



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Resolution adopted on 30 January 2014 CONF/PLE(2014)RES1

The Situation in Ukraine

The Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe, meeting in Strasbourg on 30 January 2014

Aware that Ukraine as a signatory of the United Nations international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of course as a member since 1995 of the Council of Europe, has formal commitments to fulfil in the core areas of democracy, human rights and the rule of law;

Following with attention and concern the evolution of the situation in Ukraine and calling to halt the escalation of violence;

Expressing its sincere condolences to the families of the victims of violence and its deep concern at the number of “disappeared” and injured persons;

Requesting that those responsible for violence, including those who order the violence, be brought to justice;

Noting that the provisions of any amnesty law must not provide impunity for perpetrators of violence;

Welcoming the work of human rights defenders in protecting victims and monitoring human rights violations;

Welcoming the proposal of the Secretary General to establish an independent advisory panel to investigate the violent incidents during the protests and calling on the government and the opposition to nominate their representatives on this panel;

Welcoming the repeal by Parliament of the “anti-protest” laws which criminalise protests and limit freedom of assembly, association and expression and demanding that no similar legislation be reintroduced;

Calling on the Ukrainian authorities to continue cooperation with the Council of Europe in the reform agenda;

Expecting that the resignation of the Prime Minister and the repeal of the “anti-protest” laws open the way for dialogue to find a political solution to the crisis;

Recalling that civil society has to be an integral part of this process as well as of further democratic reforms;

The Conference of INGOs

- Welcomes the Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 1974 and Recommendation 2035, both adopted this very day entitled “The functioning of democratic institutions in Ukraine” and aligns itself with their considerations;
- Urges all other Council of Europe bodies to monitor the ongoing situation, to facilitate political dialogue with a view to resolving the crisis and to promote further reform in Ukraine;
- Accordingly offers the platform of the Conference of INGOs for involving national and international civil society actors in these efforts;
- Stands ready to provide mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between NGOs and authorities with a view to enhancing civil participation in the democratic process;
- Offers the support of the Expert Council on NGO Law to assist in bringing current and future NGO legislation and its implementation in line with European standards;
- Seeks to engage the member organisations of the Conference of INGOs in supporting Ukrainian civil society throughout the current crisis;
- In the light of the above, is available to send a mission to the country.