

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2026)72-DEC
18 June 2026

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress Monaco Thursday 18 June 2026

Abridged report – List of items discussed and decisions taken

1. The Bureau of the Congress heard opening speeches by the Mayor of Monaco, Georges Marsan, and the President of the Congress, Gunn Marit Helgesen.
2. The Bureau heard a statement from Lionel Beffre, Minister of the Interior of Monaco, followed by an exchange of views with the Minister and with Georges Marsan, Mayor of Monaco, and Marjorie Crovetto, 2nd Deputy Mayor of Monaco.
3. The President opened the Bureau meeting. The list of participants is set out in Appendix 1. The Bureau adopted the revised agenda as set out in Appendix 2.
4. The Bureau took note of the communication by the President of the Congress.
5. The Bureau took note of the communication by the Secretary General of the Congress.
6. The Bureau pursued its discussion on the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine. It reiterated its solidarity with Ukraine and took note of the information provided regarding the contribution of the Congress to reforms in the field of decentralisation and multilevel governance.
7. The Bureau took note of the 2026 Annual Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, entitled "The New Democratic Pact for Europe in times of rupture". It welcomed the active contribution of the Congress to the New Democratic Pact and took note of recent activities carried out in this context and of future events planned.
8. The Bureau took note of ongoing work on the Congress Priorities 2026-2031; members were invited to provide their written contributions, if any, to the rapporteurs in writing.
9. The Bureau approved the changes to the composition of national delegations set out in document CG-BUR(2026)72-36. It also took note that the delegations of France, Iceland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom must be renewed prior to the 51st session of the Congress in October 2026, following local and regional elections held in these countries shortly before or shortly after the Congress renewal session of March 2026.
10. The Bureau held an exchange of views on the information on gender equality within the Congress, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)72-37, and agreed to include this matter in its 2026-2031 priorities, alongside the promotion of gender equality at local and regional levels in member States.
11. The Bureau took note of the information on the budget of the Congress.
12. The Bureau took note of the schedule of meetings for the 51st Session as set out in document CG(2026)51-01 and approved the preliminary draft agenda of the Session as set out in document CG(2026)51-OJ.

The Bureau examined the possible modifications to speaking arrangements for plenary and chamber debates set out in document CG-BUR(2026)72-38 and decided to pursue these discussions at its next meeting.

13. The Bureau took note of the workplans and the activities of the Committees. It approved new terms of reference for an activity of the Social Inclusion Committee, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)72-47.

The Bureau authorised the committees to hold meetings outside Strasbourg and Paris in 2027 as follows, subject to the availability of funds:

- Monitoring Committee: Bar, Montenegro, in the framework of Montenegro's presidency of the Committee of Ministers, February 2027;
- Governance Committee: Greece, June/July 2027;
- Social Inclusion Committee; Mudanya, Türkiye, June/July 2027.

14. The Bureau took note of the information regarding Congress activities in respect of the observation of local and regional elections. It took note of the invitations received to observe the local elections in Sweden and in Czechia in September and October 2026 respectively, and of the fact that local or regional elections are also foreseen in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Gagauzia, Republic of Moldova, in 2026. It agreed to accept the invitation of Sweden, to prioritise in its planning the observation of elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Gagauzia, and to accept the invitation of Czechia subject to the availability of funds.

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

16. The Bureau took note that a monitoring visit would be carried out to Georgia in the week of 22 June 2026.

The Bureau took note of the situation of local democracy in Türkiye, following the fact-finding visit carried out on 9-11 February 2026 to Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara by the then President of the Congress, Marc Cools, the rapporteur on local democracy in Türkiye, Bryony Rudkin, and the then Standing Rapporteur on Human Rights, Gudrun Mosler-Törnström. It decided to request the authorisation of the European Court on Human Rights to submit written observations through a third-party intervention in case no. 37204/25 and to entrust the Monitoring Committee with the task of preparing and approving a preliminary draft resolution in this respect, for submission to the Congress for adoption at its 51st Session in October.

The Bureau took note of the recent activities of its rapporteur for a democratic Belarus, Belinda Gottardi.

17. The Bureau decided to request the approval of the Parliamentary Assembly for the appointment of a Local Democratic Delegate Member to its Platform for Dialogue with Russian democratic forces and agreed to maintain informal contacts with representatives of Russian democratic forces in exile.

18. The Bureau took note of the information regarding missions, meetings and statements of the Standing Rapporteurs on Human Rights, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)72-45.

It approved several appointments to vacant functions of Bureau rapporteurs, thematic spokespersons and representatives in external bodies. The current distribution of these functions is as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)72-40rev.

19. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the European Local Democracy Action (ELDA) as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)72-39.

20. The Bureau took note of the information regarding the European Label of Governance Excellence) ELoGE.

21. The Bureau took note of the information concerning the work of the Parliamentary Assembly.

22. The Bureau took note of the priorities of the Monegasque Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (15 May – 10 November 2026) and of information regarding the recent work of the CDDEM.

23. The Bureau took note of the calendar of Bureau meetings and sessions in 2026, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)72-41, and of Congress statutory meetings in 2026, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)72-42. It took note of the session dates in 2027 and of the tentative dates for Bureau meetings in 2027, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)72-43.

