



CONFERENCE OF INGOS
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL COHESION AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES COMMITTEE CONF/DEM(2014)RAPACT

ACTIVITY REPORT 2014

In 2014, the Committee has focused on democracy, dialogue and the protection of human rights in the development of the lands and societies of Europe and in the Mediterranean. It has taken into account human rights in the migration of people and the consequences of climate challenges. These rights are now being considered by several Member States of the Council of Europe and by the United Nations.

I - The promotion of democracy

Its advocacy on participation has been expressed through eight commitments:

1. **the search for a “démocratie d’élaboration”** (democracy for building together) with Jo SPIEGEL, Vice President of the community of the Greater Mulhouse conurbation, pioneering Mayor of Kingersheim, co-author of the work : *Making the (re)birth of democracy happen* and Giulia MACI (FIHUAT), urban planner, initiator of new land use structures for the engagement of young citizens, whose mobilization is crucial for the democratic development of cities of the future.
2. contribution to the work of **CEMAT** ([the European Conference of Ministers in charge of spatial planning](#)), on the theme : 'Promoting participatory democracy in land use planning', a text of prime importance to the European continent. Its members have in particular contributed to the creation of a draft charter on territorial democracy (Luc-Emile BOUCHE FLORIN, Patrice COLLIGNON et Anne-Marie CHAVANON)
3. collaboration on the actions of the **European Landscape Convention**, exemplary in the field of participatory democracy. It invited the NGO *LIBERA Names and Numbers against the Mafia*, acknowledged by receiving the European Landscape Award from the Council of Europe, for the revival of the region of Haut-Belice Corleonese from lands confiscated from Mafia organisations. Presentations took place at workshops on the theme Sustainable landscape and economy in Turkey (Gerhard ERMISCHER, Patrice COLLIGNON)
4. Chairmanship of the Good Governance Strategy Platform, which brings together representatives of the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of local authorities and the Conference of INGOS by the Chairperson of the committee.
5. participation in the work of the CDGG (Thierry MATHIEU) and the continuation of the production of a Code of good practice for the participation of civil society in the decision-making processes for elected officials, established by the Congress of local authorities in connection with the Conference of INGOS (Antonella VALMORBIDA, Thierry MATHIEU and Anne-Marie CHAVANON)

6. contribution to the World Forum For Democracy, for the 2014 session, the proposal of speakers and moderation of a workshop as well as the participation in the Steering Committee for future events (Israel MENSAH)

7. participation in the European week of local democracy: the Commission effectively disseminated information to its members, encouraged them to take initiatives on the proposed theme « *Share, propose, decide* », in conjunction with the event coordinator at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

8. The commission has supported and strongly encouraged the development of pioneering laws at global level. This was the case with the involvement of organised civil society in decision-making and legislative processes in Morocco and Romania, the Constitution adopted by Tunisia, a pioneer in the Muslim Arab world and the Prize for urban Innovation in Guangzhou (China).

II - The global challenge of climate change

The Commission has advocated the inclusion of a Human Rights dimension in the new Treaty to be signed in Paris, from November 30 to December 11, 2015, at the COP21 meeting. This replaces the Kyoto Protocol. Its contribution to the work of the United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) took place in two stages:

- the development, adoption and dissemination of the text of the Declaration to the bodies of the Council of Europe, the European Union, the United Nations, member States and relevant civil society organizations. [See text on the dedicated website.](#)
- the elaboration, adoption and wide dissemination of a position paper entitled "Climate change and human rights". [See text on the dedicated website](#)

In this framework, the Commission heard from Serge LEPELTIER, former French Minister of the Environment, President of the French Water Academy, former French Ambassador responsible for negotiations on climate change and Sébastien DUYCK, researcher at the University of Lapland (Finland), an environmental law specialist, co-responsible for the Working Group "Climate Change and Human Rights" of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

III - The causes and consequences of migration

Faced with recurring tragedies occurring at the borders of Europe and with countries at war, the Committee devoted its first session in 2014 to the theme of migration in the Mediterranean, the dangers faced by migrants fleeing conflicts and poverty, and the urgency of dialogue in the host countries.

Supporting the conclusions of a report by Jean-Marie BOCKEL, Member of the Commission for migrants, refugees and displaced persons from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, presented by Agnès NOLLINGER, NGO members of the commission are committed to contributing international assistance deployed to assist migrants gathered in Syrian refugee camps in Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq.

