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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

ELECTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF THE CDDG FOR 2022-2023

Candidates

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

Introduction

In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the CDDG Bureau has 7 members consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and 5 members.

At its 14th plenary meeting, the CDDG should elect:

- the Chair, with a mandate of one year (2022)
- the Vice-Chair, with a mandate of one year (2022) and
- five Bureau members, with a mandate of two years (2022-2023); in accordance with the rules governing the functioning of committees, "in order to ensure partial replacement of the Bureau each year, the first term of at least one such member shall be limited to one year".¹

The list of candidates appears in the table below. The resumes provided by candidates appear in Appendix (candidatures are in alphabetical order).

Action required

CDDG members are invited to take note of the information below and in appendix. In the absence of competing candidatures, the CDDG may decide that the candidates are elected by acclamation.

TABLE OF CANDIDATURES FOR 2022-2023

CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR	BUREAU
Mr Paul Rowsell (United Kingdom)	Mr Edwin Lefebre (Belgium, Flemish Region)	Mr Peter Andre (Austria)
		Ms Monika Filipová (Slovak Republic)
		Ms Gordana Gapikj-Dimitrovska Sponsored by the Chair (North Macedonia)
		Mr Markku Mölläri (Finland)
		Ms Stefania Traustadóttir Candidate for a 1 year term (Iceland)

¹ On 1 January 2022, Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 12 May 2021) repeals and replaces Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#) ; the rules governing the designation of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau members remain the same.

APPENDIX**Peter ANDRE (Austria)**

Dear Madam/Sir,
dear colleagues,

as current Vice-Chair of CDDG I apply and express my interest for the position as a Bureau member of our committee.

I am a lawyer and working for 24 years in the Ministry of Interior of Austria in the section of law with focus on administrative law. So I could acquire experience in preparing draft regulations and drafting treaties and international acts as well as organisational skills and competences in leadership and the ability for teamwork.

Being member of CDDG since 2016, including as chairperson of CDDG 2018/2019, I had the opportunity to do substantive and responsible contribution on important documents as guidelines on public ethics, guidelines on civil participation in political decision making and supervision of local authorities as well as the study on the impact of digital transformation on democracy and good governance.

Currently I am rapporteur for technology and democracy for our committee.

Based on this previous and current experiences, I am deeply interested in the position as Bureau member to represent and support our intergovernmental committee in a leading position with team spirit in the Bureau to strengthen our activities in developing and updating standards and policy tools on good governance issues.

I will be happy to supply any other details you may require!

Respectfully Yours

Peter Andre

Monika FILIPOVÁ (Slovak Republic)

I am a dedicated professional with 9 years of experience in managerial and leadership positions, most notably State Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport and Director for Local Governments and District Offices at the Ministry of Interior of Slovakia. In my professional career I have been focusing on the area of self-government, state administration and the overall functioning of public administration. I worked on committees of European and international organizations, where I represented Slovakia in various areas of public administration. As State Secretary I was responsible for a major administrative reform - the transition of regional offices for education - which was successfully adopted. During my 8 years at the MoI I have worked closely with the CoE as Slovakia's delegate to the CDDG, later as elected Chair of the CDDG Bureau.

My experience stretches from the Slovak context to abroad and includes presentations of local self-government reform at the highest level in Ukraine, training of local representatives and the civil society in Gagauz - Moldavia, peer reviews of local government reforms in Serbia, Slovenia, Lithuania, HRM reforms in Belarus. This provided me with more insight into the strengths and weaknesses of various public administrations. I have also learnt that one key element to public administration reform is fully comprehending the given culture and society. Even a perfect set of legal acts and institutions might not suffice if they fail to account for social, cultural and political preparedness. My home country has moved very slowly in any sort of municipal reform, mostly due to lack of political preparedness. Discussions lacked evidence and politicians stone-walled when confronted. To provide the system a helping hand and create a safe space where technical options could be discussed I put forward a CoE- EC project on good governance which brings together state administration, local government, NGO and academic representatives with foreign experts who prepare peer reviews, recommendations, legislation and other strategic documents and tools for local governments.

As for my education I studied law at the Faculty of Law of Comenius University in Bratislava and Chinese language and intercultural communication at the Department of East Asian Studies at the Comenius University in Bratislava - in both obtaining a master's degree. I also studied at the Department of International Relations at National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan, where I earned a master's degree in diplomacy. I completed my studies with a doctoral degree at the Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava, where I focused on Taiwan's foreign policy.

