CG(2026)51-OJ
20 October 2026

51st Session of the Congress

Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe
27-29 October 2026

DRAFT AGENDA
PUBLIC MEETING

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English and French) and in German, Italian, and Turkish (tbc).

Information on the provision of additional languages available for sittings (valid on the date shown above) is indicated throughout this agenda and on the timetable of meetings [CG(2026)51-01].

Key:
EN English
FR French
DE German
IT Italian
TR Turkish
UKR Ukrainian
ESP Spanish (active unless otherwise indicated)

By taking the floor to speak in the meeting, you agree to your statement being filmed and recorded.
The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe may use the material for internal and external communication purposes.
Personal data will be processed in compliance with and with due regard to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108) and its Amending Protocol (CETS No. 223).
The Council of Europe is not responsible for any use made of the video or audio material of this meeting by a third party, which requires express consent of the participants in the session.

Monday 26 October 2026

Bureaux meetings [*EN/FR/DE/IT*]

9.00-9.45, Room 6	Bureau of the Chamber of Regions
9.00-9.45, Room 8	Bureau of the Chamber of Local Authorities
10.00-12.00 and 13.30-14.30, Room 10	Bureau of the Congress

Seminar for new Congress members - 13.00-14.00

Room 6	Information meeting open to all Congress members, national delegation secretaries and advisors *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP passive]*

Joint meeting [*EN/FR/DE/IT*] - 14.30-15.30

Room 10	Joint meeting of the Congress Bureau and the ad hoc working group on the New Democratic Pact for Europe

Political group meetings - 15.45-17.45

Room 1	European People's Party Group in the Congress (EPP/CCE) [*EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP passive/TR]*
Room 8	Group of Socialists, Greens and Progressive Democrats (SOC/G/PD) *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP passive/TR]*
Room 6	Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG) *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP passive/TR]*
Room 10	European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) [*EN/DE/IT/TR*]
Room 7	Patriots for Europe Group (PfE) [*EN/DE/IT]*

Secretaries of national delegations meeting - 15.40-16.20

Room 11	Information meeting

Event *- 18:00-18:45*

Hemicycle	*Concert – Ukrainian National Bandurist Chorus*

Tuesday 27 October 2026 - Committee meetings *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR]*	
Monitoring Committee	8.30-10.00, Room 1
Social Inclusion Committee	8.30-10.00, Room 6
Governance Committee	8.30-10.00, Room 10

Tuesday 27 October 2026
Plenary sitting *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR]*
10.15-13.00, Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Tuesday 20 October 2026, 10.00*

10.15	**Opening of the 51st Session of the Congress by the President** Gunn Marit HELGESEN
10.20	**Test vote** – reminder of the voting system and the request to speak procedure in the hemicycle
10.25	**Verification of new members' credentials** [CG(2026)51-04] Presentation by the rapporteur: Mélanie LEPOULTIER, France (L, ILDG) Debate and vote on the draft resolution [CG(2026)51-02]*
10.30	**Adoption of the agenda of the 51st Session** [CG(2026)51-OJ] **Adoption of the minutes of the last sitting of the 50th Session (2 April 2026)** [CG(2026)50-PV-03] **Adoption of the composition of Congress committees** [CG(2026)51-03]
10.35	**Congress priorities for 2026-2031** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD) and Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE) Debate and vote on the draft resolution [CG(2026)51-05]*
11.45	**How can we cope with coastal erosion?** Statement by Sophie PANONACLE, Member of Parliament, Gironde, France Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Anthony BUCHANAN, United Kingdom (L, ILDG) and Fanis SPANOS, Greece (R, EPP/CCE) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-15]*
13.00	**Suspension of the sitting**
13.00	***EVENT:*** *Official opening of the exhibition "Empowerment of women: The white magic of Kalofer lace – Permanent Representation of Bulgaria – Lobby of the hemicycle*

Tuesday 27 October 2026

Plenary sitting *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR]*

14.30-19.00 Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Tuesday 20 October 2026, 10.00*

