

46th SESSION
CG(2024)46-21
25 March 2024
Draft programme

30th anniversary of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Wednesday 27 March 2024, 17.30, Hemicycle of the European Parliament

Opening

Marc COOLS, President of the Congress

Sabine MONAUNI, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, Economy and Environment, Liechtenstein

Vasco Alves CORDEIRO, President of the European Committee of the Regions
(video message)

Musical Interlude

Passions Croisées:

Céline MELLON (soprano) Damien GASTL (baritone) and Hugo DEGORRE (accordion)

Round Table: “New challenges ahead: is local democracy fit for purpose?”

Moderated by Annette GERLACH, journalist, ARTE

Dominique FAURE, Minister with responsibility for Local Government and Rural Affairs, attached to the Minister for Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, France

Josep DALLERÈS, member of the Council of Europe High-Level Reflection Group, former Ambassador to the Council of Europe, Andorra

Danela ARSOVSKA, Mayor of Skopje, North Macedonia

José Manuel RIBEIRO, Mayor of Valongo, Portugal

Željko VUKŠA-FEJZIĆ, 2023 Youth Delegate to the Congress, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Debate

Close

Moderator

Biography of Annette Gerlach - ARTE Journalist



Born in Berlin, Annette Gerlach lives in France where she is a well-known journalist and TV host for the European Culture Channel ARTE. She has been a trilingual news anchor for the last 25 years, specialising in live Arts events on ARTE. She has presented live from the Cannes and Berlin Film Festivals together with music events in prestigious settings such as Scala di Milano, Fenice in Venice, Berliner Philharmonie, Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, Opéra Garnier and Bastille in Paris, Salzburger Festspiele, Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg, Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow or the Savonlinna Festival in Finland. She is also responsible for the development of Educ'ARTE in Germany, an online tool for schools. Annette Gerlach regularly

presents symposiums, round tables and award ceremonies for the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and other institutions and associations, both on stage or online. This experience also makes her a valued public speaking coach. copyright picture : ARTE TV

Opening speeches

Biography of Marc Cools - President of the Congress



Marc Cools was elected President of the Congress in October 2023. Born on 1 January 1956 in Etterbeek, Belgium, Marc Cools, married, father of three daughters was the Vice-President of the Congress from 2012 to 2014.

Graduate in a commercial engineering degree from the Solvay Business School at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, he becomes Administrative secretary at the Fonds Belgo-Congolais d'Amortissement et de Gestion in 1980 and 1981, Economic adviser to the Minister for the Brussels Region from 1981 to 1985 and then Adviser to the Study Department of the Belgian Ministry of Finance from 1985 to 1989.

He was elected as a member of the Brussels Parliament from 1989 to 2004, become Honorary Vice-President of the Brussels Parliament, Deputy mayor of Uccle from 1990 to 2018 and he is Local councillor for Uccle since 1986. He also presided Brulocalis (Association of Town and Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region) from 2005 to 2019 and the Union of Belgian Towns and Municipalities from 2005 to 2006, from 2010 to 2012 and from 2016 to 2018. Marc Cools equally is Leader of the Uccle En Avant group at Uccle Municipal Council since 2018.

Since December 2005, he is Member of the Congress and he was Rapporteur on local democracy for Austria, Spain, Ukraine, Switzerland, Latvia, Hungary, Cyprus, Moldova and Romania and Rapporteur for Congress rules and procedures and he Participated in local election observation missions in Denmark, Ukraine and Moldova. From 2014 to 2023, Marc Cools was Chairman of the Independent and Liberal Democrat Group at the Congress, from 2013 to 2015 Vice-Chairman of the Belgian delegation to the Congress and Chairman of that delegation from 2015 to 2017.

He is a currently Board member for several economic development companies, non-profit associations with a social vocation and Author of several books, including "Le défi bruxellois"; "Morale et réalisation de soi"; "La politique pourquoi et comment?" and "Pensées pour moi-même".

Opening speeches

Biography of Sabine Monauni - Deputy Prime Minister of Lichtenstein



Sabine Monauni (born 10 April 1974) is a politician from Liechtenstein who has served as the Deputy Prime Minister of Liechtenstein since 2021.

