

The Bureau of the Congress

To all members of the Congress

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress
Friday 12 February 2021

Remote meeting

Summary of decisions CG-BUR(2021)36-DEC¹
2 March 2021

The Bureau of the Congress,

meeting via videoconference on 12 February 2021 with Anders KNAPE, President of the Congress, in the chair, considered the following items:

- **draft agenda:** adopted the agenda [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-OJprov](#)].
- **decisions taken by the Bureau:** took note of the decisions of the remote Bureau meeting of 26 November 2020 adopted by written procedure on 15 December 2020 [[CG-BUR\(2020\)35-DEC](#)].
- **Communication by the President of the Congress:** took note of the activities of the President (20.11.2020-5.02.2021) [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-INF03](#)].
- **Communication by Secretary General of the Congress:** took note of the missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-INF04](#)] and in particular the call for secondments to the Congress secretariat [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-INF08](#)].
- **Political groups – membership in 2021:**
 - took note that the 2021 grant to political groups was based on their membership on 1 January 2021 as follows [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-INF01](#)]:
 - EPP/CCE: 208
 - SOC/G/PD:185
 - ILDG: 91
 - ECR: 30
 - took note that there were:
 - 53 non-registered members
 - 14 members who did not want to join any of the political groups
 - 67 vacant seats.

¹ Adopted by the Bureau of the Congress on 26.02.2021 by written procedure (e-mail).

→ **Budget of the Congress:**

- was informed by the Director of the Congress of the use of the 2020 budget as at 3 February 2021 [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-INF05](#)];
- was informed by the Director of the Congress of the use of the 2021 budget as at 3 February 2021 and, in particular, the appropriations carried forward from 2020 to 2021 and the exceptional measures for monitoring mechanisms;
- approved the preliminary draft recommendation on the budget of the Congress for 2022-2023 for examination and adoption at the forthcoming 40th Congress session [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-03](#)] (co-rapporteurs: Anna MAGYAR, Hungary (R, EPP/CCE), and Barbara TOCE, Italy (L, SOC)).

→ **Congress renewal and national delegations** (co-rapporteurs: Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE), and Barbara TOCE, Italy (L, SOC/G/PD)):

- took note of the Revision of the Rules and Procedures - Provisions on ethics adopted by the Statutory Forum on 12 February 2021 [[CG-FORUM\(2021\)01-01](#)];
- stressed that all members of the Congress are required to sign the Code of Conduct and the Declaration of Interests in order to be able to register for Congress meetings and enjoy speaking and voting rights and defrayal of expenses;
- took note that the Secretary General would inform new members accordingly asking them to sign electronically the aforementioned documents by 8 March 2021;
- approved the proposed changes to the composition of the national delegations of Italy, Portugal and United Kingdom concerning the current mandate ending in March 2021 [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-02](#)] and instructed the secretariat to inform the national authorities and delegations concerned;
- approved the delegations proposed for the 2021-2026 mandate [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-01](#)];
- decided to submit these delegations to the Congress on 23 March 2021 at the opening of its 40th session for ratification subject to signature of the Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests;
- approved the composition of committees for the 2021-2026 mandate [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-07](#)];
- approved the new official procedure of Ukraine [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-09](#)];
- invited the authorities of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Portugal, Slovak Republic and Ukraine to submit a delegation complying with the rules by Friday, 26 February 2021, 13.00 CET;
- entrusted the rapporteurs on the verification of credentials, together with the three presidents, on behalf of the Bureau, to verify the credentials received and update the composition of committees by Friday, 26 February 2021, 13.00 CET, in order to enable the future members of those delegations to sign the two obligatory documents by 8 March 2021 and be integrated in the list of participants and voters for the session and committees;
- took note of the deadline of 24 July 2021: expiration of the 4-month extension of mandate of the delegations of Croatia and United Kingdom in application of Rule 3.6 due to local/regional elections held up to 2 months after the renewal session [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-01](#)];

→ **Bureau rapporteurs:**

- decided to extend the mandate of the Bureau rapporteurs until the Bureau meeting scheduled for the end of May 2021 at the latest to facilitate the continuity of the Congress' activities on the verification of credentials, the Congress budget, the Congress priorities and the Congress' Rules and Procedures and Congress Charter, under the condition that the members still held a Congress mandate [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-08](#)].

