

CG(2026)51-OJ

20 August 2026

51st Session of the Congress

Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe

27-29 October 2026

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA PUBLIC MEETING

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English and French) and in German, Italian, and Turkish (tbc).

Information on the provision of additional languages available for sittings (valid on the date shown above) is indicated throughout this agenda and on the timetable of meetings [CG(2026)51-01].

Key:

EN English

FR French

DE German

IT Italian

TR Turkish (tbc)

UKR Ukrainian

ESP Spanish (active unless otherwise indicated)

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Monday 26 October 2026

Bureaux meetings *[EN/FR/DE/IT]*

9.30-10.15, Room 6	Bureau of the Chamber of Regions
9.30-10.15, Room 8	Bureau of the Chamber of Local Authorities
10.30-12.15 and 14.00-15.30, Room 10	Bureau of the Congress

Seminar for new Congress members - 13.00-14.00

Room 6	Information meeting open to all Congress members, national delegation secretaries and advisors <i>[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP passive/TR]</i>
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Political group meetings - 15.45-17.45

Room 1	European People's Party Group in the Congress (EPP/CCE) <i>[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP passive /TR]</i>
Room 8	Group of Socialists, Greens and Progressive Democrats (SOC/G/PD) <i>[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP passive/TR]</i>
Room 6	Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG) <i>[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP passive/TR]</i>
Room 10	European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) <i>[EN/DE/IT]</i>
Room 7	Patriots for Europe (PfE) <i>[EN/DE/IT]</i>

Secretaries of national delegations meeting - 15.40-16.20

Room 11	Information meeting
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Tuesday 27 October 2026 - Committee meetings [EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP passive /TR]

Monitoring Committee	8.30-10.00, Room 1
Social Inclusion Committee	8.30-10.00, Room 6
Governance Committee	8.30-10.00, Room 10

Tuesday 27 October 2026

Plenary sitting [EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR]

10.15-13.00, Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Tuesday 20 October 2026, 10.00*

10.15	Opening of the 51st Session of the Congress by the President Gunn Marit HELGESEN	
10.20	Test vote – reminder of the voting system and the request to speak procedure in the hemicycle	
10.25	Verification of new members' credentials [CG(2026)51-04] Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR) and Melanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG) Debate and vote on the draft resolution [CG(2026)51-02]*	
10.30	Adoption of the agenda of the 51st Session [CG(2026)51-OJ] Adoption of the minutes of the last sitting of the 50th Session (2 April 2026) [CG(2026)50-PV-03] Adoption of the composition of Congress committees [CG(2026)51-03]	
10.35	Congress priorities for 2026-2031 Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD) and Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE) Debate and vote on the draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-xx]*	
11.45	Missing out: tackling school absenteeism in Europe's communities Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Liesa SCHOLZEN, Belgium (R, ILDG) and Anita SOLLIE, Norway (L, EPP/CCE) Debate and vote on the draft resolution recommendation and the draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-xx]*	
13.00	Suspension of the sitting	
13.00	EVENT:	

Tuesday 27 October 2026

Plenary sitting [EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR]

14.30-19.00 Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Tuesday 20 October 2026, 10.00*

14.30	Statement by Alain BERSET, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Questions
	<i>The following joint debate is contribution to the New Democratic Pact for Europe</i>
15.15	Early warning systems against democratic backsliding (working title) Statement(s) by guest speaker(s): David MEYER, President of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) (tbc) • Risk-alert dashboard on local and regional democracy Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: tbc • Checklist on preventing corruption and promoting integrity at local and regional levels Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Romek KOSENKRANIUS, Estonia (R, ILDG) and Aisling MORAN, Ireland (L, SOC/G/PD) • The status of national and international observers in local and regional elections in the 46 member States Presentation by the rapporteur: Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (R, ILDG) Debate and vote on the draft resolutions and/or recommendations [CG(2026)51-xx]*; [CG(2026)51-xx]* and [CG(2026)51-xx]* 
17.15	Monitoring of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Albania Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CE) and Soeren SCHUMACHER, Germany (R, SOC/G/PD) Debate and vote on the draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-xx]*  Statement by Ervin DEMO, Minister of State for Local Government of Albania (tbc) Questions
18.00	How can we cope with coastal erosion? Statement by Sophie PANONACLE, Member of Parliament, Gironde, France Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Anthony BUCHANAN, United Kingdom (L, ILDG) and Fanis SPANOS, Greece (R, PPE/CCE) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-xx]* 
19.00	Close of the sitting