She was the ambassador of Liechtenstein to Belgium and the European Union from July 2016 until 2021

In August 2020 she was chosen as leader of the Progressive Citizens' Party. The party took a joint-best ten seats in the 2021 general election. As of March 25, 2021, she is the Deputy Prime Minister of Liechtenstein also taking on the portfolio of minister of home affairs. She is an advocate for climate protection in Liechtenstein.

Opening speeches

Biography of Vasco Alves Cordeiro - President of the European Committee of the Regions



Vasco Alves Cordeiro was elected President of the European Committee of the Regions in June 2022. He was the First Vice-President of the institution from February 2020 to June 2022.

Born in the Azores, an autonomous region of Portugal and an EU outermost region, on 28 March 1973, Vasco Alves Cordeiro, lawyer, married and father of two children, is a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of the Azores.

A graduate in law from the University of Coimbra and with a postgraduate degree in regional law from the University of Lisbon and University of the Azores, Vasco Alves Cordeiro began his professional career as a lawyer in the Azores in 1995 where he

practiced until 2003.

In 1996, he was elected for the first time as a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of the Azores for the Socialist Party, and led the socialist group in the regional parliament between 2000 and 2003.

Since then, he has held several positions in the regional executive, including Regional Secretary of Economy (2008-2012), Regional Secretary of the Presidency (2004-2008), responsible for European and External Affairs, and Regional Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries (2003-2004).

In 2012, he was elected President of the Regional Government of the Azores for the first time, a position for which he was re-elected in 2016, and, in that capacity, represented the region at European and international level as a member of the European Committee of the Regions, and organisations such as the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions of Europe, the Conference of Presidents of the EU Outermost Regions, the Assembly of the Regions of Europe, R20 – Regions of Climate Action, and in the framework of relations with countries that host Azorean communities, including the USA, Canada and Brazil. From 2014 to 2020, he was President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe.

Round table participant

Biography of Dominique Faure - Minister Delegate for Territorial Collectivities, France



Dominique Faure, born August 28, 1959 in Carcassonne (Aude), is a French politician. A member of the Radical Party, she was elected deputy for the 10th constituency of Haute-Garonne in the 2022 legislative elections. In November 2022, she was promoted to Minister Delegate for Territorial Collectivities, replacing Caroline Cayeux.

Biography

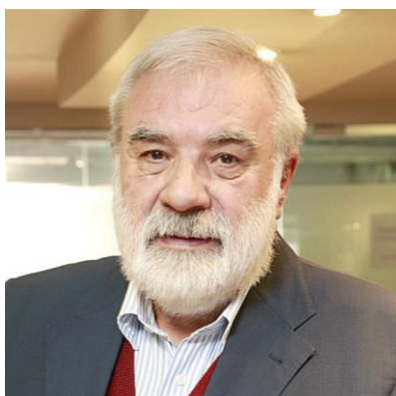
Born in Carcassonne, Dominique Faure grew up in Morocco before moving to France at the age of 17 to take up tennis at a high level, at the same time as her studies. She went on to become French cadet champion, then No. 12 senior French player, while training as an engineer at INSA (Institut national des sciences appliquées) in Lyon and completing an MBA at HEC in Paris. She worked for a number of major groups (IBM, Motorola, SFR, Veolia), before heading up a human resources consultancy. After putting her professional career on hold for a few years to devote herself to politics, in 2019 she will become an expert consultant for major corporations.

Political career

After a career in the private sector, she joined the Radical Party in 2012 and was nominated as the center-right candidate in the 10th constituency of Haute-Garonne for the 2012 legislative elections. In 2014, she ran for mayor of Saint-Orens-de-Gameville against the outgoing Communist mayor, winning the election with 54.5% of the vote. She also became vice-president of Toulouse Métropole. She ran again for the Radical Party in the 2017 legislative elections. She joined La République en marche at the end of 2017, while continuing to be a member of the Radical Party. She is re-elected mayor in 2020 in the first round with 54.5% of the vote. She was elected deputy Ensemble on June 19, 2022, in the tenth constituency of Haute-Garonne. At the French National Assembly, she is a member of the Economic Affairs Committee. On July 4, 2022, she was appointed Secretary of State for Rural Affairs in the Borne government. She was replaced by Serge Jop as mayor of Saint-Orens-de-Gameville from July 7, 2022. Finally, in November 2022, she was promoted to Minister Delegate for Territorial Collectivities, replacing Caroline Cayeux. She also kept her Rural Affairs portfolio under Christophe Béchu.