14.30	**Statement by Alain BERSET, Secretary General of the Council of Europe** Questions
	The following joint debate is contribution to the New Democratic Pact for Europe
15.15	**Early warning instruments against democratic backsliding** • **Risk-alert dashboard on local and regional democracy** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Kristoffer TAMSONS, Sweden (R, EPP/CCE) and Kirstine BILLE, Denmark (L, SOC/G/PD) [CG(2026)51-11]* • **The status of national and international observers in local and regional elections in the 46 member States** Presentation by the rapporteur: Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (R, ILDG) [CG(2026)51-13]* • **Checklist on preventing corruption and promoting integrity at local and regional levels** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Romek KOSENKRANIUS, Estonia (R, ILDG) and Aisling MORAN, Ireland (L, SOC/G/PD) [CG(2026)51-12]* **Statement by David MEYER, President of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)** Debate and vote on the draft resolutions and draft recommendations
17.15	**Monitoring of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Albania** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CE) and Soeren SCHUMACHER, Germany (R, SOC/G/PD) Debate and vote on the draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-14]*
18.00	**Missing out: tackling school absenteeism in Europe's communities** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Liesa SCHOLZEN, Belgium (R, ILDG) and Anita SOLLIE, Norway (L, EPP/CCE) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and the draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-10]*
19.00	**Close of the sitting**

Wednesday 28 October 2026

Chamber of Local Authorities *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR]*

9.00-12.30, Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Wednesday 21 October 2026, 10.00*

9.00	**Opening of the session of the Chamber by the President of the Chamber** Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (EPP/CCE)
9.05	**Adoption of the draft agenda of the Chamber** [CPL(2026)51-OJ]
9.10	**Communication of the President of the Chamber** [CPL(2026)51-01]
9.20	**Application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in the smallest States** Presentation by the rapporteur: Marjorie CROVETTO, Monaco (L, NR) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and the draft recommendation [CPL(2026)51-02]*
10.20	**Thematic debate: "The Cost of Crises: Financing Local Resilience"** Statements by: • Abdurrahman TUTDERE, Mayor of Adıyaman, Member of the Executive Board of the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye (TBB) • Sophie PANONACLE, Member of Parliament, Gironde, France Debate
10.50	**Thematic debate: "Too Many or Too Few? When Overtourism and Depopulation Challenge Local Self-Government"** ***• Overtourism: strain on local self-government*** Statements by: • Paolo FALCO, Mayor of Capri, Italy • Sylvie SIRI, Mayor of Saint-Tropez, France • Congress youth delegate (tbd) Debate ***• Demographic decline: a challenge for territories*** Statements by: • Māris SPRINDŽUKS, Deputy Mayor of Riga, Latvia • Fred MAHRO, Mayor of Guben, Germany • Congress youth delegate (tbd) Debate
12.29	**Adoption of the abridged report of the session of the chamber** [CPL(2026)51-DEC]
12.30	**Close of the session of the chamber by the president**
12.30	***EVENT**: Official opening of the exhibition: "Unbreakable Kherson: From war experience to European resilience" – Permanent Representation of Ukraine – Lobby of the hemicycle*

Wednesday 28 October 2026

Chamber of Regions *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR/**UKR]*

9.00-12.30, Room 1

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Wednesday 21 October 2026, 10.00*

