



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

STANDING COMMITTEE CONF/SC(2016)SYN4

LIST OF DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING ON 10 OCTOBER 2016

Present : Michel AGUILAR, Jean-Michel CAUDRON), Anne-Marie CHAVANON, Antonina DASHKINA, Karl DONERT, Oren GOSTIAUX (who arrived during the meeting), Jean-Marie HEYDT, Salomon LEVY, Thierry MATHIEU, Simon MATTHIJSEN, Israël MENSAH (who was absent in the afternoon), Roseline MOREAU, Anne NEGRE, Maritchu RALL, Cyril RITCHIE, Sabine ROHMANN, Anna RURKA, Didier SCHRETTTER, lamvi TOTSI

Apologised: Jessica CHAMBA, Laura FRATI-GUCCI, Jean-Marie HEYDT (for part of the meeting)

1. **Opening of the meeting**

Anna RURKA, President of the Conference of INGOs

2. **Agenda**: adopted

3. **Reports of the meetings of 21 and 23 June 2016**: adopted

4. **Nomination of the meeting rapporteur**

Jean-Michel Caudron for the morning, Anne Kraus for the afternoon

5. **Presentation by Mikaël Poutiers, Children's Rights Division, of the 2nd International Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse**

The Conference of INGOs is invited to engage in the promotion of the International Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. The fight against all forms of violence against children is part of the Council of Europe's Strategy on the Rights of the Child. The Strategy aims to narrow the gap between standards and practice so that existing standards on children's rights are effectively enforced.

The website, designed and facilitated by the Council of Europe's Children's Rights Division, contains many tools for all ages. Direct contact is now established between the secretariat and the Children's Rights Working Group of the Conference of INGOs.

6. **Exchange of views with invited INGOs concerning priorities regarding the abolition of the death penalty and the prevention of torture and action by the Conference of INGOs**

Aurélie Placais and Jessica Corridor, representatives of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, along with Michael Remmert, Deputy to the Director of Policy Planning, exchanged with the Standing Committee on current challenges in the fight for the abolition of the death penalty and the prevention of torture.

The action of the Conference of INGOs on the subject could be to recall and promote the right to life and the non-use of degrading practices for human dignity (Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms). This would be done in partnership with the Coalition.

7. Information on past and future activities (see the calendar on the website of the Conference of INGOs)

7.1. Activities of the President:

- Fact-finding visit to Romania (Bucharest, 11-13 September) and planned visits to Germany (Berlin, 24-26 October) and Hungary (Budapest, 20-22 November);
- Opening of the thematic session on freedom of association at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2016, OSCE (Warsaw, 20-21 September);
- Address at the 33rd session of the UN Human Rights Council on participation by civil society organisations in regional and international organisations (Geneva, 26 September);
- Address at the close of the EUR-OPA group meeting (Lisbon, 14 October);
- Address at the Autumn University of the European Movement (Strasbourg, 15 October);

7.2. Activities of representatives of the Conference:

- Seminar on the rights of persons with disabilities and the European Social Charter (Minsk, 20 September, Jean Michel Caudron);
- Council of Europe High-Level Conference on the Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 (Tallinn, 30 June -1 July, Anne Nègre);
- North-South Centre's North-South Prize (Lisbon, 30 June, Jean-Michel Caudron);
- Meeting of the Expert Council on NGO Law : information on the agenda (Strasbourg, 11-12 October, Cyril Ritchie);
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Strasbourg, 17 October, Maritchu Rall);
- World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 7-8 November, Roseline Moreau, Anne Kraus, Jean-Michel Caudron);
- High-level Exchange on the Religious Dimension of Intercultural Dialogue (Strasbourg, 9-10 November, Michel Aguilar, Jean-Michel Caudron, Salomon Levy) ;
- Lisbon Forum of the North-South Centre (24-25 November, Jean-Michel Caudron) ;
- Meetings in Brussels Brussels-Capital (towns of Molenbeek Saint Jean, Forest, Schaerbeek) following a proposal from the FMDO (*Federatie marokkaanse democratische organisaties*), headed by Abdelaziz Saret, and the Brussels and French branches of the CERSS (*Centre d'études et de recherches en sciences sociales de Rabat*), represented Khadija Qesmoun, researcher and member of the Bureau of CERSS.

8. Exchange of views on the draft guidelines on civil participation in political decision-making

(Anne-Marie Chavanon and Paul Henri Philips, co-chairs of the working group of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG))

The drafting of new guidelines on civil participation in political decision-making requested by the Secretary General is carried out by a joint drafting group (experts mandated by the Conference of INGOs and governmental experts) with a view to validating the document by the CDDG at the end of 2016. After a wide public consultation, open to all, the Standing Committee was consulted on the draft text before its adoption at the meeting in mid-November. We hope that the guidelines can be adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2017.

9. Conclusion of the discussion on the project to create a radio station by the International Confederation of Intellectual Workers (CITI)

Anna RURKA's request to CITI to exclude Jean-Pierre HICHERI from its official delegation to the Conference of INGOs was accepted by the President of CITI.

