



Strasbourg, 3 November 2022

CDDG-Bu(2022)14

**BUREAU OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE  
(CDDG)**

**MEETING REPORT**

**24<sup>th</sup> meeting, 13-14 October 2022  
Council of Europe office in Paris**

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

Mr Paul Rowsell, Chair of the CDDG, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants, the list of which is set out in Appendix I. The agenda was adopted as set out in Appendix II.

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

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the upcoming visit of a high level delegation from Ukraine, in the margins of the [World Forum for Democracy](#) (Strasbourg, 7-9 November) to discuss the modalities of increased cooperation and the elaboration of a roadmap on democratic governance. The Chair agreed to meet that delegation in the name of the Committee and it was suggested that during the 16<sup>th</sup> CDDG meeting, the Committee discusses how some of its members could play a role in this cooperation. During its meeting, the Bureau also took note of President Zelenskyy's broadcasted address at the Parliamentary Assembly's Autumn plenary session.

The bureau also commented on the recent publication of a [report on the future of the Council of Europe](#) by a High-Level Reflection Group. It was noted that besides important action recommended with regard to the Council of Europe as a whole (for instance the need to hold a Fourth Summit and to institutionalise such events), several recommendations contained in the report were directly or indirectly relevant for the CDDG's work (for example development of the benchmarks on good democratic governance). The Chair also referred to his recent meeting with the new Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Ms Marja Ruotanen, with whom the Chair had discussed the work of the Committee and cooperation on issues such as education for democracy. She had accepted the invitation to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> CDDG meeting for an exchange of views.

The Bureau agreed that in order to prepare for this agenda item of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the CDDG would receive a document presenting the above-mentioned report including any possible follow-up action given to it by the time of the plenary meeting. Moreover, should the Committee of Ministers decide that a fourth summit be organised, CDDG delegations would need to be mobilised to provide input on the subject of democratic governance.

### **3. State of implementation of activities according to the terms of reference 2022-2023 (-2025)**

#### Work on principles of good democratic governance (task i)

Mr Peter Andre, Chair of the GT-BG working group, briefed the Bureau about the last two meetings of the group and progress made with regard to the drafting work. The Bureau discussed the draft Recommendation on principles of good democratic governance and the accompanying explanatory memorandum (including the need for shorter comments concerning the preamble) and agreed that revised versions of these documents should be sent to it by the end of October.

As the draft recommendation was ready for adoption by the CDDG, but the draft explanatory memorandum needed some more work, the Bureau considered that the former could be provisionally adopted in November and that the latter would be submitted again for final approval at the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in April 2023, but with the possibility for members to send final comments in writing on both texts. Moreover, this would allow to incorporate the outcome of a possible Fourth Summit. The final adoption of two consistent drafts would thus take place in April 2023. The Bureau agreed that at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, action to promote the Recommendation would need to be discussed, especially in the light of follow-up action decided as a result of a possible Fourth Summit and/or to give effect to recommendations of the high-level report mentioned earlier.

#### Work on deliberative democracy (task ii)

Mr Markku Mölläri, vice-chair of the GT-DD working group, and the Secretariat provided information on the current state of play and recent meetings of the group. The draft recommendation on deliberative democracy had been [posted on-line for public consultation](#) on 12 October. The Bureau concurred that the current deadline (22 November) for the submission of comments by the public could be extended where necessary to collect more responses. At the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting preliminary results of the comments received from the public would be considered together with the text of the draft recommendation with a view to finalise the draft for adoption at the CDDG meeting in April 2023.

As for the report on methods of deliberative democracy, the Bureau suggested that some amendments could be made (including a shorter executive summary, a maximum of three recommendations, less academic language in some paragraphs). The report would be sent to the GT-DD for information and possible proposals / comments in writing in the light of the Bureau's suggestions. The CDDG would subsequently adopt a final version of the draft at its forthcoming 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **4. 16<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the CDDG**

The Bureau considered and approved a draft agenda for the upcoming meeting of the CDDG of 28-29 November in Strasbourg. It agreed that in the order of business, consideration of the draft new texts mentioned above be split over the two days (those on deliberative democracy taking place in the morning of the second meeting day). The Bureau also considered and endorsed a letter of the Chair to all CDDG delegates, that would be sent together with the convocation letter with a view to drawing attention to the particular importance of the CDDG and its work in the present general context in Europe.

The need for countries to translate important documents produced by the CDDG – especially the recommendations of the Committee of ministers – could also be reiterated.

Attention of participants would also be drawn to the way the online platforms (Kudo, Zoom) could be used in the future for the CDDG work, for additional meetings, in exceptional circumstances, to facilitate attendance of government members, guest speakers or additional delegation members.

