

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2025)68-DEC
15 December 2025

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress Paris, France Monday 15 December 2025

Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken

1. The President of the Congress, Mr Marc COOLS, opened the meeting. The list of participants is set out in Appendix 1.
2. The Bureau adopted the agenda as set out in Appendix 2.
3. The Bureau took note of the communication by the President of the Congress.
4. The Bureau took note of the communication by the Secretary General of the Congress.
5. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and took note of the update on the contribution of the Congress to reforms in the field of decentralisation and the multilevel governance and recovery and reconstruction in Ukraine.
6. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget of the Congress.
7. The Bureau took note of the state of play as regards the renewal of delegations as from March 2026, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)77REV. It examined the changes to official appointments procedures set out in document CG-BUR(2025)68-78 and the changes to the reference list of mandates set out in document CG-BUR(2025)68-80, on which it would report to the Congress at its 50th Session in accordance with Rules 1.2 and 3.7 of the Rules and Procedures.

As regards the current Congress delegations, it took note of the modifications to the composition of the national delegations as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)68-89.
8. The Bureau took note of the information on the New Democratic Pact for Europe as set out in the document CG-BUR(2025)68-79 and various Congress news items, and of the detailed report of the event entitled "The Local Self-Government Charter turns 40: Renewing Democracy in the Digital Age", co-organised with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and held in Brussels on 13 October 2025.
9. The Bureau held an exchange of views on the Congress priorities for 2026-2031 and confirmed Cecilia Dalman Eek, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD) and Bernd Vöhringer, Germany (L, EPP/CCE) as Bureau Rapporteurs. Members were invited to continue to send their written contributions to the Secretariat.
10. The Bureau took note of the schedule of meetings for the 50th Session as set out in document CG(2025)50-01 and approved the preliminary draft agenda of the session as set out in document CG(2025)50-OJ.

It took note of the high level of interest generated by the call for applications for youth delegates for 2026.

11. The Bureau approved the draft Administrative Rule on youth delegates as set out in document CG(2025)68-81.

12. The Bureau took note of the activities of the committees. It approved the new terms of reference for activities of the Governance Committee, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)68-86.

The Bureau authorised the Social Inclusion Committee to hold a meeting in Kouvola, Finland, on 9 June 2026, subject to the acceptance by the Committee at its meeting of 16 December 2025, of the invitation addressed to it on 12 December 2025.

13. The Bureau took note of the updated information on the missions, meetings and statements of the Standing Rapporteurs on human rights as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)68-90 .

It decided that possible appointments to current vacant posts of Congress Bureau rapporteurs, thematic spokespersons and representatives in external bodies could be approved by the three Presidents.

14. The Bureau took note of the information regarding Congress activities in respect of local and regional elections.

15. The Bureau held an exchange of views on the situation in Georgia and Türkiye.

The Bureau took note of the assessment of the participation of representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces in Congress sessions and meetings as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)68-83 and approved the decision as set out in Appendix 3 to the present abridged report.

It took note of the information relevant to the activities of the Russian democratic forces.

16. The Bureau took note of the information on partner and observer status with the Congress as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)68-84 and, taking into account inter alia the lack of recent activities with the China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA), decided to withdraw its guest observer status with the Congress. It took note of the information relevant to the activities with Congress institutional and external partners as set out in document CG(2025)68-91.

17. The Bureau took note of the co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions.

18. The Bureau took note of the conclusions of the Informal Ministerial Conference on migration issues (10 December 2025). The Bureau took note of the stocktaking of the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and the priorities of the Republic of Moldova's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. It also took note of the information regarding the latest developments concerning the work of CDDEM and CDDH.

19. The Bureau took note of the information on the contribution of the Congress to the World Forum for Democracy, held on 5-7 November 2025, in particular in the fields of local initiatives to revitalise democracy and of artificial intelligence.

20. The Bureau took note of the Calendar of Bureau meetings and sessions in 2026, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)68-85 and the Calendar of sessions in 2027, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)85-87.

21. The Bureau took note of the information on relations with former Congress members.

22. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting, as set out in document CG-BUR(2025)68-DEC.