It should be recalled that if one or several NGOs wish to propose a project which concerns the functioning of the Conference of INGOs (and even if the project is presented in their own name), the Conference of INGOs (at least the Standing Committee) must imperatively be consulted, in accordance with the Communication Charter adopted by the Conference of INGOs, in order to see whether the project is in conformity with the rules and priorities of the Conference (Action Plan adopted).

10. Surrogacy: results of consultations and approach to be taken for the next stages in the work of the Conference of INGOs

Following the decision taken by the Conference at the plenary meeting in June, a consultation was launched on a substantial text to open the discussion. At the end of this process, the results of the contributions are as follows: 9 INGOs against the surrogacy, 8 INGOs that are rather favorable or favorable but subject to strict supervision, 6 INGOs consider that the Conference does not have sufficient competence to provide a substantiated and credible opinion or are undecided.

In view of this, the Standing Committee notes that:

- the consultation took place in accordance with the framework established and validated in plenary on 24 June 2016;
- it appears from this consultation that the debate within the Conference is lively, and ends, in accordance with democratic rules, in a non-conclusive manner.

In this regard the Standing Committee proposes to the plenary of the Conference of INGOs to note that this issue of society cannot currently give rise to a consensual statement and that it does not rule that the question may come up again in the future if appropriate.

11. Roadmap on migration 2017-2018

The main theme of the roadmap on migration presented by Jean-Michel Caudron is retained with minor additions. It includes suggestions for action proposed by members of the Standing Committee.

12. Continuation of the work on the Conference of INGOs' internal and external communication

Concerning communication, the work carried out with the Secretariat has borne fruit and has resulted in a re-launch of relations with the Council of Europe's Press Service.

Didier Schretter is appointed Communication Officer. His role is to ensure the proper application of the Communication Charter and also to propose tools that will make the initiatives of the Conference and of the INGOs more visible.

13. Preparation of the evaluation of the Conference of INGOs' action plan (tools and calendar)

The Conference of INGOs adopted a three-year Action Plan on 25 June 2015. In order to prepare the evaluation of the Action Plan, tools for measuring results achieved by 2017 have to be put in

place. This first evaluation of the actions of the Conference of INGOs must above all show what has been done in a synthetic and, if possible, quantified way. The document is not intended to duplicate documents already produced. Jessica Chamba, in charge of this work within the Bureau, proposes the following timetable:

- December 2016: Elaboration of a table to identify the main activities carried out in relation to the objectives of the Action Plan of the Conference of INGOs;
- January 2017: In the margins of the plenary session, discussion and exchange on this proposal with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Committees, the President of the Expert Council, the Gender Equality Expert, the leaders of the cross-cutting axes (youth, North-South ...) as well as, if possible, the leaders of the working groups (on the basis of the document transmitted beforehand);
- February 2017: finalisation of the table by the persons concerned;
- March - April 2017: diffusion of the table to be completed by the persons concerned;
- June 2017 : elaboration of the 1st draft of the proposed evaluation of the Action Plan

14. Preparation of the Conference's activity report: coordination and timetable

The structure of the analytical report proposed by the President in accordance with the Action Plan of the Conference was adopted by the Standing Committee. Oren Gostiaux would receive the various reports (including cross-cutting themes) and integrate them according to the points of the Action Plan, if possible, for translation purposes, by 18 November.

15. Discussion on the conditions for receiving new representatives and boosting the representativeness of the INGOs within the Conference – lines of action

In order to strengthen the participation of INGOs in the work of the Conference, it is necessary to find efficient and interesting working methods for all. Obstacles that have been identified include: the high cost of attending the sessions of the Conference, the lack of information relayed between sessions and on the issues to be discussed at future sessions, the expectations and the needs of the INGOs, the slowness of our processes.

In order to remedy this, it is necessary to promote the image and increase the visibility of the Conference, to enhance its expertise, actions and achievements. The Conference must be open, modern, multicultural and intergenerational. We need to have innovative, interactive and positive approaches, have more transparency, work with an annual calendar that is accessible to all, and so on.

To study the needs and make proposals, the Standing Committee validated the creation of an ad hoc committee composed of 4 people and which would be coordinated by Anne Kraus, member of the Bureau.

16. Situation of organised civil society in Turkey (lines of action)

An informal meeting with Turkish NGOs would be organised at the end November by the Conference of INGOs and the Civil Society Division. The President of the Expert Council and the Chairs of the thematic committees would be invited to participate.

17. Programming of sessions

- The obligation of elected members to attend and contribute to the meetings of the Standing Committee is recalled;

- A "benchmark" text presenting the principles for the organisation of a side-event was adopted by the Standing Committee ([link to the text](#))

18. Reinforcement of the No Hate Speech Campaign by the Conference of INGOs

Item not taken

19. Priority events to be marked and taken up (COP 22, etc.)

Item not taken

20. Timetable : dates of the next Standing Committee meetings

The next meetings will be on 24 and 26 January 2017.

21. Other Business