

The Bureau of the Congress

To all members of the Congress

**Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress
Monday 28 September 2020**

Remote meeting

Summary of decisions CG-BUR(2020)34-DEC¹
20 October 2020

The Bureau of the Congress,

meeting via videoconference on 28 September 2020 with Anders KNAPE, President of the Congress, in the chair, considered the following items:

- **draft agenda:**
 - agreed to examine items 8.3 and 15 which were originally intended for information without discussion;
 - decided to deal with the issue concerning the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh raised by Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia (L, EPP/CCE) under Item 18 “Other business”;
 - adopted the agenda [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-OJprov](#)] as amended.
- **communication by the President of the Congress:** took note of the political activities of the President (03.06.2020-21.09.2020) [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-INF40](#)].
- **communication by the Acting Secretary General of the Congress:**
 - took note of the missions and meetings of the Acting Secretary General of the Congress (03.06.2020-21.09.2020) [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-INF41](#)];
 - took note of the report by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on Multilateralism 2020 [[SG\(2020\)01](#)] in which reference is made to the Congress and to the local and regional dimension of CoE conventions, policies and actions;
 - took note of the presence in the Secretariat of three staff members seconded from Iceland, Turkey and Ukraine and was invited by the Acting Secretary General to consider the possibility to second staff;
 - took note of the immediate entry into force of the revised Congress Administrative Rules 1 to 9 [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-INF43](#)] as no objections had been received by the Secretariat by 12 September 2020.
- **budget of the Congress:** was informed by the Acting Secretary General of the Congress of the use of the 2020 budget appropriations [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-INF42](#)] as at 16 September 2020, and took note that the Congress had asked the Secretary General to propose to the Committee of Ministers to carry over to 2021 funding of two monitoring visits and one extra day at the Session in March 2021.

¹ Adopted by the Bureau of the Congress on 20 October 2020 by written procedure (e-mail).

- **national delegations** (rapporteurs: Harald SONDEREGGER, Austria (R, EPP/CCE), and Barbara TOCE, Italy (L, SOC/G/PD)): approved the changes in the delegations of Belgium and Greece and took note of the current and future departures in the delegations of France, Portugal, Serbia and Switzerland [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-28](#)].
- **Statutory Forum** (Remote, 28 September 2020): agreed that on the occasion of the next revision of the Rules and Procedures, the Bureau would examine the possibility of extending the capacity to table and present amendments to presidents of political groups and/or committee chairs.
- **39th Session of the Congress** (Remote, 26-27 October 2020):
 - decided that the elections which were to take place at the 39th Session in October 2020 (two vice-presidents of the Chamber of Local Authorities and Secretary General of the Congress) be held independently of any meeting, in October or November 2020;
 - instructed the secretariat to send a notification to members of the Chamber of Local Authorities for the election of two vice-presidents and to all members of the Congress for the election of the Secretary General once the date and technical modalities were known;
 - in case the elections are held electronically, instructed the secretariat to send a further reminder to Congress members who have not furnished the necessary details for a double authentication (personal email and personal mobile phone number) once elections have been called;
 - agreed that members whose details have not been received by the deadline indicated once elections have been scheduled would be *de facto* ineligible for participating in elections;
 - decided that, since the technical requirements were not met, the Congress would not hold the 39th session remotely in October 2020;
 - entrusted the three Presidents:
 - with organising another meeting of the Statutory Forum on 7 December 2020 after, or in lieu of the Bureau meeting planned on that occasion;
 - with proposing a draft agenda for the Statutory Forum taking into account the institutional needs for approving reports and adopting texts, exchanging about current challenges and with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
 - took note of the updated list of youth delegates [[CG\(2020\)39-22](#)];
 - agreed that the mandates of the 2020 youth delegates be extended to 2021;
 - instructed the secretariat to make a limited call for applications from countries for which the youth delegates would not be available in 2021.
- **local and regional elections:**
 - took note of the letter from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Council of Europe inviting the Congress to observe the local elections on 25 October 2020 [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-INF46](#)]
 - green lighted the remote procedure regarding Ukraine which would be implemented in order to continue dialogue and to step-up co-operation with strategic partners in the election process;
 - took note that local elections would be held in Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on 20 December 2020.
- **local and regional democracy:** took note of an exchange of letters between Leyla GÜVEN, Co-chair of the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe and Anders KNAPE, President of the Congress [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-INF48](#)] and of the opinion by the Venice Commission of 18 June 2020 on the replacement of elected candidates and mayors in Turkey [[CDL-AD\(2020\)011](#)].
- **request for Guest Observer status – Federation of Local Authorities in Israel** [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-29](#)]: approved the granting of the status of “Guest observer” to the Federation of Local Authorities in Israel.
- **request for Patronage – Emperor-Maximilian-Prize 2021**
 - agreed to support and to publicise the Emperor-Maximilian-Prize 2021 [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-32](#)] and to ask Congress members to propose projects;
 - agreed to nominate, at a future meeting, a member of the Bureau to participate in the jury of the Emperor-Maximilian-Prize to be held early in 2021;
 - approved the granting of the Congress’s patronage to the Emperor-Maximilian-Prize 2021;
- **European Committee of the Regions (CoR):** took note of a contribution to the State of the Regions (SOTREG) of the CoR [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-INF49](#)] prepared by the President of the Congress and the presidents of the chambers as a result of their participation in the High-Level Group meeting with the CoR on 10 July 2020.

