

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2020)33-INF24

22 April 2020

**Decisions taken by the Bureau after its meeting of 3 February 2020,
effective as of:**

- 10 April 2020**
- 21 April 2020**

This document is for information and will be regularly updated.

1. The Bureau of the Congress, consulted by e-mail on 27 March 2020, decided on 10 April 2020 by written procedure, concerning:

- **the summary of decisions of the previous meeting (Paris, 3 February 2020) [CG/BUR31(2020)DEC]:** to adopt and circulate the document to all members of Congress, the Secretaries of delegations and the Permanent Representations;
- **LGBTI+ discrimination – Poland [CG-BUR(2020)32-12]:** to forward the letter to the Current Affairs Committee for the report on “the role and responsibilities of local government in protecting LGBTI+ persons in the context of rising extremism and homophobia” to be presented for adoption at the 40th Congress Session, currently provisionally scheduled for 23-25 March 2021;
- **the request for patronage by the Metz Marathon Association [CG-BUR(2020)32-13]:** to confirm the renewal of the Congress patronage;
- **the national delegations [CG-BUR(2020)32-14]:** to approve the changes to the composition of the national delegations of Andorra, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and to the official procedure of Switzerland;

2. The Bureau of the Congress, consulted by e-mail on 7 April 2020, decided on 21 April 2020 by written procedure [CG-BUR(2020)33-17], concerning:

- **the renewal of the Congress [CG-BUR(2020)33-INF22]:**
 - to ask the Committee of Ministers to agree to allow member States to submit proposals for the new Congress delegations until 31 December 2020 and to extend the current mandate of Congress members until the spring 2021 Session (currently provisionally scheduled for 23-25 March 2021).
- **the elections of the Vice-Presidents of the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities [CG-BUR(2020)33-INF23]:**
 - to postpone the elections of the Vice-Presidents of the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to the next session or, if this is impossible due to extraordinary circumstances, when a system of electronic voting guaranteeing universal suffrage with the requisite security and confidentiality requirements is available;
 - to instruct the secretariat to inform the members of the Chamber of Local Authorities in September 2020 about the deadlines for presenting candidatures and the voting process for the election of the vacant positions of Vice-Presidents of the Chamber of Local Authorities;
 - to hold the election of the Secretary General of the Congress at the next session of the Congress - postponed from the 38th Session;
 - to ask the President to inform the Secretary General of the Council of Europe that the election will be put on the agenda of the autumn 2020 session and to request that the current Secretary General of the Congress be entrusted with this position ad interim until 31 December 2020, so that the functioning of the secretariat is guaranteed;
 - to instruct the secretariat to continue examining proposals for a fully inclusive electronic voting system with a view to its future use and to include compulsory identification parameters of members for electronic voting in the Who's Who database in full respect of the relevant data protection criteria including the Council of Europe's guidelines.

➔ **the functioning of the Congress:**

- to invite the President to ask the Committee of Ministers to apply a flexible approach in implementing the biennial budget for 2020 and 2021 and to enable carry-over appropriations to 2021 on the basis of an updated work programme.
- to instruct the secretariat
 - to look into possibilities for holding remote meetings (Bureau, committees) including remote approval of reports and adoption of recommendations and resolutions and the application of the current interpretation scheme, and
 - to liaise with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Committee of the Regions to ascertain the most secure and user-friendly technology.