

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 28 April 2023

CDDG(2023)11

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

**17th meeting
Strasbourg, 27-28 April 2023**

ABRIDGED MEETING REPORT
Adopted on 28 April 2023

www.coe.int/cddg

At its 17th plenary meeting (27-28 April 2023, Strasbourg), the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG), chaired by Paul ROWSELL (United Kingdom):

1. adopted the agenda of the meeting;
2. took note of the report of the 25th CDDG Bureau meeting (held on 23-24 March 2023);

Upcoming Fourth summit and impact on CDDG's work

3. held an exchange of views on the upcoming Fourth Summit of the Council of Europe with Ambassador Svetlana Geleva, Chair of GR-DEM, and Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, and its possible outcomes and impact on future work of the CDDG under new terms of reference for the 2024-2027; gathered views from members on a possible list of tasks to be implemented in that context, subject to the actual outcome of the summit;
4. held an exchange on the outcomes of the 2nd Summit for Democracy (29-30 March 2023), with Ambassador Tanja Gonggrijp, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands and Olimar Maisonet-Guzman, political officer at the U.S Embassy in Paris;
5. took note of the thematic Round Table "Is Democracy key to ensuring peace" organised on 27 March as a contribution to the Second Summit on Democracy and agreed to continue support and contribute to its Third edition in 2024;

Workplan 2023

6. gave final consideration and approved the draft Recommendation on the Principles of Good Democratic Governance and its explanatory memorandum, which have been finalised by the working group on governance – GT-G at its meeting of 2-3 February 2023; this approval is subject to a confirmation of a text, in the preamble, relating to the Summit which will be circulated for final approval;
7. took note of the results of the last (informal) meeting of the working group on deliberative democracy – GT-DD held on 1 March 2023; gave final consideration to, and approved the draft Recommendation on Deliberative Democracy;
8. took note of the results of the first meeting of the working group on governance – GT-G – of 2-3 February 2023, considered and discussed a draft structure for a report on multilevel governance; agreed in that context to extend to 22 May 2023 the deadline for responses to the questionnaire to collect information from member States; and agreed to further pursue this activity, to prepare a report subject to the future terms of reference referring to a draft recommendation
9. took note of the outcomes of the Conference on Green Public Administration held on 26 April 2023 under the auspices of the Icelandic presidency of the Committee of Ministers;

10. took note of the results of the first meeting of the working group on Green Public Administration – GT-A – of 2-3 March 2023 and discussed the desirable content and focus areas of the report, in the light of the results of the Conference; agreed in that context to extend to 15 June 2023 the deadline for responses to the questionnaire to collect information from member States;

11. considered and approved the next steps for the preparation of the upcoming conference (to be held in Strasbourg on 16 June 2023, without bearing of participants' expenses by the Council of Europe) to review implementation of the recommendation CM/Rec(2017)5 on e-voting and the guidelines on the use of ICTs in the electoral process, including a draft agenda for the event and the circulation of a questionnaire to prepare the event, with a deadline for responses by 15 May 2023.

12. took note of the work plan and scheduled dates for activities until the end of the year;

13. heard information from its rapporteurs on gender equality; democracy and technology; and social matters;

Sharing experience to promote good democratic governance

14. held an exchange of views with Oleksandra Azarkhina, Deputy Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine, in the light of her presentation on current challenges and reforms in her country in the context of war; and reiterated in that context its full support to the country's reforms with the involvement of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance and possibly in form of specific tasks in the CDDG's upcoming terms of reference, depending on decisions to be taken by the Committee of Ministers;

15. held further exchanges of views on ongoing domestic territorial and administrative reforms with:

- Mzia Giorgobani, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Georgia
- Vache Terteryan, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and infrastructure, Armenia
- Agnese Geduševa, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia;

16. heard further reports on pertinent developments by the delegates of Belgium and Romania;

17. heard a presentation by Prof. Joachim BECK, President of the University of Applied Sciences Kehl, Germany, on the state of progress of a study on current trends with regard to administrative modernisation across Europe which he is currently preparing with input from CDDG delegations; reiterated its interest in contributing further to the study and seeing further results as it nears completion in 2024;

18. heard a presentation by Sarah Kups (OECD) about the recent OECD report on Building trust to reinforce democracy;

19. heard presentations by Magnus Öhman, Director, Regional Europe Office, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES); Ken Godfrey, Executive Director, European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and Adina Trunk, chief of staff, Secretary-General's Office, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) about priorities and working areas of common interest, and opportunities for cooperation in the field of democracy and governance;

Activities of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance

20. heard an update about the activities of the CEGG and on the current state of implementation of the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE);

Activities of the Committee of Ministers and other Council of Europe bodies

21. held an exchange of views with Jānis Kārklīšs, Ambassador of Latvia, on the possible priorities of the Latvian presidency of the Committee of Ministers (May-November 2023) and took note of the call to all CDDG delegations interested to participate (at their own expenses) in a conference on good democratic governance at the local level (Riga, 26 May 2023), which would be concluded by a ceremony for the award of the ELoGE distinction to Latvian municipalities;

22. held an exchange of views with Mathieu Mori, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on the Congress' priorities and projects, and areas of common interest;

23. heard information from the Secretariat on the next edition of the World Forum for Democracy (6-8 November 2023) devoted to the question "Democracy = Peace?"; and agreed to contribute to the event;

24. held an exchange of views with Gerhard Ermischer, President of CINGO on CINGO's contribution to the Fourth Summit;

25. held an exchange of views on progress of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), with Kristian Bartholin, Secretary of the CAI with regard to the drafting of a convention on artificial intelligence; agreed in that context, to submit further comments in writing to the CAI;

26. held an exchange of views with Spyros Papadatos, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth to the Council of Europe, on areas of common interest and opportunities for closer cooperation in these;

Other business

27. None.

Date and place of the next meeting

28. Agreed to hold its 18th plenary meeting on 23-24 November 2023 in Strasbourg.