- **meetings of the bureaux and sessions in 2020 and 2021:**
 - decided not to hold the Bureau meeting scheduled for 26 October 2020;
 - instructed the Secretariat to propose a date for a Bureau meeting in the second half of November, subject to availability of interpretation facilities;
 - decided to hold a Statutory Forum to be held in lieu of the Bureau meeting on 7 December 2020 [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-30](#)];
 - approved the updated calendar of bureaux meetings and sessions in 2021 [[CG-BUR\(2020\)34-27](#)] subject to final approval by the new Bureau to be elected at the March 2021 Session.

- **other business:** heard information from Vice-President Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia (L, EPP/CCE) and was informed of the statement made by Marija PEJČINOVIĆ-BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, concerning the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh;

Items and documents for information on the meeting agenda:

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| 2. | [CG-BUR(2020)33-DEC] | Decisions of the remote meeting of 9 June 2020 adopted by written procedure on 17 July 2020 |
| | [CG-BUR(2020)34-INF39] | Decisions adopted by written procedure on 17 July 2020 |
| 4.3 | [CM(2020)84] | Progress report on reform measures |
| 7.1 | [CG-FORUM(2020)01-OJprov] | Draft agenda of the Statutory Forum (28.09.2020) |
| 7.2 | [CG-BUR(2020)34-INF44] | Members, participants and voting rights |
| 8.1 | [CG-BUR(2020)34-31] | Email sent to Congress members on the forthcoming Congress sessions |
| 8.2 | [CG(2020)39-OJprov] | Draft agenda of the 39th Session (26-27.10.2020) |
| | [CG(2020)39-01prov] | Schedule of meetings |
| 9. | [CG-MON(2020)17-OJ-prov] | Draft agenda of the Monitoring Committee meeting (17.09.2020) |
| | [CG-GOV(2020)15-OJ prov] | Draft agenda of the Governance Committee meeting (15.09.2020) |
| | [CG-CUR(2020)15-OJprov] | Draft agenda of the Current Affairs Committee meeting (16.09.2020) |
| 10.1 | [Calendar] | Calendar of local and regional elections 2020 |
| 11.1.1 | [CG-BUR(2020)34-INF47] | Letter of Konstantinos KOUKAS, Head of the Greek Delegation to the Congress (27.07.2020) |
| 11.1.2 | [News-19.06.2020] | Congress spokespersons welcome the Venice Commission opinion on removal of local candidates and mayors in Turkey |
| 11.2 | [AS/Pol/Inf(2020)09] | The situation in Belarus following Presidential elections on 9 August 2020 |
| | [PACE Declaration] | Declaration on an urgent need for a democratic, broad-based and inclusive political process in Belarus |
| 14. | [News] | 9th World Forum for Democracy is postponed |
| 15. | [News-10.07.2020] | High-Level Group Meeting of the Congress and the European Committee of the Regions |
| | [CG/CoR/HLG(2020)1PVprov] | Draft minutes of the meeting of 10.07.2020 |
| 17. | [CG-BUR(2020)34-INF45] | Updated timetable of events |

Copy for information:

Secretariat: Director of the Private Office, Miroslav PAPA; Markus ADELSBACH
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) apologised for absence
 Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia (L, EPP/CCE)
 Alexander DROZDENKO, Russian Federation (R, EPP/CCE)
 Tunç SOYER, Turkey (R, SOC/G/PD)

Past 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), Chair *ad interim*
 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): ---
 Council of European Municipalities and Regions: ---

Advisors:

Maria BIGDAY (Secretary of the ILDG)
 Tatiana BOKUCHAVA (advisor to Tamar TALIASHVILI)
 Sabine DREES (advisor to Clemens LAMMERSKITTEN)
 Guney ERDEM (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)
 Nikolai KARTSEV (advisor to Alexander DROZDENKO)
 Richard KITT (advisor to John WARMISHAM)
 Alla KRYTYNSKAIA (Secretary of the SOC/G/PD Group)
 Eleonore PARK-EDSTRÖM (advisor to Anders KNAPE)
 Carla REY (advisor to Barbara TOCE)

Congress secretariat:

Andreas KIEFER, Acting 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
Anne-Marie KLEIN, Assistant to the Bureau
Cécile CHEVALIER-LAIGNEL, Assistant to the Bureau

Sedef CANKOCAK, Secretary of the Current Affairs Committee
Célia CHARRE, External relations with the CoR
Clara CONTI-TEIXEIRA, Private Office of the President and the Secretary General of the Congress
Laura ESSELIN, Co-operation and external relations
Inge HANNONG, Co-Secretary of the Current Affairs Committee
Kjartan MAGNUSSON, Co-Secretary of the Governance Committee
Marité MORAS, Head of the Co-operation activities Unit
Stéphanie POIREL, Secretary of the Monitoring Committee
Svitlana PEREVERTEN, Co-Secretary of the Monitoring Committee
Saïda THEOPHILE, Head of the Congress Communication Unit
Delphine WEISSHAUPT, National delegations Officer
Sabine ZIMMER, Head of the Private Office of the President and the Secretary General of the Congress