



CONFERENCE OF INGOs  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Standing Committee  
CONF/SC(2018)SYN5**

**MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
SYNOPSIS**

**Monday 8 October 2018**

Apologies: Katarzyna Sokolowska, Cyril Ritchie (for the Expert Council on NGO Law)

1. Opening of the meeting by Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs
2. Nomination of the Rapporteur of the meeting : Rares Craiut
3. Adoption of the agenda - Adopted
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting of 25 June 2018 : adopted
5. Lysistrata Award for the Conference of INGOs – (A. Rurka) for information.

The Conference received an award called Lysistrata which was a prize for peace-building initiatives set up by Mohamed Nadir Aziza as part of the Med21 Network. The Prize would be given together with the city of Nimes. As no member of the Bureau was available on the date of the award ceremony, it was proposed that Maritchu Rall represent the Conference of INGOs at the ceremony.

6. Thematic committees and working groups, Bureau and Expert Council past (since last summer session) and upcoming activities – update.

The members gave information on their respective activities.

7. World Forum for Democracy (A. Nègre, M. Rall) – for information.

Anne Nègre gave information regarding the preparation of the Lab 7 which she would moderate.

8. The Reform process within the Council of Europe and its effects on the Conference of INGOs activities – (A. Rurka, M-A. Hennessey) - for discussion

Anne Rurka reported on her exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe which took place in June. The main issue discussed during the meeting was the project on Freedom of Association on which the Conference of INGOs was working with the Directorate General of Democracy. The President of the Conference took advantage of the meeting to ask the Secretary General for his vision on the reform of the Council of Europe and the role of the Conference of INGOs in this process. Effectiveness and functionality of the Conference of INGOs were the two key words around which improvements should be made. The Council of Europe as a whole was working on restructuring which would have an impact on the strategy and on the financial measures. The secretariat was requested to provide arguments about the representative and operational capacity of the Conference.

Activities should be impact oriented/result oriented and the statutory business of the Conference streamlined. Concerning the uncertainty linked to Russia and the non-payment of its financial contribution, the Standing Committee should think about a plan B with the main questions:

- Which activities could be suspended, which should be saved in a worst case scenario, how to make better use of resources, time and energy, how to have more impact, how to improve effectiveness and functionality, what could be expected from the Council of Europe?

The Standing Committee should also have a clear vision of what was expected from the Conference of INGOs by the Committee of Ministers and Secretary General.

The discussion allowed the identification of some main ideas such as the need to reinforce training within the Conference of INGOs, reinforce the diversity of the Conference of INGOs, propose innovative ideas and focus more on the vision of democracies of young people from Eastern Europe.

9. Code of conduct (S. Levy, S. Matthijssen, C. Ritchie) – for information

The consultative process had been successful. More than 100 proposals had been received which were currently be analysed by the drafting group. The latter had already devoted one meeting to this analysis but the work was not finished. Another meeting was planned on 5 November. The President thanked all members of the Standing Committee who contributed to this work.

10. Conference of INGOs representatives to the steering committees and drafting groups – (C. Spreng).

The list with some new proposals was presented by the Bureau. The Standing Committee agreed on the following appointments:

- Stephan Gatt, representative to the Working Group of Public Ethics under the CDDG;
- Anne Kraus, representative to the European Steering Committee for Youth;
- Rares Craiut, representative to the Advisory Council on Youth;
- Christophe Spreng, representative to the North South Centre (replacing Jean Marie Heydt)

11. Drafting group in charge of proposals regarding the Rules of Procedure or other statutory provisions of the Conference of INGOs (C. Spreng).

Christoph Spreng gave an update on progress and the project of a questionnaire to be sent to the Standing Committee members and to all the INGO members.

12. Pool of experts of the Conference of INGOs (A. Kraus, K. Donert, R. Pierlot, R. Craiut) – for discussion.

The pool of experts needed further discussion and it was proposed to constitute a small working group.

13. Internal and external communication (newsletter, blog, reporting, etc.) A. Kraus, R. Pierlot, R. Craiut) – for discussion and decision

The contributions from the different structures to the newsletter were well received. The newsletter would be sent soon to the members.

14. Preparation of the 2018 Activity Report (A. Rurka)

This item was not taken.

15. Implementation of the Action Plan – steps forward (K. Sokolowska) – for discussion

This item was not taken.

16. Exchange with the new Bureau of INGO Service (14.30 – 15.30)

The Bureau of INGO-Service took into account the requests from the Standing Committee members regarding the rules and the process for reimbursement. Concerning the unused budget during a calendar year, the Standing Committee decided on the possibility to transfer 1000€ per one year.

17. On-going consultations within the Conference of INGOs (DH-BIO, recommendations on sexism) for information

This item was not taken.

18. Preparation of the Spring Session 2019 – for discussion

This item was not taken.

19. Fact-finding visits of the Conference of INGOs 2019 – for discussion

This item was not taken.

20. Any other business

No other business

21. Date of the next meeting: Monday, 21 January 2019