



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Standing Committee

CONF/SC(2018)SYN4

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE Monday 25 June 2018

1. The meeting was opened by Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs
2. The agenda of the meeting was **adopted**
3. The report of the meeting of 23 April 2018 was **adopted** with one abstention
4. Richard Pirolt was **nominated** Rapporteur of the meeting
5. Global agenda of the session and documents presented for adoption (thematic committees' agenda, meeting of the working groups, side events) (**information by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Thematic Committees and Bureau**)

Information was transmitted by the Committees (see the agenda of the session)

6. Preparation of the debate on the future sessions of the Conference of INGOs (**discussion**)

For reasons of the annual closing of the Council of Europe in December and in order to create a more constructive frame for work, the Standing Committee agreed to hold their next session in April 2019 instead of January.

The Standing Committee proposal for the sessions in 2019 to be submitted to vote by the Conference of INGOs at its plenary meeting was the following:

- holding a Spring session with PACE (8-12 April 2019) and an Autumn session with the Congress (28-31 October 2019)
or
- Holding a spring and autumn session with PACE

7. Code of conduct (S. Levy, S. Matthijssen, C. Ritchie)– **for adoption** ('30)

The opinions about the content of the Code diverged within the Standing Committee. Some articles still seemed critical to some Standing Committee members.

Decision: The members of the drafting group and the Secretariat asked the Standing Committee members who had not yet submitted their written proposals could do so until 25 June. The drafting group would schedule a meeting before the plenary session to integrate the remarks into the document.

8. The action plan 2018-2021 (Robert Bergougnan, Katarzyna Sokolowska) was **adopted**.

Congratulations were expressed regarding the collaborative work during the drafting process. Some details regarding the language would still be improved before the plenary meeting

9. Expert Council on NGO Law – New President, new members and revision of the mandate.

The Bureau had nominated the new members of the Expert Council on NGO Law. The President of the Conference and the Bureau proposed to nominate Jeremy McBride new President of the Expert Council. This decision should be confirmed by the Conference of INGOs during its plenary meeting. Cyril Ritchie was congratulated for his 10 years as President. The Bureau nominated him as Honorary President of the Expert Council.

10. How to reinforce the impact of the Conference of INGOs on the work of other Council of Europe organs - **for discussion**) – item postponed until the next meeting

11. Rules of protocol in Council of Europe and within the Conference of INGOs – **for information** ('15)

The new regulations of PACE have limited the access of INGO members and the Conference of INGOs to documents and to the meetings of parliamentary committees.

Suggestion: The President would prepare a letter showing the importance of collaboration between PACE and the Conference and make some proposals regarding the PACE regulations.

12. Contribution of the Standing Committee to the World Forum for Democracy – **for information and discussion** ('10)

The next World Forum for Democracy would focus on Gender Equality would ill have three main subthemes: sexism, violence against women, women and power, multilateralism

Anne Negre, with the collaboration of Maritchu Rall, submitted an initiative for a lab. At the time of the meeting, the results of the selection process were not known.

13. Preparation of the internal consultation on the Draft Additional Protocol concerning the Protection of human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment (DH-BIO) (invited persons André Clavert and Marie-José Schmitt) – ('20) – **for information and discussion.**

The Conference of INGOs will be requested by the DH-BIO to give its opinion on the Draft Additional Protocol. During CoE internal consultation, the President of the Conference of INGOs asked the CM to declassify the draft in order to share with all INGOs of the Conference and its experts.

The consultation will be set-up when all deadlines were communicated by the DH-BIO. The Human Rights Committee, with Marie-José Schmitt and André Clavert, will analyse the answers and provide the final contribution to the DH-BIO.

14. Events and contributions: **for information** - International day of Democracy 15 September, Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) Forum (25-27 September 2018), Open Government Partnership Summit (18-20 July 2018)
15. INGO Service – Information about the General Assembly and the election of the new Board was provided by Maritchu Rall
16. Any other business
17. Date of the next meeting: **Monday, 8 October 2018**