



European Conservatives and Reformists group

Minutes

Meeting held on 25 the October 2021 at 15.30 at the Palais d'Europe

1. The Group agreed the Agenda
2. Members introduced themselves
3. The President welcomed our new members and looked forward to increasing our numbers.
4. The President reported back on the Bureau.

Two vacancies were announced in the Local Chamber. As the Ukrainian delegation were not represented on the bureau, the President recommended that members support Oksana Derkach.

The Secretary General will be retiring next year. A new Secretary General will be elected this year. We would welcome suggestions as to who could replace him.

The budget of the the assembly is down to 2.52% of the CofE budget (Down from 3%). The President (Leen Verbeek) is supportive of increasing the budget to 3%. The discussion at Bureau was very animated.

Ukraine has set up their own Congress to mirror the way in which we work here! Members were recommended toto work with their PACE delegations.

In December monitoring taking place in Armenia.

Previously an invitation was issued to the President of PACE but to no response.

THE President of the EU will attend a later meeting of the Congress.

The Foreign Minister of Hungary has declined to speak to the Congress and is sending.

We urge young delegates to be involved in the work of the Congress.

Concern from XXXXX about the radicalisation of young people.

The Bureau is looking for increased contributions from the member states.

We need more differentiation between the reports we write and the PR in accessible formats to highlight the work of the Congress.

Governments are centralising budgets more due to Covid. The President proposed to the Bureau that the Congress should be prepared to quickly react to centralisation by a number of Governments.

Kevin Bentley: We have a good story about this body. We should start telling people what it is, especially about Human Trafficking, elections and Human Rights.

We need to take up the President's proposals to get ournalists interested. Great piece of work needs to be done on PR. ABout the first 60 years and the next 100.

Svitlana Bohatyrchuk Kryvko: There are 800 million of us so this is right.

5. Congress Agenda

Rafet Virgili: There appears to a difference in tone between those reports concerning members of the EU and those that are not. EU members get few criticisms. For example: The Netherlands monitoring report and the appointment of the Netherland's Mayors. Co-Mayors are banned by the law. Examples from the



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Caribbean, where Dutch protectorates (Antilles) have no right to move to the Netherlands. For Armenia, Azerbaijan and others the Congress reports are often cruel in tone whereas criticisms of other countries is much softer. France and the Netherlands escape from such criticism. We should not accept the Netherlands report.

Svitlana Bohatyrchuk Kryvko: Many countries are at different stages of application to the EU.

Kevin Bentley: Agreed with RF. Perhaps we should have our own PR?

A debate took place about the contributions that could take place.

Linda Taylor: Trafficking is a vital issue. Every country should be a safe Country for migrants to arrive at.

Radka Trylcova: How to promote the work of Congress. 2022 could be Czech presidency which we can use to promote work of the Congress.

Andrew Leadbetter: Distribute list of members. Pull in other members. Promotion. Happy to head up a working party to talk about promotion.

Kevin Bentley: Communique at end of three day session. Media protocol written by the CofE.

Svitlana Bohatyrchuk Kryvko: We could try communiqes out at the next session.

Alberto Mazzoleni: First step to know one another better. Perhaps a Whatsapp Group?

Best way would be a joint communique. SHould challenge the per members allocation and have a set amount for each group.

Kevin Bentley: The Group should consider organising a social meeting.

6. Appointment of Auditor

Aida Jalilzade was appointed as Auditor.

7. Any other business

On a proposal by Kevin Bentley the Group unanimously supported the adoption of the audited accounts for the statement of expenses for the year 2020.