9.00	**Opening of the session of the chamber by the President of the Chamber** Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (SOC/G/PD)
9.05	**Adoption of the agenda of the chamber** [CG(2026)51-OJ]
9.10	**Election of the 6th and 7th Vice-Presidents of the Chamber of Regions** **[deadline for candidatures: 7.00 Wednesday 28 October 2026]** Presentation of the candidate(s) (3 minutes each) Vote Result of the election
9.20	**Communication of the President of the Chamber**
9.30	**Regional Exodus in Europe: addressing the causes and creating new opportunities for rural communities** Statement by: • Monika KIRBIŠ ROJS, Minister of Local Self-Government, Cohesion and Regional Development, Slovenia Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Eke FOLKERTS, Netherlands (R, EPP/CCE) and Urs JANETT, Switzerland (R, ILDG) Debate and vote on the draft resolution and draft recommendation [CPR(2026)51-02]*
10.15	**Statement by Joris BENGEVOORD President of the Association of European Border Regions** Exchange of views
10.45	**Thematic debate: The role of regions in transfrontier co-operation** [CPR(2026)51-03] Statements by: • Vitalii BEZGHIN, Minister for Communities, Territories and Internally Displaced Persons, Ukraine • Pavel BRANDA, Chair of the European Cross-Border Platform, European Committee of the Regions • Claude BARBIER, Lecturer, Global Studies Institute, University of Geneva, Switzerland • Congress youth delegate Debate
11.45	**Thematic debate: Building regional democratic resilience in times of crisis** [CPR(2026)51-03] Statements by: • Jaume DUCH, Regional Minister for EU and External Foreign Action, Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain • Oleksandr PROKUDIN, Head of Kherson Regional Military Administration, Ukraine • Stephen De RON, European Committee of the Regions' rapporteur on the European Democracy Shield • Congress youth delegate Debate
12.29	**Adoption of the abridged report of the session of the Chamber** [CPR(2026)51-DEC]
12.30	**Close of the session of the Chamber by the President of the Chamber**
12.30	***EVENT**: Official opening of the exhibition: "Unbreakable Kherson: From war experience to European resilience" – Permanent Representation of Ukraine – Lobby of the hemicycle*

Wednesday 28 October 2026

Plenary sitting *[EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR/UKR**]*

14.00-19.30, Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Wednesday 21 October 2026, 10.00*

14.00	**Adoption of the minutes of the sitting of the Congress on 27 October 2026** [CG(2026)51-PV-01am] [CG(2026)51-PV-01pm]
14.02	**Adoption of texts approved by the chambers** [CG(2026)51-06]
14.05	**Presidency of Monaco of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (15 May – 10 November 2026)** **Statement by Lionel BEFFRE, Minister of the Interior of Monaco on behalf of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers** Oral reply to written questions [CG(2026)51-16] *Deadline for tabling written questions: Monday 26 October 2026, 16.00*
14.50	**Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine**** Statement by Vitalii BEZGHIN, Minister for Communities, Territories and Internally Displaced Persons, Ukraine • **Intensifying attacks of the Russian Federation against Ukraine** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Cecilia DALMAN EEK, Sweden (R, SOC/G/PD) and Mihkel JUHKAMI, Estonia (L, EPP/CCE) Debate and vote on the amendments [CG(2026)51-26-AMDT] and on the draft declaration [CG(2026)51-26]* • **Financing the recovery: follow-up to the Ukraine Recovery Conference (Gdansk, June 2026)** Statements by: • Carlo MONTICELLI, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank • William ROOS, Managing Director for Corporate Strategy, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Debate
16.20	**Free to speak, free to meet: guaranteeing the rights of LGBTI persons in local communities** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Helen BELCHER, United Kingdom (R, ILDG) and Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria (L, SOC/G/PD) Statements by: • Lene CONRADI, Mayor of Asker, Norway • Manuel ROSAS VAZQUEZ, Managing Director of Rainbow Cities Network Debate and vote on the draft resolution and the draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-17]*
17.30	**Congress Rejuvenating Politics Initiative: presentation of the grassroots projects by the 2026 youth delegates** [CG(2026)51-18] Introduction and conclusion: • Congress youth delegate 1 • Congress youth delegate 2 • Congress youth delegate 3 Debate
18.30	**Election observation missions** Presentation of the reports: Early and repeat elections for the President of Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina (23 November 2025 and 8 February 2026), rapporteur: James MOLONEY, Ireland (L, ILDG) [CG(2026)51-19]* Local elections in the Netherlands (18 March 2026), rapporteur: Konstantinos KOUKAS, Greece (L, EPP/CCE) [CG(2026)51-21]* Partial Elections in 10 municipalities of Serbia (29 March 2026), rapporteur: Emvin BARTOLO, Malta (L, EPP/CCE) [CG(2026)51-22]* Local Elections in England and elections for the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, United Kingdom (7 May 2026), rapporteur: Jani KOKKO Finland, (L, SOC/G/PD) [CG(2026)51-23]* Debate and vote on the draft recommendations
19.30	**Close of the sitting**
20.00	***EVENT:** Reception offered by the City of Strasbourg – Town Hall, Place Broglie, Strasbourg*

