

*The Bureau of the Congress*

## To all members of the Congress

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress**  
**Monday 28 October 2019**

**Council of Europe**  
**Strasbourg**  
**Room 8**

**Summary of decisions CG/BUR29(2019)DEC<sup>1</sup>**  
17 December 2019

The Bureau of the Congress,

meeting at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, on 28 October 2019, eve of the 37th Session, with Anders KNAPE, President of the Congress, in the chair, considered the following items:

- **the draft agenda:** adopted the draft agenda [CG/BUR29(2019)OJprov];
- **communication by the President and the Secretary General of the Congress:** made no objection to Document SG/Inf(2019)23 containing the list of international non-governmental organisations to which the Secretary General of the Council of Europe decided to grant – or not – participatory status with the Council of Europe, based on the Committee of Ministers' Resolution (2016) 3;
- **the bureaux of the chambers:** heard information from the Vice-President of the Chamber of Regions Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ (in the absence of the President, Gunn Marit HELGESEN) and Xavier CADORET, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, concerning the debates in their respective bureaux meetings on 28 October 2019 [CPL/BUR24(2019)OJprov] and [CPR/BUR24(2019)OJprov];
- **the budget of the Congress:**
  - was informed by the Director of the Congress of the use of the 2019 budget appropriations [CG/BUR29(2019)INF60] as at 17 October 2019;
  - was informed by the Secretary General concerning the outlook for 2020 and 2021, pending the adoption of the budget for the biennium 2020-2021 by the Committee of Ministers;
- **the national delegations** (rapporteur: Michail ANGELOPOULOS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE)):
  - approved the preliminary draft resolution on the verification of new members' credentials [CG/BUR29(2019)42] to be submitted for vote to the Congress on 29 October 2019;
  - approved the changes and took note of the current or future departures in the delegations of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom [CG/BUR29(2019)43]; took note of the composition of all Congress delegations [CG37(2019)03];

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the Bureau of the Congress on 16 December 2019 by written procedure (e-mail).

- **the 37th Session of the Congress** (Strasbourg, 29-31 October 2019):
  - expressed its disappointment at the last-minute cancellation of the representative of the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers at this session;
  - approved the draft agenda of the 37th Session [CG37(2019)OJprov] updated since the previous Bureau meeting and took note of the interpretation available for the various meetings and sessions on the programme of 29, 30 and 31 October 2019;
  - took note of the list of youth delegates [CG37(2019)05] who would participate in the 37th Session;
- **the co-operation activities:** took note of the document on the Congress' co-operation activities in the member States and neighbouring regions [CG/BUR29(2019)INF57] (situation as at 17 October 2019) which is made available to committees and Congress members during the session;
- **the Congress priorities for 2021-2024** (rapporteurs: Xavier CADORET, France (L, SOC/G/PD), and Gunn Marit HELGESEN, Norway (R, EPP/CCE):
  - took note of the compendium of contributions [CG/BUR29(2019)INF63] sent by the Bureau members and participants and discussed the overview [CG/BUR29(2019)44] of the 2021-2024 priorities presented by corapporteur Xavier CADORET;
  - instructed the rapporteurs to restrict the scope of these priorities to the core business of the Congress;
- **the election of the General Secretary of the Congress:**
  - took note of the [Vacancy Notice e32/2019] published by the Human Resources Directorate of the Council of Europe on 24 September 2019 with a deadline for reply of 14 October 2019;
  - took note that the preselection committee would have a first exchange of views as soon as possible to examine the list of candidatures retained by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **the revision of the Congress Charter – state of play:** heard the Secretary General's information on the last obstacles to the revision of the Congress Charter under discussion in the GR-DEM<sup>2</sup>;
- **local and regional democracy:**
  - Albania: considered the letter [CG/BUR29(2019)INF67] from the President of Albania after the controversial local elections of 30 June 2019 (see also [CG/BUR28(2019)40REV]), as well as the opinion [VC-OpinionNo959-2019] of the Venice Commission on the scope of the power of the President to set the dates of elections and the related press release [DC161(2019)]; endorsed the decision of the three Presidents to visit Albania in early 2020 ;
  - Azerbaijan: took note of the letter [CG/BUR29(2019)46] from the Head of the Azerbaijani delegation;
  - Turkey: heard the conclusions of Yoomi RENSTRÖM on her participation in the first of the two monitoring visits planned in the context of the preparation of the report on monitoring of the application of the Charter of Local Self-Government in Turkey; took note that the situation of Nurhayat ALTUN, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, remained unchanged;
  - Ukraine: discussed the exchanges of letters with the Association of Ukrainian Cities and Deputy Minister NEHODA ([CG/BUR29(2019)45] and [CG/BUR29(2019)47]); approved the proposal of the three Presidents to visit Kyiv in early 2020 to discuss the territorial administration reform with all concerned parties;
- **local and regional elections:**
  - Republic of Moldova: heard an overview by the Secretariat of the conduct of the local elections on 20 October 2019 [News-21.10.2019];
  - Bulgaria: was informed that it had not been possible, due to a clash of dates, to organise a mission to observe the local elections of 27 October 2019, eve of the 37th Session;

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<sup>2</sup> GR-DEM = Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Democracy

→ **South-Mediterranean Partnership:**

- Kingdom of Morocco: agreed with the proposals contained in the draft memorandum on the lines of co-operation with the Congress [CG/BUR29(2019)48] sent to the Congress by the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Morocco;
- Republic of Tunisia: took note of the letter from the Minister of Local Affairs and Environment of the Republic of Tunisia [CG/BUR29(2019)INF68] before the Congress' debate of the application for Partner of Local Democracy status at its 37th Session.

