

The Bureau of the Congress

CG-BUR(2024)57-14¹
2 February 2024

Terms of reference for the appointment of two Congress advisors on constitutional matters

Action required : for decision

¹ This document is classified as confidential until it has been examined by the Bureau of the Congress.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

TOPIC: appointment of two Advisors to the Congress on Constitutional matters (Experts of the GIE).

Relevance to priorities	Political objective (expected results)	Tasks and duties of the advisor	Language skills: E/F	Comment
<p>As part of the follow-up to the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government held on 16-17 May 2023 in Reykjavik, the Congress welcomed the commitment shown by the Heads of State and Government to local and regional democracy and the role of local elected representatives in defending democracy, human rights and the rule of law in their communities.</p> <p>In this context, and to better respond to the challenges identified by the Summit, the Congress decided to strengthen its monitoring of local democracy and respect for the rule of law, as an important element of an "early warning" system to signal possible "democratic erosion" in Member States.</p> <p>In this respect, the future Monitoring Committee on the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and on respect for human rights and the rule of law at local and regional level (known as the "Monitoring Committee") will be responsible for contributing to the maintenance of the rule of law at sub-</p>	<p>Enable the Congress to make a concrete, rapid and effective contribution to the three pillars of the Council of Europe, namely respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law.</p> <p>Enable the Congress to develop relevant activities notably in the fight against corruption and the execution of ECHR judgments.</p> <p>Strengthen complementarity with other actors working on the protection of the rule of law, both within the Council of Europe (in particular the Venice Commission, GRECO) and outside (e.g. EU institutions, OSCE/ODIHR, UN).</p>	<p>Provide opinions and expertise on issues related to the rule of law.</p> <p>Carry out their expertise and specific role on advising on recommendations and resolutions resulting from the monitoring of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and election observation missions and other relevant activities that entail specific legal knowledge to protect and safeguard the rule of law in municipalities and regions.</p> <p>Provide technical assistance/expertise to Congress members at conferences, hearings, seminars, etc. organised by other bodies, both internal and external to the Council of Europe.</p> <p>Provide legal advice to set up adequate training courses on the rule of law in local and regional authorities, aimed at elected representatives and their administrations and participate in these trainings.</p> <p>Contribute to increasing the visibility of the Congress's activities in the field of the rule of law at sub-national level by providing appropriate expertise to the work of Congress members who will promote this work in their countries and in an international context.</p>	<p>English required.</p>	<p>It is proposed to appoint:</p> <p>Prof. Tania GROPPi, Vice-Chair GIE (Italy)</p> <p>Prof. Nikolaos-Komninos CHLEPAS, Vice-Chair GIE (Greece)</p>

<p>national level. This will include activities such as combating corruption at local and regional level, ensuring that judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are implemented by local and regional authorities where relevant, and promoting a better understanding of the application of the rule of law at sub-national level in order to prevent human rights violations.</p> <p>These working objectives are reflected in Resolution 493(2023).</p> <p>The forthcoming work of the Congress on the rule of law reflects a new dimension of its activities which calls for a certain level of expertise and the development of enhanced, substantive co-operation, in particular with the Venice Commission.</p>		<p>Represent the Congress at meetings, conferences and other events specifically related to the rule of law, including meetings of the Venice Commission.</p> <p>Assist Congress representatives notably in the work of the Venice Commission, contribute to opinions where necessary at sub-national level and participate in exchanges with Venice Commission members and experts.</p> <p>Accompany, where appropriate, a delegation formed in the context of a post-electoral or post-monitoring dialogue with the authorities of a given country.</p>		
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