



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Standing Committee

CONF/SC(2018)SYN1

SYNOPSIS OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2018

Participants:

- Miguel CABRAL DE PINHO (Vice-Chair of the Human Rights Committee)
- Jessica CHAMBA (Bureau Rapporteur)
- Gerhard ERMISCHER (Vice-Chair of the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee)
- Oren GOSTIAUX (Bureau Rapporteur)
- Anne KRAUS (Bureau Rapporteur)
- Julianne LAGADEC (Vice-Chair of the Education and Culture Committee)
- Salomon LEVY (Chair of the Verification and Dispute Committee)
- Thierry MATHIEU (Chair of the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee)
- Simon MATTHIJSEN (Chair of the Human Rights Committee)
- Anne NEGRE (Gender Equality Expert)
- Alexandra Luminata PETRESCU (Vice-Chair of the Education and Culture Committee)
- Maritchu RALL (President of INGO-Services)
- Cyril RITCHIE (President of the Council of Experts on NGO Law)
- Anna RURKA (President of the Conference of INGOs)
- Iamvi TOTSI (Vice-Chair of the Human Rights Committee)
- Claude VIVIER LE GOT (President of the Education and Culture Committee)

Guest: Marie-Josée SCHMITT, Chargée de mission of the Conference of INGOs for the Social Charter

Apologised for absence: Chair of the Bureau)

- Karl DONERT (Vice-Chair of the Education and Culture Committee)

The Standing Committee:

1. Anna RURKA, President of the Conference of INGOS, opened the meeting
2. **adopted** the agenda to which a number of changes were made, in particular the changes to be made to the English (see discussion on terminology) and a number of items were deferred to a subsequent meeting (see below)

3. **adopted** the [synopsis of the meeting held on 9 October 2017](#) with the following changes:
 - item 2: Miguel CABRAL DE PINHO abstained as he had been absent during part of the meeting;
 - item 5: The following wording was proposed: The website of the Conference of INGOs does not offer the possibility of subscribing to the RSS feeds when the website is updated” (for the RSS feed of the Council of Europe’s website works but is not active on the Conference site);
4. **appointed** Jessica CHAMBA rapporteur for the meeting
5. **was addressed by** Nicolae-Daniel POPESCU, Head of the Democratic Governance Department, who called on the INGOs to focus on activities which could have an impact, and actions which would demonstrate the added value of the Conference of INGOS compared to the other bodies of the Council of Europe.

Mr POPESCU:

- encouraged the NGOs to take the floor at meetings where appropriate;
 - asked to be informed when the Conference identified situations in which it might have different points of view or analyses from those of the other Council of Europe bodies;
 - encouraged the Conference to discuss its future prospects and the role it wished to play in the coming years.
6. **Listened to** Jane CROZIER present the final replies given by all Council of Europe bodies to requests for the status of INGO submitted in 2016
 - ACCESS: at the final state, its request had been rejected. The INGO had been in the “proposed” category but was now in the “rejected” category because its governance and management structures were too closely linked to the CoE;
 - European Deaf Blind Network remained in the “rejected” category as it did not have enough activities in common with the Council of Europe;
 - DATUB: the Secretary General of the Council of Europe was of the opinion that this INGO should be granted participatory status.
 - The INGOs would be informed of the outcome of their status request during the session week. Those whose participatory status would be recognised before the elections scheduled to take place during the session, could take part in them.
 7. **took note** of the new arrangements for welcoming new representatives, including the “ask me” badge, which members of the Standing Committee were asked to wear to make themselves visible so that new members could approach them with their questions.
 8. **proposed** to shorten and limit the draft resolution on the use of the term “droits humains” in French (human rights in English) by the Committee whose title is currently “Commission droits de l’homme” (fr) and in documents drawn up by the Conference of INGOs to the explanatory memorandum and simply to inform the Committee of Ministers of the change of terminology within the Conference of INGOs
 - **decided**, therefore, to set aside the draft recommendation to the Committee of Ministers on the same subject

