



**European Committee
of the Regions**

The Congress

Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Last update: 25 November 2022

HIGH LEVEL GROUP

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS/CONGRESS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

AGENDA

29 November 2022, 9h00-10h30

JDE 70, Brussels

Working language: English

Participants

Delegates:

Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of the European Committee of the Regions
Patrick Molinoz, CIVEX Second Vice-Chair

Leendert Verbeek, President of the Congress
Harald Sonderegger, President of the Chamber of Regions
Bernd Vöhringer, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities

Petr Blížkovský, CoR Secretary-General
Rafael Benitez, Director of the Congress

Secretariat:

Congress

Stephanie Poirel, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Dmitri Marchenkov, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions
Marite Moras, Head of Co-operation Activities
Irina Sahakyan-Vetter, Head of External Relations

CoR

Jean-Paul Buffat, Head of President's Cabinet
Anne Morin, Deputy Head of President's Cabinet
Francisco Tavares, President's Cabinet member
Carmen Schmidle, Secretary-General's Cabinet member
Béatrice Taulegne, Director of Directorate B
Bert Kuby, Head of Unit B3 (CIVEX)
Maja Simunic, Policy Officer

1 Introductory remarks – 5 min

- Welcome address by Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of the Committee of the Regions
- Introductory remarks by Leendert Verbeek, President of the Congress
- Adoption of the draft agenda

2 Stocktaking of relevant activities and outlook for thematic and political priorities of co-operation – 40 min

- Input by the Committee of the Regions on:
 - 2022 EU Annual Report on the State of the Regions and Cities
 - Follow-up to the Conference on the Future of Europe
 - Initiatives promoting deliberative democracy
 - Charter on Youth and Democracy
 - Fight against disinformation and hate speech
 - Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award
 - Upcoming initiatives in 2023
- Input by the Congress on:
 - Monitoring the situation of local and regional democracy
 - Local and regional responsibilities in protecting human rights:
 - human rights and the environment: “greening” of the European Charter of Local Self-Government
 - other ongoing human rights activities
 - Improving local and regional governance in response to crises:
 - countering fake news and hate speech
 - revision of the Urban Charter
 - promoting deliberative democracy
 - regional identities: promoting dialogue and diversity in unity
 - role of the 2nd chamber of parliaments in representing territorial interest
 - Upcoming activities and the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe

Exchange of views

Documents:

- *Relevant Congress and CoR activities, publications and other documents – checklist and appendix*

3 Exchange of views on efforts to support cities and regions in Ukraine – 40 min

Discussion on the efforts to support reconstruction as well as local/regional democracy, good governance and rule of law in the context of the war in Ukraine

- Input by the CoR on:
 - Alliance of cities and regions for the reconstruction of the Ukraine
 - Exchange on the future of the Eastern Partnership, including in the context of the European Political Community
 - Conclusions of the CORLEAP meeting in Liberec on 3/4 November and WG Ukraine
- Input by the Congress on:
 - Congress political action (Declaration, President’s visit to Ukraine, session debates, report on women and children refugees)
 - Cities4cities platform and coordination meetings with European associations

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- Survey on the challenges of Ukrainian local and regional authorities in providing services in times of war
 - Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” (2023-2026) and Congress co-operation activities

4 Any other business and Closing remarks– 5 min

Brief exchange on the Congress and CoR calendars for 2023 - next High-Level Group Meeting hosted by the Congress

Background information and supporting documents

Congress

- [Human Rights Handbook for local and regional authorities: Environment and sustainable development](#)
- [Declaration 5 \(2022\): The Russian Federation's war against Ukraine](#)
- [Co-operation activities in Ukraine](#)
- [Co-operation activities of the Congress in member States and neighbouring regions](#)
- [Congress sessions and Bureau meetings in 2023](#)

Statements by the President

- [Council of Europe Congress President condemns illegal annexation by the Russian Federation of Ukrainian territories](#)
- [President of the Congress, Leendert Verbeek: "So-called referendums organised in the occupied territories of Ukraine are a denial of the rule of law, human rights and democracy"](#)
- [Congress President condemns the continuing abduction of Ukrainian local elected representatives](#)
- [Congress President warns of fictitious Russian "referendums" in Ukrainian territories](#)
- [Ukraine: Statement by Congress President condemning the abduction of the Mayor of Kherson](#)
- [Council of Europe Congress President condemns the crimes against Ukrainian citizens and elected local leaders](#)
- [Congress President strongly condemns abductions of Ukrainian mayors and elected representatives](#)
- [Council of Europe Congress condemns war against Ukraine and calls on Russian Federation to meet its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law](#)
- [Congress President strongly condemns abduction of Mayors and pressure on local and regional authorities in Ukraine](#)
- [Bureau of the Council of Europe Congress adopts a declaration on the situation in Ukraine](#)
- [Statement by the President of the Council of Europe Congress on the Russian military attack against Ukraine](#)
- [Council of Europe Congress President condemns the recognition of the so-called 'people's republics' of Donetsk and Luhansk by the Russian Federation](#)

Congress reports

- [Resolution 465 \(2021\) – Priorities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities 2021-2026](#)
- [A Fundamental Right to the Environment: A Matter for Local and Regional Authorities
Towards a green reading of the European Charter of Local Self-Government](#)
- [Recurring issues based on assessments resulting from Congress monitoring of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and election observation missions \(reference period 2017-2020\)](#)
- [Regional Identities: Promoting Dialogue and Diversity in Unity](#)

- [Hate Speech and Fake News: The Impact on Working Conditions of Local and Regional Elected Representatives](#)
- [Beyond Elections: The Use of Deliberative Methods in European Municipalities and Regions](#)
- [Reception of Women and Children Refugees in Europe's Cities and Regions](#)
- [Needs and Priorities of Local Authorities of Ukraine Related to the Provision of Services in Times of War and Post-War Recovery](#)

CoR

- [2022 EU Annual Report on the State of the Regions and Cities](#)
- [Speech of the President on the State of Regions and Cities in the European Union](#)
- [European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine](#)
- [Committee of the Regions expresses outrage at attacks on Ukrainian cities and pledges long-term support for Ukraine's reconstruction](#)
- [Decentralisation and green agenda are critical for Eastern Partnership](#)
- [Help Ukraine: Info-Support Hub](#)
- [European Charter on Youth and Democracy](#)
- [Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award](#)
- [2023 CoR Meetings Calendar](#)

Opinions and resolutions

- [Extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crimes](#)
- [The Future of the Eastern Partnership from a local and regional perspective](#)
- [The role of EU cities and regions in rebuilding Ukraine](#)
- [European Democracy Action Plan](#)
- [Resolution on the contribution of the local and regional authorities to the Conference on the Future of Europe](#)

Studies

- [Challenges and opportunities of LRAs' involvement in the reconstruction of Ukraine](#)
- [EU cities and regions welcoming Ukrainian refugees – mapping multilevel coordination](#)
- [The State of Local and Regional Democracy - A Youth Perspective](#)
- [Developing a handbook on good practice in countering disinformation at local and regional level](#)
- [Localising the green agenda in the Eastern Partnership](#)
- [The territorial dimension of the Conference on the Future of Europe and its follow-ups](#)
- [The role and place of local democracy and decentralisation in the modernisation and consolidation of democratic processes in the Eastern Partnership countries](#)
- [EU financial assistance available to local and regional authorities in Eastern Partnership countries](#)
- [The Conference on the Future of Europe - Putting Local and Regional Authorities at the Heart of European Democratic Renewal](#)