24. The Bureau adopted the present abridged report of the meeting, as set out in document CG-BUR(2026)72-DEC.

Appendix 1 – List of participants

Members of the Bureau

Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE), President of the Congress
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD)
Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE)
Belinda GOTTARDI, Italy (L, SOC/G/PD)
Randi MONDORF, Denmark (R, GILD)
Mihkel JUHKAMI, Estonia (L, PPE/CCE)
Stephen SULTANA, Malta (R, SOC/G/PD)
Oksana DERKACH, Ukraine (L, EPP/CCE)
Stefan FASSBINDER, Germany (L, SOC/V/DP)
Sinem DEDETAS, Türkiye (R, SOC/G/PD)
Melanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG)
Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)
Richard VERES, Czechia (L, PfE)

Outgoing President

Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG)

Committee Chairs

Kristoffer TAMSONS, Sweden (R, EPP/CCE), Chair of the Monitoring Committee
Bernadette GEIEREGGER, Austria (L, EPP/CCE), Chair of the Governance Committee
Rachel BAILEY, United Kingdom (R, CRE), 1st Vice-Chair of the Social Inclusion Committee

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)
Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, ECR)
Anna MAGYAR, Hungary (R, PfE)

Secretariat

Mathieu MORI, Secretary General of the Congress
Claudia LUCIANI, Director of the Congress
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**

Opening addresses by:

- Georges Marsan, Mayor of Monaco
- Gunn Marit Helgesen, President of the Congress

2. Exchange of views with representatives of the national and local authorities of Monaco*Info.*

- Lionel Beffre, Minister of the Interior, Monaco
- Georges Marsan, Mayor of Monaco
- Marjorie Crovetto, 2nd Deputy Mayor of Monaco

3. [10:30] Adoption of the agenda

CG-BUR(2026)72-OJ
[CG-BUR\(2026\)71-DEC](#)

Dec.
Info.

4. Communication by the President of the Congress

Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress

[CG-BUR\(2026\)72-33](#)

*Info.***5. Communication by the Secretary General of the Congress**

Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress

[CG-BUR\(2026\)72-34](#)

*Info.***6. Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine**

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Recent developments

*Info.***7. New Democratic Pact for Europe**

7.1 2026 Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

[link](#)

Info.

7.2 Update on Congress activities as a contribution to the New Democratic Pact

[CG-BUR\(2026\)72-44](#)

Info.

7.3 Forthcoming events

[World Forum for Democracy
2026 2-4 Nov](#)

*Info.***8. Congress Priorities 2026-2031**

Rapporteurs:

Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)
 Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD)

Info.

9. National delegations

Rapporteurs:
 Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR)
 Mélanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG)

Changes in the composition of national delegations [CG-BUR\(2026\)72-36](#) *Dec.*

10. Gender equality in the Congress [CG-BUR\(2026\)72-37](#) *Dec.*

11. Budget of the Congress *Info.*

12. 51st Session of the Congress, 27-29 October 2026

12.1 Schedule of meetings [CG\(2026\)51-01](#) *Info.*

12.2 Approval of the preliminary draft agenda **18.06** [CG\(2026\)51-OJrev](#) *Dec.*

12.3 Speaking arrangements for plenary and chamber debates [CG-BUR\(2026\)72-38](#) *Dec.*

13. Activities of the Committees

13.1 Approval of terms of reference for committee activities **15.06** [CG-BUR\(2026\)72-47](#) *Dec.*

13.2 Workplans [Invitation letter](#) *Dec.*
[Letter from the Greek delegation to the Congress](#) *Dec.*
[Workplan MON](#) *Info.*
[Workplan GOV](#) *Info.*
[Workplan SOC](#) *Info.*

14. Local and regional elections [link](#) *Info.*

15. Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions *Info.*

16. Local and regional democracy *Info.*

16.1 Georgia

16.2 Türkiye Confidential
CG-MON(2026)23prov *Info.*

16.3 Democratic forces of Belarus

17. Russian democratic forces in exile [CG-BUR\(2026\)72-46](#) *Dec.*
[Resolution 2621 \(2025\)](#) *Info.*

18.	Bureau rapporteurs, thematic spokespersons and Congress representatives in external bodies		
18.1	Missions, meetings and statements of the Standing Rapporteurs on human rights	CG-BUR(2026)72-45	<i>Info.</i>
18.2	Appointments to vacant functions	18.06 CG-BUR(2026)72-40rev	<i>Dec.</i>
19.	European Local Democracy Action (ELDA)	CG-BUR(2026)72-39	<i>Info.</i>
20.	ELoGE (European Label of Governance Excellence)		<i>Info.</i>
21.	Parliamentary Assembly	Communication from the President of the CM	<i>Info.</i>
22.	Intergovernmental sector		
22.1	CDDEM – oral report of 5th plenary meeting (8-10 June 2026, Strasbourg / hybrid)		<i>Info.</i>
22.2	Priorities of the Monegasque Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (15 May 2026 – 10 November 2026)	CM/Inf(2026)16	<i>Info.</i>
23.	Congress sessions and Bureau meetings		
23.1	Calendar of sessions and Bureau meetings in 2026	CG-BUR(2026)72-41	<i>Info.</i>
23.2	Congress meetings in 2026	CG-BUR(2026)72-42	<i>Info.</i>
23.3	Calendar of sessions and Bureau meetings in 2027	CG-BUR(2026)72-43	<i>Info.</i>
24.	Other business		<i>Info.</i>
25.	Adoption of the abridged report of the meeting	CG-BUR(2026)72-DEC	<i>Dec.</i>

Close of the meeting

Dates and places of next meetings:

- **Strasbourg, Friday 11 September 2026**
- **Strasbourg, Monday 26 and Thursday 29 October 2026**
- **Strasbourg, Tuesday 8 December 2026**

to contact the Congress Bureau Secretariat

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