What is Congress?

Congress is the Institute’s global advisory body that represents the membership.

It is constituted such that it is not dominated by a single interest group; its role is to engage the membership to guide and influence the Global Board of Trustees (GBT) through the Chair of Congress.
What is the role of Congress?

As an elected representative of the members in your region you will be a key communications link between members and the Institute’s leadership.

**What is Congress’s role?**

1. **Advice and guidance**
   Congress’s role is advisory, it has no legal responsibilities but provides guidance to the GBT, ensuring that the issues that matter to members are on the agenda and that leadership decisions are influenced by the opinions of the global membership.

2. **Does Congress have a governance role?**
   Congress is set up as required in the Royal Charter and bye-laws to support GBT. It does not have executive decision making powers.

3. **Communications**
   Congress members act as a two-way communications channel between the membership and the Institute’s leadership. Their role is to engage with members to understand their needs and how they are being affected by developments in the profession, and make recommendations to the GBT on this basis. Congress members will then communicate and champion CIPS strategies, plans and achievements back to the membership.

4. **Elections to the Board**
   Congress is the constitutional mechanism for electing a number of Congress members on to GBT. Once elected to the GBT the member concerned ceases to be on Congress because he or she then becomes a Trustee with all the legal liability. The person who is chosen as Congress Chair spans both bodies and has a foot in both camps; he or she is first and foremost a Trustee and is not strictly speaking a Congress member but its leader, moving from being a representative of one region to representing (on GBT) the entire global body.

**How is it constituted?**

Congress is divided into global geographical regions to ensure representation of members is appropriate.

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"Congress members influence the Institute and the profession and are committed to making a difference in global Procurement and Supply through sharing their knowledge, experience, pride and passion. As a Congress member you will represent members, branches and regions, contribute to working groups and be the voice of the profession to the CIPS GBT."

Congress Member 2016 to 2019
Who can be a Congress representative?
All current MCIPS and FCIPS members are eligible to stand for election to the regional seats. All current Student, Certificate and Diploma Members can stand for election to the Student seats, subject to meeting some additional eligibility criteria. Affiliate Members are not eligible to be a member of Congress.

What does the commitment involve?
The term of office is three years, from your elected date in November. There will typically be two meetings each year, normally in November and March. You must be able to travel and be in a position to make your own travel arrangements including obtaining the necessary visas if required (CIPS reimburses the reasonable cost of travel within our expenses policy but does not make the arrangements).

As a Congress representative you will be expected to prepare for meetings by reading any relevant documentation and to carry out any follow-up actions you have agreed to, such as contributing to a working group. Just as importantly, you will be expected to communicate with the members you represent, to gather their views on the topics for discussion and to report back on the debate.
What will I get out of it?

The simple answer is as much as you put in. While being a Congress representative is a voluntary, unpaid role, there is a payback in professional and personal benefits. You will have the personal satisfaction of helping to drive our agenda and shape the future development of our Institute. The experience of networking and collaborating with other Procurement and Supply Professionals from every global region and from all business sectors provides a unique opportunity to develop your own knowledge and skills. If you’re interested in becoming a trustee, as a member of Congress you may be able to stand for election to the GBT providing you meet the Trustee eligibility criteria, which in turn opens the door to senior officer appointments.

As a Congress member you will be involved in influencing the future of the Institute – a fantastic opportunity for those from all backgrounds and sectors who are keen to take a proactive role in shaping the future of the Procurement Profession. You will represent members and be their ‘voice’ in decisions that affect them – a key role that is challenging yet also exciting and rewarding.

Congress Member 2014 to 2017
10 good reasons to be a congress representative

1. Be the voice of our membership
2. Form a two-way communication channel between Congress and members
3. Help to influence the CIPS agenda
4. Shape the future of your Profession
5. Network with others committed to the future of your Profession
6. Develop your own professional knowledge and skills
7. Hear first hand about developments
8. Help raise the profile of your Profession
9. Raise your personal profile with your peers

...and perhaps most important:
10. Gain the satisfaction of a job well done both for yourself and for your Profession

As a member of Congress you get the opportunity to make some great contributions to the Institute. CIPS is currently at its most robust and as Congress we need to focus on helping the Institute grow the influence of the profession globally.

Congress Member 2013 to 2016