Last but not least, in 2018, I was listed by the British organization Apolitical "100 most influential young people in public administration in the world". A graduate of the US "International Visitor Leadership Program" and a professional course at the prestigious École nationale d'administration Institute in Paris. In 2019 I ran for the position of chairman of the Office for the Protection of Whistleblowers and was nominated by the commission among 2 successful candidates as part of a public selection process. In 2019, I was elected Chair of the Committee on Democracy and Governance of the Council of Europe. Founder of the Good Civil Servant - an NGO supporting quality, transparent and better functioning of the state, building a community of skilled and quality officials and spreading awareness about this profession.

Thank you for considering my application.

Kind regards,
Monika Filipova
Bratislava, 15th November, 2021

Gordana GAPIKJ-DIMITROVSKA (North Macedonia)

Dear Madam/Sir,

As current member of CDDG I express my interest for the position as a Bureau member of our committee.

Throughout my professional career of more than 18 years in the public administration in North Macedonia, I have initiated and coordinated various processes supporting modernization of the public administration, the democratic governance and open government. Over the past ten years as part of the Ministry of information society and administration, I have managed and coordinated complex and demanding tasks related to the design and implementation of the Government's Better Regulation Policy, Citizen's Charter, Open Government Partnership and Open Data initiative in North Macedonia. I have been always seeking opportunities for development of innovative approaches and digitalization of processes offering efficient e-services for citizens and tools enabling effective citizen participation in the policy making process.

I have been actively participating as a member or government's representative at a technical level in numerous working groups and subcommittees including the PAR Special Working Group, the ReSPA Program Committee and Better Regulation Working Group, the European Committee on Democracy and Governance- Council of Europe, the Subcommittee on Economic and Financial Issues and Statistics and Subcommittee on Trade, Industry, Customs and Taxation- Stabilisation and Association Committee-EU. My role in these bodies is to develop effective partnerships across the institutions or organizations at all levels and to share experiences on topics related to PAR, public consultations, innovative approaches to delivering government services, e-transparency, OGP, impact assessment and regional cooperation etc.

Being member of the CDDG since 2014, including as chairperson of the CDDG Working Group on E-Democracy and member of the Working Group for Revision of Recommendation CM / Rec (2001) 19 on Citizen Participation in Local Public Life, I had the opportunity to do substantive and responsible contributions to the work of the CDDG.

Based on previous and current experiences, I sincerely hope that I can contribute as Bureau member in supporting the work of the CDDG in addressing the new challenges in strengthening democratic institutions and good governance.

Yours sincerely,

Gordana Gapikj Dimitrovska

Edwin LEFEBRE (Belgium-Flemish Region)

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are well as we move into an active period during this uncertain time when COVID-19 still causes so many concerns. It highlights that we must find creative ways to keep moving while staying safe.

I would like to stand for the position of Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG).

I have been a member of the CDDG and its predecessor, the CDLR for a number of years and have seen first-hand the relevance of our work. I have been Rapporteur for Cross-border Cooperation and Democratic Participation and I am currently the Rapporteur for Gender Equality. I have been a member of the Bureau since 2020.

In my work with the Agency for Home Affairs, Department of the Chancellery and Foreign Affairs, Flanders, Belgium, I continue to be involved in a range of issues, such as cross-border cooperation, democratic participation, elections, supervision of local and provincial authorities, amalgamations of municipalities and good governance.

Other areas include mapping good governance practices across Europe, drafting the reply of my Agency when international bodies monitor compliance of the Flemish Region with treaties and conventions about human rights and following the activities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, in particular monitoring local and regional democracy in the Flemish Region.

These subjects fit with the 12 Principles of Good Governance, especially Principle 1: Participation, Representation, Fair Conduct of Elections; Principle 5: Rule of law; Principle 8: Innovation and Openness to Change; Principle 11: Human Rights, Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion; and, Principle 12: Accountability.

I hope my work background and the experience I have gained in the Council of Europe contribute in boosting the 12 Principles of Good Governance and the work of the CDDG.

I hope that you will support me in my quest to be Vice-Chair. Many thanks in advance.

Kind regards,

Edwin Lefebvre
Department of the Chancellery and Foreign Affairs of the Flemish Region, Belgium
Agency for Home Affairs
e-mail: edwin.lefebvre@vlaanderen.be

Markku MÖLLÄRI (Finland)

Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Department for Local Government and Regional Administration

- Democracy
- Local Finance
- Reform implementation
- Languages, services, human rights

Current Chair of CDDG

Applying for Bureau membership on the Bureau for 2022-2023

I have greatly enjoyed being a chair. The Team – other Bureau members and the secretariat, has been a very active one. We have been successful in a difficult time: the Covid-19 report and the great contributions to this exercise by the Member States has led to a good report for future reference and the work of our committee. I am very proud of this. I am also very satisfied with all the documents we have produced, they are very tight and informative, and I am convinced that they will provide support to all Member States in their efforts and policies to ensure the setting-up and functioning of public institutions based on principles of democratic governance. I am also very pleased with the fact that we are developing our interactions with other bodies within the CoE, including those which bring together INGOs, and external partners such as the OECD.

