



## Draft Minutes

Meeting held on 14th October 2024 at 16.00 Strasbourg time at the Palais d'Europe

### 1. Agree agenda

Apologies were received from our President Svitlana as her mother died the day before. Andrew said he would write a letter sending the group's condolences. Apologies from our Vice President Kevin Bentley who could not be present due to a full council meeting at Essex in the United Kingdom.

**Cllr Joanne Laban** proposed therefore that Andrew Boff chaired the meeting in their absence. **Cllr Andrew Leadbetter** seconded.

The Agenda was agreed.

### 2. [Minutes of the meeting held on 25/03/24](#)

Agreed.

### 3. Welcome new members

Andrew Boff welcomed new members from Finland and Norway.

### 4. President's opening remarks

Andrew Boff said he could not do a full update but said that Svitlana was passionate about the report on Russia trying to remove the cultural heritage of Ukraine.

### 5. Russia's war in Ukraine

Andrew Boff encourages people to participate in the debate on Russians trying to remove Ukraine's cultural heritage from the areas they have taken over.

### 6. Bureau report

Andrew Boff discussed the Georgia declaration. He was concerned that Georgia was heading in the wrong direction, aligning itself with the Russian Federation.

There will be a debate on Thursday about how the Congress will deal with Georgia. **Joanne Laban** asked about the cost of the refurb of the hemicycle.

## 7. Congress Agenda

Andrew Boff took delegates through the congress agenda.

Key reports

- Cultural heritage of Ukraine
- Monitoring report – Finland (**Rapporteur Rachel Bailey, UK**)  
**Markku Papinniemi** said it is important to take into consideration the future of the local government in the country as things are changing.
- Circular Economy
- Global Outreach
- Monitoring report – Iceland
- Monitoring report – Latvia
- Monitoring report – Malta (**Rapporteur Cecilia Felicitzasz Friderics, Hungary**) Who reported on the lack of independence of local authorities in Malta.
- Presentation on Lithuanian authorities on the presidency
- Discussion on problems
- Ageing Communities (**Rapporteur Joanne Laban**)
- Presentation to long-term delegates of Congress
- Observation report in Turkey
- Debate on Georgia

## 8. Any other business

There was no other business