

**49th SESSION**  
**CG(2025)49-PV-02**

**MINUTES**

**Second Sitting**

<b>Wednesday 29 October 2025</b>	
<b>Plenary Sitting</b>	
14.00 – 19.00, Hemicycle	
	<i>Marc COOLS, President of the Congress, took the Chair at 14.06.</i>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Adoption of the minutes of the sitting of the Congress on 28 October 2025</b></p> <p>The minutes of the sitting of the Congress on 28 October 2025, in documents CG(2025)49-PV-01am and CG(2025)49-PV-01pm, were adopted.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Adoption of texts approved by the Chambers</b></p> <p>The texts approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions, listed in document CG(2025)49-06, were adopted.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (May 2025-November 2025)</b></p> <p>The President welcomed Alison ZERAFÀ CIVELLI, Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government, Malta, on behalf of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, and invited her to make a statement.</p> <p>Alison ZERAFÀ CIVELLI made a statement and responded to written questions set out in document CG(2025)49-15, from the following Congress members:</p> <p>Gudrun MOSLER-TOERNSTROEM, Austria (L, SOC/G/PD); Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG); Bernd VOEHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE); Liliia PASHYNNA, Ukraine (ILDG); Francesca GIUDICE, Malta (youth delegate); and Ana MARJANOVIC, Montenegro (youth delegate).</p> <p>The President thanked Alison ZERAFÀ CIVELLI.</p>
	<i>Bernd VÖHRINGER, Vice-President of the Congress, took the Chair at 14.57.</i>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>An additional protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the environment</b></p> <p>The rapporteur, Meropi-Spyridoula YDRAIOU, Greece (L, EPP/CCE), on behalf of the Monitoring Committee, presented the draft recommendation in document CG(2025)49-11.</p> <p>The debate was opened.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Thibaut GUIGNARD, France (L,EPP/CCE); Alexander BOOMGAARS, Netherlands (L, SOC/G/PD); Emina PASANOVIC, Bosnia and Herzegovina (youth delegate); Joanne Louise LABAN, United Kingdom (L, ECR); Mariana MORAIS, Portugal</p>

	<p>(youth delegate); Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD); Belinda GOTTARDI, Italy (L, SOC/G/PD); Abdullah ZEYDAN, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD); Emine Helil INAY KINAY, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD); and Mikolaj Franciszek PATALONG, Poland (youth delegate).</p> <p>The rapporteur replied to the debate.</p> <p>The debate was closed.</p> <p>The Congress proceeded to vote on the draft recommendation in document CG(2025)49-11.</p> <p>The draft recommendation was adopted.</p>
5.	<p><b>Reform of the European Local Democracy Week</b></p> <p>The rapporteur, Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE), on behalf of the Bureau of the Congress, presented the draft resolution in document CG(2025)49-18.</p> <p>The debate was opened.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Gunes PEHLIVAN, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD); Eimer CONLON, Ireland (youth delegate); Amandine ECKEL, France (youth delegate); and Yelyzaveta K Aidash, Ukraine (youth delegate).</p> <p>The rapporteur replied to the debate.</p> <p>The debate was closed.</p> <p>The Congress proceeded to vote on the draft resolution in document CG(2025)49-18.</p> <p>The draft resolution was adopted.</p>
	<p><i>Marc COOLS, President of the Congress, took the chair at 15.56.</i></p>
6.	<p><b>Preparing European cities and regions for security crises</b></p> <p>The President welcomed the following speakers and invited them to make a statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oleksandr PROKUDIN, Head of Kherson Regional State Military Administration, Ukraine; and</li> <li>• Georg MAIER, Minister for Home Affairs, Local Government, and Regional Development, Free State of Thüringia, Germany.</li> </ul> <p>A video was played in the hemicycle.</p> <p>Oleksandr PROKUDIN and Georg MAIER made statements.</p> <p>The debate was opened.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Christian DEBEVE, France (R, ILDG); Kristoffer TAMSONS, Sweden (R, EPP/CCE); Frantisek KASICKY, Slovak Republic (L, SOC/G/PD); Yelyzaveta K Aidash, Ukraine (youth delegate); Soeren SCHUMACHER, Germany (R, SOC/G/PD); Renars KARLINSKIS, Latvia (youth delegate); Zana GUMUS, Türkiye (L, SOC/G/PD); Bernd VOEHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE); Mykola LUKASHUK, Ukraine (R, ILDG); Oleksandr KORINNYI, Ukraine (L, ILDG); Sigrid SENGER, Netherlands (L, NR); Maike ELSASSER, Germany (youth delegate); Elianne DEMOLLIN-SCHNEIDERS, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE); Christos PARMAKKIS, Cyprus (youth delegate); Romain GAUDRON, Belgium (L, SOC/G/PD); Mikolaj Franciszek PATALONG, Poland (youth delegate); Ozkan YALIM, Türkiye (L, SOC/G/PD); Paulius KOLOSOVAS, Lithuania (youth delegate); and Maria LERTXUNDI VAQUERO, Spain (youth delegate).</p> <p>Georg MAIER and Oleksandr PROKUDIN replied to the debate.</p> <p>The debate was closed.</p> <p>The President thanked Oleksandr PROKUDIN and Georg MAIER.</p>
7.	<p><b>Youth participation: Shaping Europe's democratic future Roundtable</b></p> <p>The President welcomed the following participants for a roundtable discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alison ZERFA CIVELLI, Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government, Malta;</li> </ul>

