



## European Conservatives and Reformists group

# Draft Minutes

Meeting held on 20rd March 2023 at 16.00 Strasbourg time at the Palais d'Europe

A minutes silence was observed for the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and of Puti's war against Ukraine.

1. The meeting agreed the Agenda including the sign off or the accounts for last year.
2. We welcomed new members from Hungary.
3. The President, **Mrs Svitlana Bohatyrchuk-Kryvko**, observed that there were many non-aligned members of the Congress and asked members to invite more to join. The President welcomed the appointment of the new Secretary General. We have discussed many things in Bureau including Iceland's presidency and how this would effect the budget of the Congress. There has been a debate about what levels of support can be given to Ukraine on the anniversary of the Russian invasion. Bureau talked about the future reports, one of which is headed by Joanne Laban. Following the proposal of the Ukrainian delegation there will be a report on the role of local authorities in the crisis. After the war ends we will right a book about how our communities have survived. **Rafet Vergili** - Why had a Swedish representative been given the floor without advance warning after Mr Vergili's intervention. The President will take this up at the next Bureau meeting. Cities to Cities has resulted in help for Ukrainian authorities. Rivne had received generators from Germany.
4. The Russian Federation will be debated at the Plenary meeting. Russia were damaging the civilian infrastructure and children cannot attend school during the raids. Some cities in Ukraine have been wiped off the map. Popasne no longer exists. There are also inspiring moments. The Ukrainian Government is already planning the rebuilding of Ukraine. 50 million are looking for permanent shelter in Ukraine or abroad. Ukrainian delegates to the Congress are travelling here at their own risk. Bordering with Moldova, 30,000 population. **Sergii Mazur** For me the war started when on the 24th February, 22 Ukrainian soldiers were killed. Every person in our country is a fighter now. I have welcomed IDPs to the area and have done everything possible to provide basic services to my citizens. We warned the Congress prior to the all out war of the threat from Russia but many thought

that this was just a local conflict. We will do everything to win this war.

I would like to thank you and your Governments for acting so quickly and doing everything possible to stop this war. The war has affected everyone - a global effect.

We should talk about the war as much as we can to make sure that everyone knows.

**The President** reminded us that the war has been going on for 9 years, longer than the first and second world wars. It is a war against all the people in Europe.

I would like to bring your attention to the resolution tomorrow. I have been in the Congress since 2008 and know many people, I would hope they all support the resolution. The ICC have issued an arrest warrant for Putin for the deportation of 200,000 children to Russia. They take children from the temporarily occupied areas and force parents to take Russian passports in order to get their children back. They have changed their law to allow Russians to adopt children without reference to their parents. The Russian commissioner for children has adopted a child herself. This is genocide.

Ukraine seeks reparations from Russia for the War. Russia must be held accountable for the costs of the war.

Ukraine has applied for membership of the EU. There were seven items that the EU advised - these have been addressed.

**Aida Jalilzade** related similar experiences from the Armenian conflict. There are still Azeri children who are unaccounted for. It's a humanitarian tragedy. She expressed her full support.

**Kevin Bentley** We hosted two families in the UK. One mother has recently given birth to a new Ukrainian citizen. The UK delegation will support the declaration.

**Joanne Laban** was able to see the speech President Zelensky gave to the House of Commons in London and gave her support to the resolution.

**Alberto Mazzoleni** Gave his support for the resolution. He wants to see an end to conflict as soon as possible.

**Rachel Bailey** The Congress has to support the resolutions this is what the Congress is for. Not to support Ukraine would be unthinkable.

**Gry-Anette Rekanes Amundsen** Norway stands by Ukraine. The war is about values, freedom of speech and democracy. Ukraine is fighting our fight. We support the resolution. Jana Fis We faced this in 1968. We back you.

5. The President updated the members on activities in the Congress Bureau as part of her opening remarks.
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7. The meeting **resolved** to approve the expenses for 2022 and the auditor's report.

**Rafet Vergili** proposed that some expenses should be sent to displaced child facilities in Ukraine. **Alberto Mazzoleni** agreed to see if this was within the rules of the Congress.

**Aida Jalilzade** Alerted the meeting to the threat that Russia is helping Armenia move military equipment to Karabakh on the Lachin-Khankendi road. Environmental activists opposed to illegal mining under the Russian peacekeeping arrangements complain that Karabakh resources are being shipped to Armenia. We don't want war, we want peace. Former USSR colonies like Abkhazia, Moldova, Georgia are all suffering from Russian interference.