



Strasbourg, 11 April 2023

CDDG-Bu(2023)6

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

**REPORT OF THE 25th MEETING
(23-24 March 2023, Strasbourg)**

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 CDDG Secretariat informed the Bureau about a recent request from the central services of the Council of Europe for the early preparation of the committees' new terms of reference for the period 2024-2027, in anticipation of the possible outcomes of the [Fourth Summit](#) (Reykjavik, 16-17 May 2023). The new terms of reference would, as usual, be adopted some time in November. Ms Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, provided a more detailed account on the possible output and deliverables of the Summit (including the possible production of a checklist on democracy, the creation of a new committee on environment), the likely repercussions including the reorganisation of Directorate General II – Democracy and Human Dignity, other developments such as the likely creation of a new committee on emerging technologies and - after CAI has completed its task with the elaboration of a convention - a conventional committee on artificial intelligence.

Moreover, in relation to the Summit, a new proposal had recently reached the Committee of Ministers in form of a draft set of so-called "Reykjavík Principles for Democracy". This was aimed at embodying in a short, straightforward and political text, some key principles related *inter alia* to the preservation of the separation of powers, the need for independent and efficient legislatures, the preservation of the independence of the judiciary, and reaffirming the importance of political freedoms and the rights of the opposition. The Bureau took the information into account when discussing subsequent agenda items (see below).

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

The Bureau heard information from the Secretariat, from Mr Peter Andre as the Chair of the Working Group on Governance (GT-G) and from Mr Markku Mölläri as the vice-Chair of the Working Group on Deliberative Democracy (GT-DD) and Chair of the Working Group on Green Public Administration (GT-A). The Bureau took note of the reports of the first meeting of the GT-G held on 2-3 February (doc. GT-G(2023)5), of the last (informal, on-line) meeting of the GT-DD held on 1 March (doc. GT-DD(2023)2) and the first meeting of the GT-A held on 2-3 March (doc. GT-A(2023)4).

As previously agreed, questionnaires had been sent out via the Rapid Response Service to all CDDG members to gather input for the work of the GT-G and GT-A. As the deadline for responses had now lapsed in respect of the questionnaire on multilevel governance and as the response rate was moderate, the Bureau agreed to extend the deadline for the submission of answers until 20 April and that some encouraging wording be included in the message.

Following the public consultation on the draft Recommendation on deliberative democracy, many contributing NGOs had expressed an interest in receiving feedback on the results of the consultation. The Bureau agreed that they should be invited to consult the GT-DD's meeting report.

The Bureau entrusted the Secretariat with the preparation of appropriate wording for the paragraph containing a reference to the Fourth Summit in the recitals to the draft Recommendation and explanatory memorandum on the Principles of Good Democratic Governance, which would reflect the latest developments and likely outcome of the Summit. It also suggested further minor adjustments to the memorandum.

The Bureau expressed a preference for spreading the submission of final draft texts to the Rapporteur Group on Democracy of the Committee of Ministers (GR-DEM) after their approval by the CDDG. The submission of the final drafting for the Recommendation on deliberative democracy could thus be scheduled for the GR-DEM's meeting of 30 May, whilst the final draft of the Recommendation on the Principles of Good Democratic Governance could be scheduled for a later date, possibly the GR-DEM's meeting of 11 July.

4. Preparation of activities and 5. Work in 2023 and beyond

The Bureau considered a draft concept and agenda for the conference on Green Public Administration (doc. CDDG-Bu(2023)4) planned for 26 April and heard information from the Secretariat on the state of preparation of the event, which would precede the 17th meeting of 27-28 April. It approved the concept and suggested that the City of Strasbourg be also invited given its strong interest in the subject.

The Bureau also heard updated information from the Secretariat on the preparation of a Conference to review the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)5 on standards for e-voting and the Guidelines on the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in electoral processes in Council of Europe member States (CM(2022)10-final), planned on 16 June 2023, in Strasbourg. It approved the concept for the event (doc. CDDG-Bu(2023)5).

The Secretariat also provided information on the recently agreed Round Table entitled "[Is democracy key to ensuring peace](#)" (on-line virtual event, 27 March) on the occasion of the [Partners for Democracy Day](#), in the lead up to the second Summit for Democracy, the Fourth Council of Europe Summit and the 2023 edition of the World Forum for Democracy. It would be co-moderated by the Chair of the CDDG and the Chair of the GR-DEM.

As regards the early preparation of the quadrennial terms of reference for 2024-2027 (see also item 2), the Bureau discussed a preliminary list of possible deliverables, which would all contribute to the implementation of the general mandate on democracy and governance of the Committee (e.g. administrative reforms and modernisation, information technologies, democratic participation), pursue the current priorities and work already initiated (e.g. principles of governance, environment and climate) and/or reflect new political priorities such as those contained in the "Reykjavik Principles". Such a list of possible deliverables would be further discussed during the CDDG's 17th meeting.