Appendix 1 – List of participants

Members of the Bureau

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG), President of the Congress
 Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD), President of the Chamber of Regions
 Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE) President of the Chamber of Local Authorities
 Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)
 Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)
 David ERAY, Switzerland (R, EPP/CCE)
 Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD)
 Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG)
 Randi MONDORF, Denmark (R, ILDG)
 Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia (L, EPP/CCE)
 Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)
 Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)
 Güneş PEHLIVAN, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD)
 Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)
 Stephen SULTANA, Malta (R, SOC/G/PD)
 Alexander BOOMGAARS, Netherlands (L, SOC/G/PD)

Chairs of committees

Soeren SCHUMACHER, Germany (R, SOC/G/PD), 1st Vice Chair of the Monitoring Committee
 Paolo BELTRAMINELLI, Switzerland (L, PPE/CCE), 1st Vice Chair of the Governance Committee
 Nazia REHMAN, United Kingdom (R, SOC/G/PD), Chair of the Committee on Social Inclusion and Human Dignity

Presidents of Congress political groups

Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE)
 Bryony RUDKIN, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD)
 Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (L, ILDG)

Secretariat

Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress
 Claudia LUCIANI, Director of the Congress
 Daniel POPESCU, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions
 Stéphanie POIREL, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities
 Sarah BURTON, Head of the Table Office and Secretary of the Bureau
 Euan RODDIN, Head of the Statutory Activities Division
 Katyana VASILEVA, Assistant to the Table Office
 Sanja LESKOVAC, Assistant to the Table Office

Appendix 2 – Agenda

1. **Opening of the meeting**
2. **Adoption of the agenda** CG-BUR(2025)68-OJ
[CG-BUR\(2025\)67-DEC](#) *Dec.
Info.*
3. **Communication by the President of the Congress**

Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress [CG-BUR\(2025\)68-75](#) *Info.*
4. **Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress**

Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress [CG-BUR\(2025\)68-76](#) *Info.*
5. **Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine**

Recent developments *Info.*
6. **Budget of the Congress** *Info.*
7. **National delegations**

Rapporteurs:
Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)
Martine DIESCHBURG-NICKELS, Luxembourg (L, ILDG)
- 7.1 Renewal of delegations: state of play **11.12** [CG-BUR\(2025\)68-77REV](#) *Dec.*
- 7.2 Changes to official nomination procedures [CG-BUR\(2025\)68-78](#) *Dec.*
- 7.3 Changes to the reference list of mandates **12.12** [CG-BUR\(2025\)68-80](#) *Dec.*
- 7.4 Modifications of the composition of national delegations [CG-BUR\(2025\)68-89](#) *Dec.*
8. **New Democratic Pact for Europe**

Rapporteur:
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE) [CG-BUR\(2025\)68-79](#)
[Report \(CEMR\)](#)
[News 13.10](#), [News 19.11](#),
[News 20.11](#), [News 26.11](#) *Info.
Info.
Info.
Info.*
9. **Congress priorities 2026-2031**
- 9.1 Exchange of views [CG\(2023\)45-12 - Extract](#) *Info.*

9.2	Appointment of Bureau rapporteurs on the Congress priorities 2026-2031		Dec.
10.	50th Session of the Congress, 31 March-2 April 2026		
10.1	Schedule of meetings	CG(2025)50-01	Info.
10.2	Approval of the preliminary draft agenda and appointment of rapporteurs	12.12 CG(2025)50-OJREV	Dec.
10.3	Call for applications for youth delegates for 2026	News	Info.
11.	Draft Administrative Rule on youth delegates		
	Rapporteurs: Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD) Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE)	12.12 CG-BUR(2025)68-81	Dec.
12.	Activities of the Committees	10.12 CG-BUR(2025)68-86REV CG-SOC(2025)4 OJ rev prov	Dec. Info.
13.	Standing rapporteurs on human rights, thematic spokespersons and representatives of the Congress in external bodies		
13.1	Activities and missions of standing rapporteurs on human rights	CG-BUR(2025)68-90	Info.
13.2	[Possible] Appointments to vacant positions	CG-BUR(2025)68-82	Dec.
14.	Local and regional elections	Calendar	Info.
15.	Local and regional democracy		Info.
15.1	Georgia		Info.
15.2	Türkiye		Info.
15.3	Participation of representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces in Congress sessions and meetings Rapporteur: Cecila DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD)	11.12 CG-BUR(2025)68-83	Dec.
15.4	Russian democratic forces		Info.
16.	Partner and observer status with the Congress	CG-BUR(2025)68-84 CG-BUR(2025)68-91	Dec. Info.