Thursday 29 October 2026

Meeting of the Bureau of the Congress

8.30-9.45, Room 10 *[EN/FR/DE/IT]*

Thursday 29 October 2026

Plenary sitting [*EN/FR/DE/IT/ESP/TR*]

10.00-12.30, Hemicycle

** Deadline for tabling amendments: Thursday 22 October 2026, 10.00*

10.00	**Adoption of the minutes of the sessions of the chambers and of the sitting of the Congress on 28 October 2026** [CPL(2026)51-PV], [CPR(2026)51-PV] and [CG(2026)51-PV-02]
10.05	**Third party intervention before the European Court of Human Rights in case n° 37204/25: İmamoğlu v. Türkiye** Presentation by the rapporteur: Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria (L, SOC/G/PD) Debate and vote on the draft resolution [CG(2026)51-27]*
10.50	**Contested memories: how local and regional authorities can manage controversial cultural heritage** Statements by: • Christophe KAMP, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities • Daniela ANGELINI, Mayor of Riccione, Italy Presentation by the co-rapporteurs: Keith BROWN, United Kingdom (R, ILDG) and Anita SCHNEIDER, Germany (L, SOC/G/PD) Debate and vote on the draft resolution [CG(2026)51-24]*
11.45	**Monitoring of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Switzerland** Presentation by the co-rapporteurs**:** Jani KOKKO, Finland (L, SOC/G/PD) Katrien PARTYKA, Belgium (R, EPP/CCE) Debate and vote on the draft recommendation [CG(2026)51-25]*
12.29	**Adoption of the abridged report of the 51st Session** [CG(2026)51-DEC]
12.30	**Close of the 51st Session by the President of the Congress**

MEMBERS' ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO:

- Electronic voting: members' badges will be used for electronic voting in the hemicycle (Congress and Chamber of Local Authorities). Voting in Room 1 (Chamber of Regions) will take place via the KUDO online application. Voting rights will be granted to representatives and duly authorised substitutes who have registered for the session before 16 October 2026 at 6.00 pm.
- Participants are reminded that access to the hemicycle is strictly limited to holders of badges which indicate the specific hemicycle symbol.
- The conditions and deadlines for tabling amendments (congress.session@coe.int): at the latest at **10.00, 7 days before** the day when the texts to which they refer are to be discussed. Amendments must be signed by 5 delegates from at least two delegations for texts debated in plenary sittings or by five delegates from at least two national delegations sitting in a chamber for texts debated in that chamber.
- Registration of speakers: the registration of speakers for the debates should be done directly in Congress Connect.
- **Finance Office**: Office 1140
- **Table office** for any other question: Offices 1155A
- **SPEAKING TIMES APPLIED IN THE DEBATES -**
  Rule 30 paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress

  6. Speaking time for delegates is limited as follows:
     a. Single rapporteurs presenting reports: ten minutes;
     b. Co-rapporteurs presenting reports: six minutes each;
     c. Single rapporteurs replying to debates: five minutes;
     d. Co-rapporteurs replying to debates: three minutes each;
     e. Chairs of committees replying to debates (at their request): three minutes;
     f. Other speakers (except on personal statements; on setting the agenda; on any procedural question or on amendments): three minutes;
     g. Speakers on personal statements; on setting the agenda; on any procedural question or on amendments or sub-amendments: one minute.

  7. When sufficient time is not available for all speakers to be heard for the times provided under Rule 30.6, the President may decide that speaking time will be reduced or that not all those who have entered their name in the register may speak.