



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Human Rights Committee

Working Group: Human Rights Defenders

Theme(s) discussed:

Situation of human rights defenders in the Council of Europe member states and Belarus, measures of their protection and support.

Aims:

- Promoting the existing and developing proposals for new standards and mechanisms on the protection and support of human rights defenders within the Council of Europe framework;
- Reacting to specific cases of attacks and pressure on human rights defenders and/or systemic challenges threatening their work in the Council of Europe member states and Belarus;
- Promoting the importance of actions to protect and support human rights defenders within the Conference of INGOs and its Human Rights Committee;
- Ensuring better coordination between various INGOs working to protect and support human rights defenders.

Working languages: English and Russian

Coordinator: Andrey Yurov, International Youth Human Rights Movement (YHRM);

Members:

- International Youth Human Rights Movement (YHRM);
 - Human Rights House Network;
 - European Council of Police Trade Unions (CESP);
 - European Action for the Disabled (AEH);
 - International Council B'NAI B'RITH (ICBB);
- + observers.

Date established: January 2012

Duration of functioning scheduled: permanent

Expected results:

- establishment of a special mechanism / mandate within the Council of Europe for addressing individual cases of persecution of HRDs;
- development of the Council of Europe action plan / strategy to protect and support human rights defenders and their activities;

- wider use of the existing formats of cooperation between the Council of Europe and NGOs (e.g., partnership status for national NGOs) for raising legitimacy and visibility and ensuring protection of human rights NGOs;
- development of systemic tools for support to and solidarity with human rights defenders within the Conference of INGOs / its Human Rights Committee.

Dissemination of the results:

The results of discussions and proposals / recommendations developed within the Working Group are disseminated among relevant Council of Europe stakeholders (Secretary General and his Office, Committee of Ministers and/or interested permanent missions of the member states, Commissioner for Human Rights and his Office, PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and its rapporteurs on the situation of human rights defenders), as well as INGOs and national NGOs working in the field of protection and support of human rights defenders.

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