→ **Congress meetings in 2021:**

- took note that the 40th session, convened for 23-24 March 2021, would be a remote, first part-session, held for constitutive and renewal reasons and to ensure continuity of the Congress' work [[CG\(2021\)40-OJprov](#)] [[CG\(2021\)40-01](#)];
- approved the holding of elections for the President of the Congress, presidents of the chambers, chairs and 1st vice-chairs of committees via the Kudo platform during that part-session and the holding of elections for the vice-presidents of the Congress and 2nd,3rd, 4th and 5th vice-chairs of the three committees via the ScytL platform after the respective sessions and meetings;
- instructed the secretariat to closely liaise with the Council of Europe IT services in order to guarantee the integrity and secrecy of the voting process;
- approved the closing of the voting lists on 15 March 2021;
- entrusted the three presidents and the Secretariat with proposing a date for the second part-session of the 40th Session before the summer;
- approved the preliminary proposals for Congress meetings in 2021 [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-05](#)];
- took note of the list of youth delegates for 2021 [[CG-BUR\(2020\)36-INF07](#)].

→ **Preparation of Congress priorities 2021-2026** (co-rapporteurs: Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R,EPP/CCE), and Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD)): approved the preliminary draft

resolution on the Congress priorities for 2021-2026 for presentation and adoption at the 40th Session in March [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-04](#)].

→ **Activities of the committees:**

- took note of the information from committee chairs on their meetings and activities [[CG-MON\(2021\)18-OJ](#)] [[CG-GOV\(2021\)16-OJ](#)] [[CG-CUR\(2021\)16-OJ](#)];
- endorsed the draft work programmes of the committees [[CG-MON\(2021\)18-02](#)] [[CG-GOV\(2021\)16-01](#)] [[CG-CUR\(2021\)16-01](#)];
- with regard to the work programme of the Monitoring Committee, endorsed the practice of carrying out its monitoring procedures remotely.

→ **Local and regional elections:**

- took note of the information concerning the elections held in Mostar on 20 December 2020 provided by the Congress Spokesperson on the Observation of Local and Regional Elections, Stewart DICKSON;
- approved the information report on the local elections held in Bosnia and Herzegovina 15 November 2020 and Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina 20 December 2020 [[CG-MON\(2021\)18-09](#)] and endorsed its conclusions;
- took note of the statement of the President of 22 December 2020 on elections held in Mostar, in Bosnia Herzegovina [[News-Statement by the President of 22.12.2020](#)];
- took note of the Calendar of local and regional elections 2021 [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-INF11](#)].

→ **Local and regional democracy:**

Turkey:

- was informed that the situation of former Congress member Nurhayat ALTUN, currently in detention, remained unchanged;
- was informed that former Congress member Leyla GÜVEN had been sentenced to 22 years' imprisonment on charges of being a member of an armed terrorist group. Decided to continue to follow this issue and ask the rapporteurs on Turkey to enquire further in this respect in the course of their updating of the monitoring report on that country later in 2021.

→ **European Local Democracy Week (ELDW):** decided to grant the title of "Partner of the European Local Democracy Week 2020" to the 19 local and regional authorities and 1 association as proposed in Document [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-06](#)].

→ **World Forum for Democracy 2020/2021 – "Can Democracy Save the Environment?":** took note of the [News of 13.01.2021](#).

→ **Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) 1st Part of the 2021 Session (Hybrid, 25-29 January 2021):**

- took note of the agenda, the address by Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIC, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and questions and answers as well as the address by Heiko MAAS, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Chair of the Committee of Ministers, and questions and answers;
- took note of the communication by the Committee of Ministers Chair to PACE on the activities of the Committee of Ministers (February 2020 - January 2021);
- took note of the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the PACE.

→ **Committee of Ministers (CM):**

- took note of the Congress' political dialogue with the Committee of Ministers [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-INF09](#)];
- heard information on the 12th meeting of the CDDG held remotely on 25-27 November 2020 and took note of the abridged meeting report [[CDDG\(2020\)31](#)].

→ **Timetable of events:** took note of the Congress timetable of events until October 2021. [[CG-BUR\(2021\)36-INF10](#)].

The next meeting of the Bureau of the Congress will be held remotely on 24 March 2021.