I am grateful to the Team and the Member States for their excellent work and contributions.

For the next few years, I see the Terms of Reference as very inspiring and challenging. The 12 principles, deliberative democracy, green public administrations and the Covid-19 aftermath – all these subjects will be of special interest to my country, Finland. If elected, I promise to work in an open and concrete manner, as I believe in hard work and good spirit of co-operation.

Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom)

I am Head of the Governance Reform and Democracy Unit at the UK Government's new Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities. My Unit leads on work across government to advise Ministers on a range of governance and democratic matters, including implementation of local government reforms and amalgamations in England, electoral policy at the local level, and multilevel governance, devolution and decentralisation across the UK. I have worked for some forty years at the centre of successive Governments' agendas for reforming the institutions of local and regional government and currently I have a leading role on progressing the Government's agenda to "level up" opportunity and prosperity across the country. In 2017 the Queen awarded me the honour of "Commander of the British Empire".

I have always been interested in international cooperation and as well as being closely involved with the work of the Council of Europe since 1994 I have also worked with the OECD and bi-laterally with colleagues in partner states. I will bring my considerable practical experience, my enthusiasm and my professional contacts to the committee's work. If elected to Chair, I would hope to make an impact on the committee in the following key ways;

- First concerns the Committee's work programme, and in particular, the task to extend the application of the 12 principles of good democratic governance for all levels of government. I helped to prepare the original 12 principles for the local and regional level which were presented to the Ministerial Conference in Valencia, and will be very excited to see this taken further to all levels of government in a formal Committee of Ministers' recommendation, building on learning from across Europe in the wake of the pandemic. I believe that the strength of the CDDG is in the practical value of its work, and will be keen to steer the committee with this goal at the forefront of our discussions and debates.

- Secondly, I have a keen interest in the committee's role as a forum to exchange information and experience. This includes through our well established mechanism of the rapid response, by supporting one another with learning from our reform programmes, and by providing direct support for the CoE activities on the ground in member states, including the Centre of Expertise programmes. I greatly value the Centre of Expertise and was the official with the UK Deputy Prime Minister at the Warsaw Summit where the UK with the Netherlands put forward the idea of the Centre. As Chair, I would hope to encourage and support my fellow representatives, delegates and experts from each member state to participate fully in the work of the committee; to build strong working relations across the pillars and institutions of the CoE, including the Congress, the Conference of INGOs, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Venice Commission, among others. I will also give careful attention to mainstreamed perspectives, including on gender equality, children, the rights of persons with disability, and Roma and Traveller issues, with the support of the CDDG's appointed rapporteurs.

Colleagues can be assured that I will continue the excellent work of the outgoing Chair, be fully committed to the responsibilities and inclusive functioning of the committee, its Bureau, and working groups. On this basis I would be very grateful for your support for my candidacy as Chair.

Stefania TRAUSTADÓTTIR (Iceland)

With this e-mail I inform the CDDG Secretariat of my willingness to run for a seat in the Bureau of CDDG at 14th plenary meeting of the European Committee of the 29-30 November 2021.

I have been representing Iceland at CDDG plenary meetings since 2014-2015 and I was elected member of the Bureau in the period 2018-2021 and I want to continue the work with the Bureau members and the members of The Secretariat.

The issues entrusted to CDDG are many and complex, and sometimes it takes a long time to prepare them before they are finally ready to be dealt with in CDDG plenary meetings and finally approved. In this preparation process, the Bureau plays an important role and I believe that my experience both at working with the CDDG/Bureau and for The Ministry of Transport and Local Government, and my Department of Local Government and Regional Policy (since 2006) can be very useful. My work title is Senior Special Advisor and my main tasks at the Office of Local Government have been;

- reorganization of the Icelandic municipal level (amalgamation and co-operation of municipalities, strategic planning),
- the administration of municipalities - monitoring and development of new methods (as e-government),
- the status of elected representatives and democratic participation,
- the relationship between the state and the municipalities,
- foreign relations (Council of Europe and the Nordic countries).

As you can see, my tasks have been very diverse and extensive. To some extent, this can be explained by the fact that we are few who work on the matter of local government in the Icelandic administration, but it certainly has given me a diverse and valuable experience which I believe will be useful in working for the CDDG and the Bureau.

To this I can add that before I started working in a ministry, I was the mayor of one of the medium-sized municipalities in the country and that experience has certainly come in handy.

Greetings

Stefanía Traustadóttir