

49th SESSION
CG(2024)49-PV-01am

MINUTES

First Sitting

Tuesday 28 October 2025

Plenary Sitting

10.15 – 13.00, Hemicycle

1.	<p>Opening of the 49th Session of the Congress by the President</p> <p>Marc COOLS, President of the Congress, declared the 49th Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe open at 10.16.</p> <p><i>The European anthem and the Ukrainian anthem were played.</i></p>
2.	<p>Test vote</p> <p>The President reminded members of the procedure for voting.</p> <p>A test vote took place.</p>
3.	<p>Verification of new members' credentials</p> <p>The co-rapporteurs, Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR) and Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG), on behalf of the Bureau of the Congress, presented documents CG(2025)49-02 and CG(2025)49-04.</p> <p>The draft resolution in document CG(2025)49-02 was adopted.</p>
4.	<p>Adoption of the agenda of the 49th Session</p> <p>The draft agenda of the session, in document CG(2025)49-OJ, was adopted.</p>
5.	<p>Adoption of the draft minutes of the last sitting of the 48th Session (27 March 2025)</p> <p>The draft minutes in document CG(2025)48-PV-03 were adopted.</p>
6.	<p>Adoption of the composition of Congress committees</p> <p>The composition of Congress committees in document CG(2025)49-03 was adopted.</p>
7.	<p>Freedom of Assembly</p> <p>The President welcomed the following guests and invited them to make a statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gergely KARÁCSONY, Mayor of Budapest, Hungary; and • Gina ROMERO, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. <p>Gina ROMERO and Gergely KARÁCSONY made statements.</p>

	<p>The debate was opened.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Soeren SCHUMACHER, Germany (R, SOC/G/PD); Conrado ESCOBAR LAS HERAS, Spain (L, EPP/CCE); Johannes FUNKE, Germany (R, SOC/G/PD); Yelyzaveta K Aidash, Ukraine (youth delegate); Jelena BOROVINIC BOJOVIC, Montenegro (L, EPP/CCE); Andrea BORRACCETTI, Italy (youth delegate); Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD); Cecilia Felicitasz FRIDERICS, Hungary (L, ECR); Gudrun MOSLER-TOERNSTROEM, Austria (L, SOC/G/PD); Anna MESZAROS, Hungary (youth delegate); Alexander BOOMGAARS, Netherlands (L, SOC/G/PD); Ahmet Bilal KIYMAZ, Türkiye (L, EPP/CCE); Anna MAGYAR, Hungary (R, ECR); Emina PASANOVIC, Bosnia and Herzegovina (youth delegate); Christos PARMAKKIS, Cyprus (youth delegate); Michael WEILCH, Austria (youth delegate); Gunes PEHLIVAN, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD); Asuman GULSOY, Türkiye (L, NR); and Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR).</p> <p>Gina ROMERO replied to the debate.</p> <p>The debate was closed.</p> <p>The President thanked Gergely KARÁCSONY and Gina ROMERO.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Statement by Alain BERSET, Secretary General of the Council Europe</p> <p>The President welcomed Alain BERSET, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and invited him to address the Congress.</p> <p>Alain BERSET addressed the Congress, and responded to questions from:</p> <p>Klas Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE); Gudrun MOSLER-TOERNSTROEM, Austria (L, SOC/G/PD); Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (R, ILDG); Roman KAZNOVETSKYI, Ukraine (L, ECR); Bernd VOEHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE); Peter DRENTH, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE); Igor STOJANOVIC, Bosnia and Herzegovina (R, SOC/G/PD); Melanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG); Bram GIERKINK, Netherlands (youth delegate); and Iryna KHALOPITSA, Belarus (Belarusian Democratic Forces).</p> <p>The President thanked Alain BERSET.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Suspension of the sitting</p> <p><i>The sitting was suspended at 13.07.</i></p>