to be addressed in relation to democracy and good governance including new subject matters such as e-democracy and artificial intelligence. She encouraged members to actively contribute to strengthening the central role of the CDDG, pointing out that democratic governance and administrative reforms could become increasingly important in the near future. Additional political momentum could come from a ministerial conference in the field of activity of the CDDG, and such an initiative would need to be sponsored by one or two member States. In response to questions from committee members, she confirmed that joint working groups could be set up with other committees and that a ministerial conference should pursue a specific purpose and not be an end in itself. She also shared ideas on how to promote the 12 Principles of good democratic governance and expand their application.

## **13. Adoption of the abridged meeting report**

The Secretariat informed the CDDG that the Committee of Ministers had given instructions for the presentation of abridged reports. The Secretariat then guided the CDDG through the draft abridged report, which was adopted with a few small additions. CDDG members would receive in the following days the full version of the meeting report.

## **14. Date and place of the next meeting**

The CDDG took note that the next meeting would be held on 25-27 November 2020, most likely by videoconference.

The Chair *ad interim* thanked participants and closed the meeting.

**APPENDIX I****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****MEMBERS / MEMBRES****CHAIR AD INTERIM / PRESIDENT AD INTERIM**

Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI, Ministerial adviser, Department for Local Affairs and Regional Administration, Ministry of Finance

**ALBANIA / ALBANIE**

Mr Luis VORFI, Permanent Representation of Albania to the Council of Europe

**ARMENIA / ARMENIE**

Mr Vache TERTERYAN, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure

**AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE**

Mr Peter ANDRE, Ministry of Interior, Senior Expert for Legal Affairs

Mag. Stefan GÖLLER, BA, Amt der Wiener Landesregierung

**AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN**

Mr Seymur NAGHIYEV, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Justice

**BELGIUM / BELGIQUE**

M. Paul-Henri PHILIPS, Coordinateur pour les Organisations Internationales, Relations multilatérales et Organisations Internationales

Mr Edwin LEFEBRE, Deputy Director, Ministry of the Flemish Community, Agency for Home Affairs

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE**

Ambassador Almir ŠAHOVIĆ, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**BULGARIA / BULGARIE**

Mr Valery NAYDENOV, Head of Department "Administrative territorial structure", Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

Mr Mihail VASILEV, Department "Administrative territorial structure", Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

**CYPRUS / CHYPRE**

Mr Antonis ECONOMIDES, Head of Local Government Directorate, Ministry of the Interior

Ms Kakia DEMETRIOU, Administrative Officer A, Local Government Directorate, Ministry of the Interior

**CZECH REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE**

Mr Petr FEJTEK, Senior Administrative Adviser, Department for Strategic Development and Coordination of Public Administration, Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic

Ms Jana TICHÁČKOVÁ, Ministry Expert on Public Governance and Public Administration

**CROATIA / CROATIE**

Ms Leda LEPRI, MA, Senior advisor-specialist Ministry of Justice and Public Administration

**DENMARK / DANEMARK**

Mr Mads HOLT, Administrative Officer, Department of Public Administrative Law, Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior

**ESTONIA / ESTONIE**

Ave VIKS, Regional Administration Policy Department, Ministry of Finance

**FRANCE**

Mme Mathilde CISOWSKI, Chargée d'études juridiques, Bureau des structures territoriales (CIL2), Sous-direction des compétences et des institutions locales, Direction générale des collectivités locales, Ministère de l'Intérieur

**GEORGIA / GEORGIE**

Mr Konstantin KVACHAKIDZE, Deputy Permanent Representative of Georgia to the Council of Europe

**GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE**

Ms Cordula WOESTE, Bundesministerium des Innern, für Bau und Heimat

Ms Anna WASENBERG, Representative of the German Länder, Ministerium des Innern und für Sport

**GREECE / GRECE**

Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS, Directorate of Organisation and Functioning of Local Government, Ministry of the Interior

Ms Eleni KALLINIKOU, Head of the Bureau of the Permanent General Secretary & Expert within the independent department of International and European relations, Ministry of Interior of the Hellenic Republic