Round table participant

Biography of Josep Dallerès Codina - former Ambassador of Andorra to the Council of Europe



Josep Dallerès Codina was born on February 14, 1949, and is an Andorran politician. He is a member of the Social Democratic Party of Andorra and has served as the General Syndic of Andorra from January 19, 1994, to March 10, 1997, and again from 2009 to 2011.

Josep is an accomplished individual with a background in education, having been an ancient professor of letters and arts plastiques. He is also an author and a member of the General Council of the Principality of Andorra.

In addition to his political career, Josep Dallerès also has extensive experience in the institutional, political, and diplomatic spheres. He served as the president of the National Commission of Andorra in UNESCO and was the official representative of the Principality to the Council of Europe from 2011 to 2015. He holds a degree in the Humanities and has been engaged in teaching. He is also the author of several literary publications.

Round table participant

Biography of Danela Arsovska - Mayor of Skopje, North Macedonia



Mayor Arsovska was elected as Mayor of Skopje in 2021. Back in 2014, she was voted in as President of the Macedonian Chambers of Commerce, the union of national chambers of commerce, where she served until the 2021 Mayor election. She was appointed Chair of the Macedonian Union of Employers' Organizations in 2015 and was representative of the National Council for European integration in the Parliament since 2016.

Moreover, Mayor Arsovska holds high-level positions in international intergovernmental organizations and a range of expert positions, for instance, served on the Panel at The World Bank ICSID in Washington, USA, and was appointed a Court Member at the OSCE Court of Council and Arbitration in Geneva Switzerland.

She has been awarded as 'Best Business Woman Role Model' of Southeast Europe in 2018 by the World Business Angels Investment Forum and was given recognition for her special contribution to entrepreneurship development during the 6th edition of the Entrepreneurs Summit of Southeast Europe.

Round table participant

Biography of José Manuel Ribeiro - Mayor of Valongo, Portugal



José Manuel Ribeiro, Mayor of Valongo since 2013. He has a degree in International Relations, with an MBA in Business Administration and is a senior member of the Portuguese Trade and Investment Agency. He is also, among others, a Member of the European Committee of the Regions; Member of the Political Board of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, President of Board of LIPOR – Municipalities Association for Sustainable Waste Management of Greater Porto; President of the Portuguese Network of Participatory Municipalities; Member of the General Council of the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities; Policy Advisor of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). During the X (2006-2007) and XI Legislatures (2009-2011), he was a Member of the National Parliament, Consumer National Ombudsman between 2006 and 2009, and member of several Regulators Consultative Bodies.

José Manuel Ribeiro is a strong advocate of active citizenship and democratic values. Committed to building a plural society in which all citizens take part in the creation of solutions for the problems that affect their lives and the communities in which they live, he is a leading force in the implementation of varied and transversal municipal initiatives that promote active participation of citizens.

Round table participant

Biography of Željko Vukša-Fejzić – 2023 Congress Youth Delegate, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Željko Vukša-Fejzić is a 2023 youth delegate to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, from Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is a youth rights advocate with a background in law, as well as in policy development and politics, a member of the Commission for Youth Affairs of the Parliament of FBiH and a former Secretary General of The European Law Students' Association (ELSA). In addition to his advocacy and public speaking, Željko is dedicated to nurturing young activists globally, conducting training programs in nations including Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Sri Lanka. He also served as speaker of the Youth council of Canton of Sarajevo and as Delegate to the Youth council of the Federation of Bosnia and

Herzegovina. Currently, he serves as the President of the Global Advisory Board of the International Republican Institute's Generation Democracy Network. He participated in several prestigious platforms such as the 2023 Copenhagen Democracy Summit, the 2023 World Forum for Democracy of the Council of Europe, and the Global Summit in Warsaw.