The next meeting of the Congress Bureau would be held in Strasbourg on 31 October 2019, last day of the 37th Session of the Congress.

**Items and documents for information on the meeting agenda:**

2.	[CG/BUR28(2019)DEC]	Summary of decisions of the meeting of 11 September 2019
3.1	[CG/BUR29(2019)INF58]	Missions and meetings of the President of the Congress
3.2	[CG/BUR29(2019)INF59]	Missions and meetings of the Secretary General of the Congress
7.	[CG37(2019)01prov]	Timetable of meetings
	[CG/BUR29(2019)INF61]	Chairing of the plenary sittings
	[CG/BUR29(2019)INF62]	Side-events
14.3	[Calendar of elections]	Calendar of elections
16.	[Programme]	World Forum for Democracy
	[CG/BUR29(2019)INF65]	Congress' contribution to the World Forum for Democracy
17.	[News 01.10.2019]	70th Anniversary of the Council of Europe
	[Statement by the former Presidents]	
18.1	[CM/AS(2019)8]	Communication by the CM Chair
18.2	[D15(2019)]	Speech by the President of the French Republic
18.3	[D16(2019)]	Address from the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
19.	[CG/BUR29(2019)INF66]	Timetable of events

Copy for information:

Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe: Director of PO, Miroslav PAPA; Markus ADELSBACH

Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers: Bjorn BERGE; Geneviève MAYER; Katherine ANDERSON

Parliamentary Assembly: Secretary General; Private Office of the President; AS/Soc Committee

Directors General

Brussels Office

Secretaries of the national delegations and political groups of the Congress

Congress Secretariat

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

Appendix: list of participants

## 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 apologised for absence  
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) ..... apologised for absence  
Liisa ANSALA, Finland (L, ILDG)  
Tamar TALIAHVILI, Georgia (R, SOC/G/PD)  
John WARMISHAM, United Kingdom (L, SOC/G/PD) ..... apologised for absence  
Yuliya SVITLYCHINA, Ukraine (R, ILDG)  
Michail ANGELOPOULOS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE) ..... apologised for absence  
Anna MAGYAR, Hungary (R, EPP/CCE) ..... apologised for absence  
Clemens LAMMERSKITTEN, Germany (L, EPP/CCE)  
Alexander DROZDENKO, Russian Federation (R, EPP/CCE)  
Cristina MORENO MORENO, Spain (L, SOC/G/PD) ..... apologised for absence  
ZZ (R)  
ZZ (L)

### Presidents of Congress political groups:

Bernd VOEHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE)  
Piero FASSINO, Italy (L, SOC/G/PD)  
Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG)  
Svitlana BOHATYRCHUK KRYVKO, Ukraine (R, ECR)

### 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): Mathieu MORI, Secretary General, and Rien LEJEGREN  
Council of European Municipalities and Regions: Frédéric VALLIER ..... apologised for absence

**Guest:** Yoomi RENSTRÖM, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD) - monitoring the application of the ECLSG in Turkey

### Advisors:

Maria BIGDAY (Secretary of the ILDG Group)  
Sabine DREES (advisor to Clemens LAMMERSKITTEN)  
Andreas GREITER (Secretary of the EPP/CCE Group)  
Knuth HJORTH-JOHANSEN (advisor to Gunn Marit HELGESEN)  
Alain HUBERS (advisor to Leendert VERBEEK)  
Laura KAMISLI (advisor to Bernd VOEHRINGER)  
Richard KITT (advisor to John WARMISHAM)  
Vladimir LEBEDENKO (advisor to Alexander DROZDENKO)  
Luana LUPI (advisor to Piero FASSINO)  
Ayben OKKALI (advisor to Gaye DOGANOGLU)  
Anthony PAPADIMITRIOU (advisor to Michail ANGELOPOULOS)  
Eleonore PARK-EDSTRÖM (advisor to Anders KNAPE)  
Carla REY (advisor to Barbara TOCE)  
Tatiana BOKUCHAVA (advisor to Tamar TALIAHVILI)  
Jerker STATTIN (advisor to Anders KNAPE)  
Fabian WEISE (advisor to Gabriele NEFF)

### Congress secretariat:

Andreas KIEFER, Secretary General of the Congress  
Jean-Philippe BOZOULS, Director of the Congress  
Renate ZIKMUND, Acting Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities  
Dmitri MARCHENKOV, Acting Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions

Dolores RÍOS TURÓN, Secretary of the Bureau  
Sabine ZIMMER, Head of the Private Office of the President and the Secretary General of the Congress  
Tim LISNEY, Deputy-Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities  
Giampaolo CORDIALE, Deputy-Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions  
Linette TAESCH, co-Secretary of the Bureau  
Anne-Marie KLEIN, Assistant to the Bureau  
Cécile CHEVALIER LAIGNEL, Assistant to the Bureau