As regards elections to be held at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the Bureau agreed that, should the number of candidates exceed the positions to be filled, voting would take place in the traditional manner with paper ballots. This should ideally be on 29 November, just before the lunchbreak. The deadline for candidatures would be set on 20 November so as to compile information on candidates before the meeting.

#### **5. Work plan for 2023**

The Bureau considered and approved a preliminary draft work plan for the coming year. In particular:

- it expressed a clear preference – budgetary appropriations permitting – for a dedicated meeting in June or September 2023 to review the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)5 on standards for e-voting, which featured both as a biennial task in the said Recommendation and as a specific task under the current terms of reference of the CDDG (task viii). It was suggested that the dedicated meeting would be organised in cooperation with the Division on Elections and other relevant Council of Europe bodies (such as the Venice Commission and Congress). A questionnaire would be circulated in due course in 2023 together with a letter to all CDDG delegates for them to designate a national contact point/institution to provide the necessary information and to participate in the discussions;

- bearing in mind the work to be completed in 2022, it recommended the creation of two new working groups with their terms of reference to be approved at the November plenary and their composition to be determined in January 2023:
  - a Working Group on Governance would start work in January or February 2023 and would devote the first part of its meeting to finishing any work left from the GT-BG, before moving to the elaboration of a draft Recommendation on Multilevel Governance (specific task v), to be followed by a report on multilevel governance and response to emergencies (specific task vi);
  - another working group would start work on Green Public Administration (specific task iii) and hold two meetings in 2023, whilst the GT-DD would finalise its own work via an on-line meeting before the 17<sup>th</sup> CDDG meeting in April.

## **6. Relevant other Council of Europe activities**

The Secretariat gave a brief overview of recent developments with regards to the World Forum for Democracy 2022 ("Democracy, a new hope?") and the [planned contribution of the CDDG](#) to the Forum. It also provided a brief overview of the recent activities of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance. The information on the autumn sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly and Congress will be provided at the 16<sup>th</sup> CDDG meeting.

## **7. Other business**

The Secretariat pointed out that besides the translation of important texts of the CDDG, it could be desirable to spend additional efforts on making publications of the CDDG (reports, handbooks etc) more easily accessible on the CDDG website and more attractive to potential readers in terms of formatting. The Bureau took note of this suggestion.

## **8. Next meeting**

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on 23-24 March 2023 in Paris.

**APPENDIX I****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****CHAIR / PRESIDENT**

Mr Paul ROWSELL, Head of Governance Reform and Democracy Unit, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Local Government & Communities Directorate, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London, United Kingdom

**OTHER MEMBERS / AUTRES MEMBRES**

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

Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS, Directorate of Organising and Functioning of Local Government, Ministry of the Interior, Athens, Greece

Ms Gordana GAPIKJ-DIMITROVSKA, State Advisor, the Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Skopje, North Macedonia  
*(Apologised for absence/excusée)*

Ms Puck GORRISEN, Policy Officer Democracy, Democracy and Governance Division, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, The Hague, Netherlands

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

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

**SECRETARIAT**

Ms Alina TATARENKO – Head of the Democratic Governance Division / Secretary of the CDDG / Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity

Mr Christophe SPECKBACHER, Administrator – Democratic Governance Division / Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity

Ms Judith ORLAND, Democratic Governance Division – Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance - Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity

## APPENDIX II

### AGENDA

1. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
2. **Information on recent activities and developments** including the recent Report of the High-level Reflection Group of the Council of Europe
3. **State of implementation of activities according to the terms of reference 2022-2023 (-2025)**

#### Good democratic governance

- Reports of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the GT-BG of 9-10 June and 15-16 September 2022
- Consideration of a draft recommendation and its explanatory memorandum; decision on the possible holding of an additional informal (on-line) GT-BG meeting before the 16th plenary meeting

#### Deliberative democracy

- Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the GT-DD of 1-4 July and 26-27 September
- Consideration of a report for the CDDG on new forms of deliberative and participatory democracy
- Consideration of a draft recommendation on deliberative democracy

#### **4. 16th plenary meeting of the CDDG (28-29 November 2022)**

- Consideration of the preliminary draft agenda including elections of the Chair/ Bureau members
- Letter of the Chair to accompany the convocation
- Working methods of the CDDG

#### **5. Work plan 2023**

- Tasks for 2023 as per the CDDG terms of reference
- Special events: possible conference under the Icelandic presidency; ELoGE ceremony and other events under the CM presidency of Latvia; International Day of Democracy; Review of implementation of the Recommendation on e-voting

**6. Relevant other Council of Europe activities:** state of play and information by the Secretariat, including on World Forum for Democracy 2022 ("Democracy, a new hope?") and CDDG contribution; Centre of Expertise for Good Governance: update on activities

#### **7. Other business**

#### **8. Next meeting of the Bureau (proposed date: Paris, 23-24 March 2023)**