17.	Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions		<i>Info.</i>
18.	Intergovernmental sector		
18.1	Informal Ministerial Conference on issues related to migration (10 December 2025)	Conclusions	<i>Info.</i>
18.2	Stocktaking of the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (14 May – 14 November 2025)	CM/Inf(2025)14	<i>Info.</i>
18.3	Priorities of the Republic of Moldova's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (14 November 2025 – 15 May 2026)	CM/Inf(2025)15	<i>Info.</i>
18.4	CDDH meeting of 24-27 November 2025	Abridged report	<i>Info.</i>
18.5	CDDEM meeting of 26-28 November 2025	CDDEM(2025)25E	<i>Info.</i>
19.	World Forum for Democracy (5-7 November 2025)		
	Congress contribution to the World Forum for Democracy 2025	News	<i>Info.</i>
20.	Congress sessions and Bureau meetings		
20.1	[Possible] Invitations to hold Bureau meetings outside Strasbourg or Paris	Invitation	<i>Dec.</i>
20.2	Calendar of sessions and Bureau meetings in 2026	CG-BUR(2025)68-85	<i>Info.</i>
20.3	Calendar of sessions in 2027	CG-BUR(2025)68-87	<i>Dec.</i>
21.	Relations with former Congress members	Document	<i>Info.</i>
22.	Other business		<i>Info.</i>
23.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2025)68-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>

Close of the meeting

Date and place of next meeting:
Chişinău, Tuesday 17 February 2026

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Appendix 3

Participation of representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces in Congress sessions and meetings in 2026 and 2027

The Bureau decided as follows:

- i. to renew the invitation to the representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces already appointed from among the members of the Co-ordination Council elected on 25-27 May 2024 to participate in its 50th Session;
- ii. to invite the Co-ordination Council to appoint from among its members to be elected in May 2026 three representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces to attend the subsequent sessions of the Congress and its Chambers to be held in 2026 and 2027 and the committee meetings held during these sessions; three substitutes may also be appointed, each of whom may replace a representative should the need arise;
- iii. in making these appointments, the Co-ordination Council shall ensure fair representation of the political parties, groups or factions within the Co-ordination Council and shall include amongst the representatives and amongst the substitutes at least one member of the gender that is less well represented in the Co-ordination Council;
- iv. the Co-ordination Council shall transmit the list of persons appointed following the May 2026 elections to the President of the Congress by the closing date for registration for the first session of the Congress following their election;
- v. the representatives, or the substitutes duly replacing them, shall have the right to speak in the above-mentioned sessions, subject to the consent of the President of the Congress or of the relevant Chamber, and in the above-mentioned committee meetings, subject to the consent of the chairperson of the committee; they shall not have the right to vote;
- vi. the Co-ordination Council may appoint one secretary/advisor to assist the representatives and substitutes, who may accompany them to sessions and committee meetings, without the right to speak or vote;
- vii. the representatives of Belarusian democratic forces may participate in meetings of the political groups of the Congress at the discretion of the groups themselves and according to the conditions established by the groups;
- viii. the representatives of Belarusian democratic forces may be included in election observation missions;
- ix. travel and subsistence expenses arising from the participation of the representatives and, if applicable, their secretary/advisor, shall not be charged to the ordinary budget of the Congress;
- x. the Bureau agreed to the proposal to allow for the appointment of a youth delegate in respect of the democratic forces of Belarus as from 2026 and took note that their travel and subsistence expenses would be covered by the democratic forces of Belarus;
- xi. the Bureau shall take stock of the implementation of this decision in December 2027, or earlier should this be considered necessary, with a view, as appropriate, to its renewal or modification or to the termination of the above arrangements.