Wednesday 28 October 2026

Chamber of Local Authorities [EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP passive/TR]

9.00-12.30, Hemicycle

* *Deadline for tabling amendments: Wednesday 21 October 2026, 10.00*

9.00	Opening of the session of the Chamber by the President of the Chamber Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (EPP/CCE)
9.05	Adoption of the draft agenda of the Chamber [CPL(2026)51-OJ]
9.10	Communication of the President of the Chamber [CPL(2026)51-01]
9.20	Application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in the smallest States Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Marjorie CROVETTO, Monaco (L, NR) and Stefan FASSBINDER, Germany (L, SOC/G/PD) Debate and vote on the draft recommendation [CPL(2026)51-xx]*
10.20	Thematic debate: “The Cost of Crises: Financing Local Resilience” (<i>working title</i>) Statements by: • Benjamina KARIĆ Municipal Mayor of Novo Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (tbc) • James JOHN, Offices in Europe Director, International Monetary Fund (tbc) • Congress Youth Delegate (tbd) Debate
10.50	Thematic debate: “Too Many or Too Few? When Overtourism and Depopulation Challenge Local Self-Government” (<i>working title</i>) • Overtourism: strain on local self-government (<i>working title</i>) Statements by: • Paolo FALCO, Mayor of Capri, Italy (tbc) • Carolina DARIAS, Mayor of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain (tbc) • Congress Youth Delegate (tbd) Debate • Demographic decline: a challenge for territories (<i>working title</i>) Statements by: • Mr/Ms ..., Deputy Mayor of Yokohama, Japan • Congress Youth Delegate (tbd) Debate
12.29	Adoption of the abridged report of the session of the chamber [CPL(2026)51-DEC]
12.30	Close of the session of the chamber by the president
12.30	EVENT:

Wednesday 28 October 2026

Chamber of Regions [EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP passive/TR/**UKR]

9.00-12.30, Room 1

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Wednesday 21 October 2026, 10.00*

9.00	Opening of the session of the chamber by the President of the Chamber Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (SOC/G/PD)
9.05	Adoption of the agenda of the chamber [CG(2026)51-OJ]
9.10	Election of the 7th Vice-President of the Chamber of Regions [deadline for candidatures: 7.00 Wednesday 28 October 2026] Presentation of the candidate(s) (3 minutes each) Vote Result of the election
9.20	Communication of the President of the Chamber
9.30	Regional Exodus in Europe: addressing the causes and creating new opportunities for rural communities Statement by: Monika KIRBIŠ ROJS, Minister of Local Self-Government, Cohesion and Regional Development, Slovenia Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Eke FOLKERTS, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE) and Urs JANETT, Switzerland (R, ILDG) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and draft recommendation [CPR(2026)51-]*
10.15	Statement by AEBR President (tbc) Exchange of views
10.45	Thematic debate: The role of regions in transfrontier co-operation [CPR(2026)51-] Statements by: - tbd - tbd - Congress Youth Delegate Debate
11.45	Thematic debate: Building regional democratic resilience in times of crisis [CPR(2026)51-] Statements by: - tbd - tbd - Congress Youth Delegate Debate
12.29	Adoption of the abridged report of the session of the Chamber [CPR(2026)51-DEC]
12.30	Close of the session of the Chamber by the President of the Chamber
12.30	EVENT:

Wednesday 28 October 2026

Plenary sitting [EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR/UKR**]