- Veronique BERTHOLLE, France (L, SOC/G/PD), Congress thematic spokesperson on Youth; and
- Nina GRMUŠA, Chair of the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth.

Moderator: Reinout VERMAERCKE, Congress youth delegate, Belgium

With the moderation of Reinout VERMAERCKE, Alison ZERAFI CIVELLI, Veronique BERTHOLLE and Nina GRMUŠA answered questions from the following members of the Congress:

Sonja LEDL-ROSSMANN, Austria (R, EPP/CCE); Maylinda BAJRAMI, Albania (youth delegate); Sevim KAYA-KARADAG, Germany (R, SOC/G/PD); Tijana RISTOVSKA, North Macedonia (youth delegate); and Baran GUNES, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD)

The President thanked Alison ZERAFI CIVELLI, Veronique BERTHOLLE, Nina GRMUŠA and Reinout VERMAERCKE.

The President welcomed Emina PASANOVIC, Bosnia Herzegovia and Christos NTONIS, Greece (youth delegates) to give the reading of 'Once upon a Time...the Tale of the Youth Charter, written and first presented at the European Youth Conference held in Braga, Portugal, on 5-7 February 2025.

The President thanked Emina PASANOVIC and Christos NTONIS.

### **Revision of the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life**

The co-rapporteur, Aida KARIMLI, Sweden (R, ILDG), on behalf of the Committee on Social Inclusion and Human Dignity and the co-rapporteur Roberto PELLA, Italy (L, PPE/CCE), presented the draft resolution and draft recommendation in document CG(2025)49-14.

The debate was opened.

*Speakers:* Frederic BIERRY, France (L, EPP/CCE); Roxana-Maria CHIRITOIU, Romania (youth delegate); Eke FOLKERTS, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE); Elianne DEMOLLIN-SCHNEIDERS, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE); Andrea BORRACCETTI, Italy (youth delegate); Tijana RISTOVSKA, North Macedonia (youth delegate); Baran GUNES, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD); Emilija NOVAKOVIC, Serbia (youth delegate); Bram GIERKINK, Netherlands (youth delegate); Victoria ARAKELYAN, Georgia (youth delegate); Marcus FROEJK MELAU, Denmark (youth delegate); Nazia REHMAN, United Kingdom (R SOC/G/PD); Liesa SCHOLZEN, Belgium (R, ILDG); Emina PASANOVIC, Bosnia and Herzegovina (youth delegate); and Christos PARMAKKIS, Cyprus (youth delegate).

The co-rapporteur replied to the debate.

The debate was closed.

The Congress proceeded to vote on the draft resolution in document CG(2025)49-14.

The draft resolution was adopted.

The Congress proceeded to vote on the draft recommendation in document CG(2025)49-14.

The draft recommendation was adopted.

### **Congress Rejuvenating Politics Initiative: presentation of the grassroots projects by the 2025 youth delegates**

The President welcomed the following youth delegates and invited them to present their grassroots projects in document CG(2025)49-19:

- Francesca GIUDICE, Malta
- Michael WEILCH, Austria
- Marcus MELAU, Denmark
- Camilla ZAVOLI, San Marino

The debate was opened.

*Speakers:* Liesa SCHOLZEN, Belgium (R, ILDG); and Andrea BORRACCETTI, Italy (youth delegate).

The debate was closed.

	The President thanked the youth delegates.
<b>8.</b>	<b>End of the sitting</b> <i>The sitting was closed at 19.08.</i> <i>The final sitting would be on Thursday 30 October 2025 at 10.00.</i>