9. Preparation of the meeting of the Conference of INGOs on 24 and 26 January:

9.1 As the members of the Standing Committee who do not speak French were unable to read the **2017 activity report**, which has not yet been translated into English

- **the Committee decided** that the activity report would be presented to the Conference at its plenary meeting on Wednesday 24 January after integration of a change proposed by Thierry MATHIEU in paragraph 2.2: “A working group has been set up, whose parity has been accepted at the proposal of the Conference of INGOs”

9.2 **listened to** Jessica CHAMBA present the appraisal of the action plan

- decided to include the criteria for appraisal into the future action plan of the Conference of INGOs

9.3 **adopted** the final report of the ad-hoc group on the representative nature of the Conference of INGOs (Anne KRAUS, Didier SCHRETTTER, Karl DONERT, and Miguel CABRAL) with two changes: under the item “Conclusions” add “Their voluntary contributions to Council of Europe activities should be highlighted” and under the item “Communication” delete the reference to Didier SCHRETTTER’s report.

The President asked members of the Standing Committee to each provide an estimate of their expenses arising from their attendance at meetings (irrespective of whether or not such expenses were covered by their NGO) so as to have a better overview of such expenses and so that they could be integrated into overall costs.

9.4 **adopted** the recommendation on the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights proposed by the Co-ordination Committee for the Turin process after integration of the changes put forward for adoption by the Conference at its plenary meeting.

9.5 **Elections**: report of the Verification and Dispute Committee, holding of the elections (Salomon LEVY)

- case of Jean-Michel CAUDRON and Abdelaziz SARET => both candidatures had been put forward by the same organisation (FMDO) and both had been considered null and void by the Verification and Dispute Committee;
- the other candidatures were approved;
- Antonina DASHKINA, Vice-President of the Conference, presided over the elections until the new President was elected.

9.6 information on the plenary meetings: Code of conduct, exchange of views with the newly elected Commissioner for Human Rights, reports on the visit to [Estonia](#) and [Serbia](#)

- The work on the Code of Conduct would no doubt require a revision of the rules of procedure → such developments should be anticipated in order to undertake a coherent and homogeneous revision of the rules of procedure and not regular and successive revisions.

9.7 Information on the meetings of thematic committees and transversal working groups provided by the Chairs of the thematic committees.

- As agreed at the seminar in October 2017, each committee was in charge of a transversal group. This organisation between committees would be presented to participants at the consultation meeting on action plans;
- The informal interactive meeting (the “*market place*”) could systematically focus on cross-sectoral themes so that these exchange provide a resource base de for the work of the transversal groups;
- The Committee hoped that equality would be taken into account in the transversal groups and said that the committees could call on the gender equality expert whenever necessary. It was important that the committees genuinely took account of gender equality in their work programme.

9.8 Information on the events and debates to be held during session (*side event* on human rights defenders, debate on the rights of LGBTI persons, *Market place* on the digital society, INGO Conference dinner

- The organisations taking part in the *market place* were on the Conference of INGOs web page to provide fuel for the work of each committee.
- There was also a specific invitation to Council of Europe officials on the Intranet to attend this event.

10. Communication within the Conference of INGOs: domain, e-mail addresses of elected representatives, “*gotomeeting*” for exchanges.

- Proposal for communication strategy and use of information technology tools received by e-mail and distributed that day;
- Discussion of this item **deferred** to Friday 26 January so that everyone could make themselves familiar with the proposals.

11. *Reporting* within and to the Standing Committee

- **wished** to have a short report from the representatives of the Conference of INGOs to the intergovernmental committees and other events (attempts to produce summary sheets unsuccessful to date...)
- **proposed** that representatives’ travelling expenses should not be reimbursed if they have not sent in their report.

12. **adopted** the terms of reference of the Taskforce on migration

13. **thanked** Anne KRAUS for her [report on the meeting of the advisory group of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency](#)

Anne KRAUS expressed the wish that the Standing Committee meetings be longer in future to allow for a more substantial exchange of ideas.