Ms Charikleia PERRI, Permanent Representation of Greece to the Council of Europe

**HUNGARY / HONGRIE**

Mr David KOJSZA, Officer for International Relations, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet of the State Secretariat for Public Service

**ICELAND / ISLANDE**

Mrs Stefanía TRAUSTADÓTTIR, Senior Advisor, Local Government, Department of Local Government and Regional Policy, Ministry of Transport and Local Government

**ITALY / ITALIE**

Mr Francesco GIUSTINO, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Ufficio Attività Internazionali

**LATVIA / LETTONIE**

Ms Agnese PABERZA DRAUDINA, senior expert, Local Governments Department, Local Governments Supervision Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

**LITHUANIA / LITUANIE**

Mr Paulius SKARDŽIUS, Senior Adviser, Ministry of the Interior

**LUXEMBOURG**

M. Pol HENROTTE, Conseiller de Gouvernement, adjoint, Ministère de l'Intérieur, Direction de la sécurité civile

M. Stephan MÜLLER, Représentant Permanent du Luxembourg auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA**

Mr Adrian ERMURACHI, Deputy Secretary General of the Government

Ms Daniela SORAHMETOV

**MONTENEGRO**

Ms Zorana POPOVIC, Senior Adviser, Directorate for Local Self-Government, Ministry of Public Administration

**NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS**

Mr Jan Willem KOOISTRA, Deputy Head Section Democracy, Democracy and Citizenship Department, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

**NORTH MACEDONIA / MACEDOINE DU NORD**

Ms Gordana GAPIKJ-DIMITROVSKA, State Advisor, the Ministry of Information Society and Administration

**NORWAY / NORVEGE**

Mrs Nina Britt BERGE, Senior Adviser, Department for Local Government, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation

**POLAND / POLOGNE**

Ms Justyna PRZYWOJSKA, Expert for methodology of public services research National Institute of Local Government

**ROMANIA / ROUMANIE**

Mr Mihai Adrian GROSAN, Chief of service, Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration, Directorate General of Public Administration, Romanian Government

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

Mr Oleg YAKIMOVICH, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**SERBIA / SERBIE**

Mr Ivan BOŠNJAK, State Secretary at the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government

Ms Dara GRAVARA STOJANOVIĆ, Head of eGovernment Department, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government

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Ms Nad'a KURILOVÁ, Local Self-Government Unit, Local State Administration, Self-Government and Foreign Relations Department, Public Administration Section, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

**SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE**

Mr Jurij MEZEK, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Public Administration, Local Self-Government Service

**SPAIN / ESPAGNE**

Ms Rocío DÍAZ MARTÍN, Deputy Director General for European and International Relations, Secretary General for Territorial Coordination, Ministry for Territorial Policy

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**SWEDEN / SUEDE**

Ms Karolina GUSTAFSON, Desk officer, Ministry of Finance

**SWITZERLAND / SUISSE**

Apologised for absence / Excusé

**TURKEY / TURQUIE**

Mr Sertac SEZGIN, Controller of Municipalities, Ministry of Interior

Mr Burcu TURAN, Permanent Representation of Turkey to the Council of Europe

**UKRAINE**

Ms Olha KAVUN, Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the Council of Europe

**UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI**

Mr Paul ROWSELL, Head of Governance Reform and Democracy Unit, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Ms Siobhan SMYTH, Senior Policy Adviser, Governance Reform and Democracy Unit, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Mr Gurpal CHEEMA, Policy Adviser, Governance Reform and Democracy Unit, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

**PARTICIPANTS****PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

Mr Jean-Pierre GRIN, Member of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Ms Yulia PERERVA, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

**CONFERENCE OF INGOS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONFERENCE DES OING DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

Mr Gerhard ERMISCHER, CIVILSCAPE, Representative of the INGOs Conference to the CDDG

**VENICE COMMISSION / COMMISSION DE VENISE**

Ms Simona GRANATA-MENGHINI, Secretary *ad interim*

**EUROPEAN UNION TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / UNION EUROPEENNE AUPRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

Mr Stephen FRAI

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**EXPERT CONSULTANT**

Mr Alan DOIG, United Kingdom

**SECRETARIAT**

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Ms Claudia LUCIANI, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Directrice de la dignité humaine, de l'égalité et de la gouvernance / Directorate General of Democracy / Direction générale de la démocratie

