



Strasbourg, 3 November 2023

CDDG-Bu(2023)10

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

**REPORT OF THE 26<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
(19-20 October 2023, Strasbourg)**

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

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

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

Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, updated the Bureau members about steps to implement the new priorities set at the [4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government](#) held on 16-17 May 2023 in Reykjavik, Iceland. These would translate into measures regarding both the organisational reform and activities, including for the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance and the CDDG. The terms of reference for the various committees for the years 2024-2027, including proposals for changes in the structures, has been scheduled for adoption at the 1481st (Budget) meeting of the Ministers' Deputies of 21-23 November 2023. As discussions and negotiations were still on-going in the Rapporteur Group on Democracy of the Committee of Ministers, specific information was not yet publicly available. In the ensuing exchange of views, Bureau members sought clarification on various matters including the impact of the intended changes on the Centre of Expertise and the CDDG. More detailed information should be available at the CDDG plenary.

**3. State of implementation of the CDDG activities according to its terms of reference**

Peter Andre (Austria), Chair of the Working Group on Governance (GT-G) and the Secretariat, provided an overview of the GT-G's [3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of 21-22 September](#) and the resulting draft report on multilevel governance, prepared with the support of the expert consultants [CDDG-Bu(2023)7]. The Bureau considered the draft and provided feedback regarding its structure, content, and presentation of the country examples.

Markku Mölläri (Finland), Chair of the Working Group on Green Public Administration (GT-A) and the Secretariat, provided an overview of the GT-A's [3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of 2-3 October](#) and the revised draft report on green public administration, prepared with the assistance of the expert consultants [document CDDG-Bu(2023)8]. The Bureau considered the draft and made suggestions for further revisions regarding its structure and content, in particular with a view to reducing the length of the report and streamlining the content.

The Bureau considered that the level of advancement would allow for both draft reports to be finalised for consideration and possible adoption by the end of the year, ideally during the 18<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting, and that there was no need for additional informal meetings before then. The Bureau endorsed the suggestion from the working groups to publish the compendium of responses to the questionnaires and the need for the annexes in both reports to remain short with a focus on reference texts of the Council of Europe.

#### **4. 18<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the CDDG**

The Bureau considered the draft agenda for the CDDG's 18<sup>th</sup> plenary on 23-24 November [document [CDDG(2023)OJ2] and made further suggestions for the organisation of the meeting. It agreed to complement the document on the overview of the CDDG activities in 2022-2023 with a list of all activities and achievements of the CDDG since its creation.

#### **5. Conclusions of the conference on the review of implementation of CM/Rec(2017)5 on standards for e-voting and use of ICTs (16 June 2023)**

The Secretariat presented a document [CDDG-Bu(2023)9] to serve as a basis for discussions in the CDDG, that compiles the main takeaways from the conference of 16 June 2023 together with the updated overview of responses to the questionnaire which was produced by an expert consultant. The Bureau took note of the information.

#### **6. World Forum for Democracy**

The Secretariat provided information on the upcoming edition of the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November), and the state of preparation of the CDDG's contribution to it, namely [Forum Talk 4: Building Peace and Democracy across Borders](#), with an introductory statement to be delivered by Paul Rowsell. The Bureau took note of the information.

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

None

**APPENDIX I****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****CDDG BUREAU**

Mr Paul ROWSELL - *Chair / president*

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, United Kingdom

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

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

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

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

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

**SECRETARIAT**

Ms Claudia LUCIANI – Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity

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

## APPENDIX II

## AGENDA

<b>19 October 9.30-18.00</b>	
<b>1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda</b>	[CDDG-Bu(2023)OJ2]
<b>2. Recent activities and developments:</b> information by the Secretariat and Bureau members, including on follow-up to the Reykjavik Summit	
<b>3. State of implementation of CDDG activities according to its terms of reference:</b> work of the GT-A and GT-G and consideration of documents for discussion/adoption at the 18 <sup>th</sup> CDDG meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Report on multilevel governance:</b> consideration of the content and state of progress; possible additional informal working group meeting</li> </ul> <b>13.00- 14.30: Lunch break</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Report on green public administration:</b> consideration of the content and state of progress; possible additional informal working group meeting</li> </ul>	 [CDDG-Bu(2023)7]  [CDDG-Bu(2023)8]
<b>4. 18<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the CDDG</b> (23-24 November 2023): Consideration of the preliminary draft agenda	[CDDG(2023)OJ2]
<b>20 October 9.30-13.00</b>	
<b>5. Conclusions of the conference on the review of implementation of CM/Rec(2017)5 on standards for e-voting and use of ICTs (16 June 2023):</b> discussion on outcome	[CDDG-Bu(2023)9]
<b>6. World Forum for Democracy</b> (6-8 November) and the CDDG contribution	
<b>7. Other business</b>	
<b>8. Closure of meeting</b>	