Support for the community of **Lampedusa, as a European symbol and responsibility, witnessed the testimony of Gilles RECKINGER**, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Innsbruck, author of the publication *Lampedusa, meeting at the borders of Europe* ([Begegnungen am Rande Europas](#)), at the invitation of the ad hoc working group led by Silvano MARSEGLIA and Jean-Claude GONON, (AEDE) Working groups led by Israel MENSAH and François BECKER were engaged in a reflection on development aid in Southern countries and the development of interculturalism in Europe.

IV - The use of violence based on gender in period of conflict

Proposal of Anje WIERSINGA, **head of the ad hoc working group, the commission has supported** the approach of Zeynab Hibaaq OSMAN, founder and Director of KARAMA, an NGO present in North Africa and the Middle East, formed of men and women, of various denominations and lay people - came to ask the support of the NGOs of the Council of Europe on the one hand against gender-based violence used as a political weapon in conflicts or periods of democratic transition, and on the other hand against the sidelining of women in the process of reconciliation policy.

Related working group activities:

An analysis of policy developments of the countries of the South and East of the Mediterranean and the preparation of a report on possible of NGO actions there by Jean-Pierre ESTIVAL (AEC), head of the ad hoc working group

Presentation of the introductory report "*The cultural city as social city, finding the social link and give a new breath of democracy*" by the "social cohesion and intercultural dialogue" Working Group (Israel MENSAH, Emanuela CAVALIERI)

The implementation of a European cultural alliance project by the European Citizenship Working Group (Hélène PICHON)

Identifying and making contact with organisations dealing with civil society in the European Union with which the Council of Europe civil society should establish relationships (Claude-Laurent GENTY).

Speakers

BENSEDRINE Lilia, lawyer, Foreign Affairs councillor of Tunisia,

DUYCK Sebastian, researcher at the University of Lapland (Finland), an environmental law specialist, co-head of the Working Group "Climate Change and Human Rights" in the framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

FERNÁNDEZ-GALIANO, Eladio, Head of the Department of democratic initiatives and responsible for the World Forum For Democracy Initiatives.

LEPELTIER Serge, former French Minister for the Environment, President of the French Water Academy, former French Ambassador responsible for climate change negotiations

MACI Giulia, urban planner (International Federation for housing and land use planning).

Agnès NOLLINGER, Head of the Secretariat of the commission on Migrants, refugees and displaced persons, from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

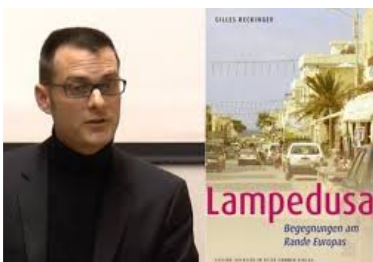
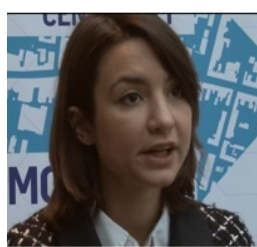
OSMAN Zeynab Hibaaq, founder and Director of KARAMA, an NGO present in North Africa and the Middle East

RECKINGER Gilles, anthropologist, Professor at the University of Innsbruck, author of Lampedusa: *Begegnungen am Rande Europas (Lampedusa, meeting at the frontier of Europe)*

SPIEGEL Jo, counsellor for the Upper Rhine, Mayor of Kingersheim and Vice President of the Greater Mulhouse agglomeration, co-author of the publication *Making the (re)birth of democracy happen*

ZARDI Alfonso, Head of the Department of Institutions and Democratic Governance at the Council of Europe.

2014 Travaux de commission – Committee meetings





CEMAT – Athenes : démocratie territoriale / territorial democracy



Roumanie : Forum national gouvernement/ONG : Organised civil society and participation



Rabat (Maroc): Clôture du Dialogue national sur la société civile /Closing ceremony and workshop



Urgup (Turquie) - European Landscape Convention – Landscape and sustainable economy



Guangzhou (China) International urban innovation Award – Climate and participation

Bureau de la commission élu le 26/06/2014

President



Anne-Marie CHAVANON
IFHP (International Federation for
Housing and Planning)

Vice-president



Karl DONERT,
President of EUROGEO,

Vice-president



Thierry MATHIEU
Secretary General
AIRHH (Association Internationale
pour la Recherche en Hygiène
Hospitalière)