The Bureau took the view that should the general tasks also be adjusted in the light of the Summit, references might be made to the various relevant "Reykjavik Principles" and that it would give a fuller picture of the CDDG's actual work if the future specific tasks also reflected the Committee's on-going activities (peer reviews, the Rapid Response Service, special events such as conferences, the production of opinions at the request of the Committee of Ministers and other bodies).

6. 17th CDDG plenary meeting

The Bureau discussed and agreed a new format to be used in future for the plenary meeting agendas, with a more straightforward presentation of agenda items. It took note of the tentative list of senior officials from member States and other Council of Europe bodies to be invited to the 17th meeting for exchanges of views or to provide an update on current priorities and reforms.

As the Chair of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence was only available for an on-line intervention, the Bureau expressed a preference for the in-person attendance of another representative to update the CDDG on CAI's work; a set of questions should be prepared for the exchange with the CAI representative. The CDDG would then hold a discussion and decide whether to produce or not a new, updated and possibly more detailed position paper for its subsequent submission to the CAI.

7. Working methods, interactions with partners

The Secretariat provided information on a list of organisations which had expressed an interest in the development of cooperation with the CDDG, including through possible observership status with the CDDG. The Bureau took note of the information.

8. Council of Europe activities and Centre of Expertise

In addition to what was discussed in relation to item 2 and the preparation of the Fourth Summit, the Bureau heard updated information from the Secretariat on the activities of the Centre of Expertise. It attended in the morning of 24 March, a ceremony organised in the Council of Europe premises by the Centre in cooperation with the French stakeholders involved in the award of the [ELoGE Label in France](#) to a group of municipalities and municipal associations; large amounts of information were made available on the current state of play and the implementation of ELoGE (currently in more than 20 countries).

9. Next Presidencies of the Committee of ministers

The Bureau took note of information provided by the Secretariat on upcoming presidencies of the Committee of Ministers. It considered that a member of the Permanent Representation of Latvia should be invited to present the priorities of the country and to give a heads-up for the upcoming ELoGE ceremony to be held in Riga on 26 May, possibly with the participation of CDDG representatives.

10. Other business

None

11. Next meeting

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on 16-17 October in Strasbourg.

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, London, United Kingdom

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
(*Apologised for absence/excusé*)

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

Mr Dan POPESCU – Head of Department of Democracy 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

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

APPENDIX II

AGENDA

Thursday 23 March		
9.30	1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda	[CDDG-Bu(2023)OJ1]
	2. Recent activities and developments: information by the Secretariat and Bureau members including any new information on the 4 th Summit	
Coffee break as suitable	3. State of implementation of CDDG activities according to its terms of reference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GT-G: report of the first meeting; Draft recommendation on the Principles of Good Democratic Governance and draft explanatory memorandum, final drafts • GT-DD: draft report of the last meeting; Revised Draft recommendation on deliberative democracy • GT-A: draft report of the first meeting 	Link to meeting report CDDG-Bu(2023)1 CDDG-Bu(2023)2 GT-DD(2023)2 CDDG-Bu(2023)3 GT-A(2023)4
	4. Preparation of activities (state of play, expected output etc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference on Green Public Administration (26 April 2023); concept note • Conference on review of implementation of CM/Rec(2017)5 on standards for e-voting (16 June 2023); concept note 	CDDG-Bu(2023)4 CDDG-Bu(2023)5
13.00	Lunch break NB: Table booked at the Restaurant bleu	
	5. Work in 2023 and beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work plan for 2023 • Possible new terms of reference for 2024-2027: preliminary exchange of views 	(paper in the room)
	6. 17th plenary meeting of the CDDG (27-28 April 2023): Consideration of the preliminary draft agenda	CDDG(2023)OJ1 prov.

Coffee break as suitable	7. Working methods, interactions with partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible impact of 4th Summit on working methods (e.g. involvement of Youth and civil society) • interaction with other relevant CoE Committees and bodies including contribution to CAI; possible new observers (European Partnership for Democracy, International Institute of Administrative Sciences, International IDEA) • ways to encourage members to participate more (e.g. informal thematic working parties) 	
18.00	End of meeting day 1 NB: table booked at Restaurant "Alsace à Table" in the city centre	
Friday 24 March		
[9.30]	[Eloge Ceremony, France (room 10, speech by Paul Rowsell, Bureau members welcome to attend)]	
10.30 Resuming Bureau meeting	7. (cont. as necessary) Working methods, interactions with partners	
	8. Council of Europe activities, Centre of Expertise, World Forum for Democracy 2023 [TBC: Can democracy deliver peace"]: information by the Secretariat	
	9. Next Presidencies of the Committee of Ministers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latvia, May - November 2023: ELoGE event in Riga, Latvia, 26 May 2023 • Liechtenstein, November 2023 - May 2024) • Lithuania, May -November 2024 	Link
	10. Other business	
	11. Next meeting of the Bureau (date proposed for next in-person meeting: 16-17 October 2023)	
13.00	Close of meeting NB: Table booked at the Restaurant bleu NB: Eloge platform meeting in the afternoon	