Copy for information:

Secretariat: Director of the Private Office, Miroslav PAPA; Gianluca ESPOSITO
Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers: Geneviève MAYER; Katherine ANDERSON
Parliamentary Assembly: Secretary General; Private Office of the President; AS/Soc Committee
Directors General
Secretaries of the national delegations and political groups of the Congress
Congress Secretariat
Brussels Office
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

List of participants

Members of the Bureau:

Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE), President of the Congress
Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE), President of the Chamber of Regions
Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, Belgium (R, SOC/G/PD)
Barbara TOCE, Italy (L, SOC/G/PD)
Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE)
Liisa ANSALA, Finland (L, ILDG)
Tamar TALIASHVILI, Georgia (R, SOC/G/PD)
John WARMISHAM, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD)
Yuliya SVITLYCHINA, Ukraine (R, ILDG)
Clemens LAMMERSKITTEN, Germany (L, EPP/CCE)
Anna MAGYAR, Hungary (R, EPP/CCE)
Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia (L, EPP/CCE)
Alexander DROZDENKO, Russian Federation (R, EPP/CCE)
Kirstine BILLE, Denmark (L, SOC/G/PD)
Tunç SOYER, Turkey (R, SOC/G/PD)
Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)

Outgoing President:

Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria (L, SOC/G/PD)

Chairs of Congress political groups:

Bernd VOEHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE)
Yoomi RENSTRÖM, Sweden (L, SOC/G/PD), Acting Chair
Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG)
Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, ECR) *[replaced by Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom]*

Chairs of committees:

Leendert VERBEEK, Netherlands (R, SOC/G/PD), Monitoring Committee
Robert-Csongor GRÜMAN, Romania (R, EPP/CCE), Governance Committee
Gabriele NEFF, Germany (L, ILDG), Current Affairs Committee

Statutory partners:

Assembly of European Regions (AER): Christian SPAHR, Secretary General

Advisors:

Maria BIGDAY (advisor to Marc COOLS)
Tatiana BOKUCHAVA (advisor to Tamar TALIASHVILI)
Sabine DREES (advisor to Clemens LAMMERSKITTEN)
Erdem GUNEY (advisor to Tunç SOYER)
Andreas GREITER (advisor to Harald SONDEREGGER)
Knut HJORTH-JOHANSEN (advisor to Gunn Marit HELGESEN)
Marcus HOLMBERG (advisor to Anders KNAPE)
Alain HUBERS (advisor to Leendert VERBEEK)
Laura KAMISLI (advisor to Bernd VOEHRINGER)
Richard KITT (advisor to John WARMISHAM)
Vladimir LEBEDENKO (advisor to Alexander DROZDENKO)
Laura PARSAMA (advisor to Liisa ANSALA)
Eleonore PARK-EDSTRÖM (advisor to Anders KNAPE)
Carla REY (advisor to Barbara TOCE)

Congress secretariat:

Andreas KIEFER, Secretary General of the Congress
Rafael BENITEZ, Director of the Congress
Dolores RÍOS TURÓN, Head of the Table Office and Secretary of the Bureau
Renate ZIKMUND, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Dmitri MARCHENKOV, Acting Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions
Fatima NOUICER, Co-Secretary to the Bureau
Cécile CHEVALIER-LAIGNEL, Assistant to the Bureau
Sedef CANKOCAK, Secretary of the Current Affairs Committee
Roman CHLAPAK, Secretary of the Governance Committee
Stéphanie POIREL, Secretary of the Monitoring Committee
Giampaolo CORDIALE, Head of the External relations
Michael LARSEN, Financial Officer
Delphine WEISSHAUPT, National delegations Officer
Imogen HATTENVILLE, Assistant to the Table Office
Adam DRNOVSKY, Observation of election Officer
Ayben OKKALI-AKTAS, External Relations and Co-operation Activities Officer
Laura ESSELIN, External Relations and Co-operation Activities Officer
Manon LUTHY, Co-operation Activities Officer
Ekaterina KOTNOVA, Assistant to the Monitoring Committee and Observation of local and regional elections
ONIPENKO Anna, Assistant to External Relations and Co-operation Activities
Svitlana PEREVERTEN, Co-Secretary of the Monitoring Committee and Observation of local and regional elections
Martine ROUDOLFF, Assistant to the Department of Statutory Activities, External Relations and Co-operation (SAERC)