Mr Daniel POPESCU, Head of Democracy and Governance Department / Chef du Service de la démocratie et de la gouvernance – Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Direction de la dignité humaine, de l'égalité et de la gouvernance - Directorate General of Democracy / Direction générale de la démocratie

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Ms Alina TATARENKO – Head of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance / Cheffe du Centre d'expertise pour la bonne gouvernance - Democratic Governance Division / Division de la gouvernance démocratique - Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Direction de la dignité humaine, de l'égalité et de la gouvernance - Directorate General of Democracy / Direction générale de la démocratie



Mr Aleksandar JOVANOVIC – Project Manager, Council of Europe Office in Belgrade

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**Interpreters / Interprètes**

Gilian WAKENHUT

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## APPENDIX II

### AGENDA

- |           |  |                                   |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda</b>   | [CDDG(2020)0J1]                   |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Information on recent activities and developments</b>   |                                   |
|           | Statement by the Chair <i>ad interim</i>   | <a href="#">[CDDG-Bu(2020)9]</a>  |
|           | Reports of Bureau meetings   | <a href="#">[CDDG-Bu(2020)12]</a> |
|           |  | <a href="#">[CDDG-Bu(2020)15]</a> |
|           | Exchange of views with Ms Claudia Luciani, Director,<br>Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance  | <a href="#">[CDDG-Bu(2020)18]</a> |
|           |  | <a href="#">[CDDG-Bu(2020)25]</a> |
|           | Information by the Secretariat   |                                   |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>State of implementation of the CDDG activities according to its terms of reference 2020-2021</b>  | [CDDG(2020)5]                     |
| 3.1       | <i>E-democracy</i><br>Final approval of the Guidelines on e-democracy in the form of a toolkit   | [CDDG(2020)6]                     |
| 3.2       | <i>Public ethics</i><br>- Updating the Guide on public ethics<br>- Presentation of the new toolkit on public ethics by Mr Alan Doig, consultant expert                 | [CDDG(2020)7]<br>Toolkit          |
| 3.3       | <i>Democracy and technology</i><br>- Report of the 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on democracy and technology (27-28 January 2020)<br>- Progress of work | [GT-DT(2020)5]<br>[CDDG(2020)8]   |
| 3.4       | <i>Democratic accountability</i><br>- Report of the 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on accountability (13-14 February 2020)<br>- Progress of work         | [GT-RE(2020)4]<br>[CDDG(2020)9]   |
| 3.5.      | <i>Stocktaking and exchange of views on priorities</i>   |                                   |

- 4. Secretary General's request for a contribution by the CDDG on general priorities and working methods** [CDDG(2020)14]  
Exchange of views and approval of a reply
- 5. Promoting democratic governance through shared experience**  
Exchange of views with a high-level representative of a member State
- 6. Democratic governance and Covid-19** [CDDG(2020)10 + Addendum I, II, III]  
- Consideration of a draft report [Link to the webpage](#)  
- Exchange of views with Ms Simona Granata-Menghini, Secretary ad interim of the Venice Commission [\[link to report on Respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law during states of emergency\]](#)  
[Link to webpage](#)
- 7. European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE)**  
- Stocktaking of implementation  
- Presentation of the new webpage  
- Presentation of the Regulations [Regulations](#)  
[Rules](#)
- 8. Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers**  
- Stocktaking of the Georgian Presidency (November 2019-May 2020) [Stocktaking](#)  
- Priorities of the Greek Chairmanship (May-November 2020) [Priorities](#)
- 9. World Forum for Democracy** [Link to webpage](#)  
Information on the 2020 edition "Can Democracy Save the Environment?" (Strasbourg, 16-18 November 2020)
- 10. Activities of other Council of Europe bodies** [CDDG(2020)11]
- 11. Elections of the Bureau of the CDDG to be held at its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting** [CDDG(2020)13]  
Information by the Secretariat
- 12. Other business**
- 13. Adoption of the abridged meeting report** [CDDG(2020)12]
- 14. Date and place of the next meeting**  
25-27 November 2020 (place/modalities to be confirmed)