14.00-19.30, Hemicycle

* Deadline for tabling amendments: Wednesday 21 October 2026, 10.00

14.00	Adoption of the minutes of the sitting of the Congress on 27 October 2026 [CG(2026)51-PV-01am] [CG(2026)51-PV-01pm]
14.02	Adoption of texts approved by the chambers [CG(2026)51-06]
14.05	Presidency of Monaco of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (15 May – 10 November 2026) Statement by a representative of Monegasque authorities on behalf of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers Oral reply to written questions [CG(2026)51-xx] <i>Deadline for tabling written questions: Monday 26 October 2026, 16.00</i>
14.50	Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine: Follow-up to the Ukraine Recovery Conference (Gdansk, June 2026)** Statements by: • Sergii MARCHENKO, Minister of Finance, Ukraine (tbc) • Carlo MONTICELLI, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank • Mark BOWMAN, Vice-President for Policy and Partnerships, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Debate
16.20	Free to speak, free to meet: guaranteeing the rights of LGBTI persons in local communities Statement by a guest speaker (tbc) Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Helen BELCHER, United Kingdom (R, ILDG) and Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria (L, SOC/G/PD) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and the draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-]* 
17.30	Congress Rejuvenating Politics Initiative: presentation of the grassroots projects by the 2026 youth delegates [CG(2026)51-18] Introduction and conclusion: • YD1 • YD2 • YD3 Debate
18.30	Election observation missions Presentation of the reports: Early (and repeat) elections for the President of Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina (23 November 2025 and 8 February 2026), rapporteur: James MOLONEY, Ireland (L, ILDG) [CG(2026)51-xx]* Local elections in Iceland (16 May 2026), rapporteur: Mélanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG) [CG(2026)51-xx]* Local elections in the Netherlands (18 March 2026), rapporteur: Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE) [CG(2026)51-xx]* Partial Elections in 10 municipalities of Serbia (29 March 2026), rapporteur: Emvin BARTOLO, Malta (L, EPP/CCE) [CG(2026)51-xx]* Local Elections in England and elections for the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments (7 May 2026), rapporteur: Jani KOKKO (Finland, (L, SOC/G/PD) [CG(2026)51-xx]* Debate and vote on the draft recommendations 
19.30	Close of the sitting
20.00	EVENT: Reception offered by the City of Strasbourg – location tbc

Thursday 29 October 2026

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress

8.30-9.45, Room 10 [EN/FR/DE/IT]

Thursday 29 October 2026

Plenary sitting [EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR]

10.00-12.30, Hemicycle

* *Deadline for tabling amendments: Thursday 22 October 2026, 10.00*

10.00	Adoption of the minutes of the sessions of the chambers and of the sitting of the Congress on 28 October 2026 [CPL(2026)51-PV] [CPR(2026)51-PV] and [CG(2026)51-PV-02]	
10.05	Third party intervention before the European Court of Human Rights in case n° 37204/25 Presentation by the rapporteur: Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria (L, SOC/G/PD) Debate and vote on the draft resolution [CG(2026)51-xx]*	
10.50	Contested memories: how local and regional authorities can manage controversial cultural heritage Statements by: • Christophe KAMP, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities • Daniela ANGELINI, Mayor of Riccione, Italy Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Keith BROWN, United Kingdom (R, ILDG) and Anita SCHNEIDER, Germany (L, SOC/G/PD) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and the draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-xx]*	
11.45	Monitoring of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Switzerland Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Janni KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD) Katrien PARTYKA, Belgium (R, EPP/CCE) Debate and vote on the draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-xx]* Statement by Beat JANS, Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP), Switzerland (tbc) Questions	
12.29	Adoption of the abridged report of the 51st Session [CG(2026)51-DEC]	
12.30	Close of the 51st Session by the President of the Congress	

MEMBERS' ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO:

- Electronic voting: votes in the plenary sittings will be held using the electronic voting system for all representatives or duly designated substitutes who registered for the session before **16 October 2026**.
 - Participants are reminded that access to the hemicycle is strictly limited to holders of badges which indicate the specific hemicycle symbol.
 - The conditions and deadlines for tabling amendments (congress.session@coe.int): at the latest at **10.00, 7 days before** the day when the texts to which they refer are to be discussed. Amendments must be signed by 5 delegates from at least two delegations for texts debated in plenary sittings or by five delegates from at least two national delegations sitting in a chamber for texts debated in that chamber.
 - Registration of speakers: the registration of speakers for the debates should be done directly in Congress Connect.
 - **Finance Office:** Office 1140
 - **Table office** for any other question: Offices 1155A
 - **SPEAKING TIMES APPLIED IN THE DEBATES -
Rule 30 paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress**
 6. Speaking time for delegates is limited as follows:
 - a. Single rapporteurs presenting reports: ten minutes;
 - b. Co-rapporteurs presenting reports: six minutes each;
 - c. Single rapporteurs replying to debates: five minutes;
 - d. Co-rapporteurs replying to debates: three minutes each;
 - e. Chairs of committees replying to debates (at their request): three minutes;
 - f. Other speakers (except on personal statements; on setting the agenda; on any procedural question or on amendments): three minutes;
 - g. Speakers on personal statements; on setting the agenda; on any procedural question or on amendments or sub-amendments: one minute.
 7. When sufficient time is not available for all speakers to be heard for the times provided under Rule 30.6, the President may decide that speaking time will be reduced or that not all those who have entered their name in the register may speak.
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