



Standing Committee

CONF/SC(2019)SYN4

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Meeting report

Monday 28 October 2019

9.30-13.00

Agora – Room G04

Members present: Anna Rurka, Miguel Cabral de Pinho, Gerhard Ermischer, Anne Kraus, Salomon Levy, Thierry Mathieu, Annelise Oeschger, Cyril Ritchie, Katarzyna Sokolowska, Christoph Spreng, Simon Matthijssen, Claude Vivier Le Got, Rares Craiut, Karl Donert, Anne Nègre

Apologies for absence: Iamvi Totsi, Luminita Petrescu, Richard Pirolt, Robert Bergougan

1. The meeting was opened by Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs
2. Nomination of the Rapporteur of the meeting:
Katarzyna Sokolowska was nominated rapporteur.
3. Draft agenda – for adoption:
The agenda was adopted without any additional points.
4. Report of the meeting of 24 June – for adoption:

Several modifications were discussed. The report was adopted with the accepted modifications.

5. Overview of the main events and discussion of the Session week:
Each of the Committees presented their most important points on the agenda during the upcoming week. The Human Rights Committee presented a declaration for adoption during its meeting. The Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee presented a declaration regarding climate change. The Education and Culture Committee would focus on intercultural cities with an emphasis on gender equality. During the session three important events would take place: The adoption and launching of the Revised Code of good practice for civil participation in the decision-making process by the Conference of INGOs and the Congress of Local Regional Authorities, the projection of the film “Grand H” in the Odyssey cinema and the Exhibition “Portraits of and by Women on the Run” prepared by the NGO Action for Women, invited by the Conference of INGOs in collaboration with Quakers for European Affairs.
6. Texts for adoption at the plenary conference: "Recommendation on equality between women and men: The Conference of INGOs calls on Member States to respect and defend this essential Human Rights asset". The draft Recommendation was presented to the Standing Committee. The members proposed some minor but significant changes and adopted the modified draft by the majority of voters. They agreed to present the

modified draft Recommendation for adoption during the Plenary meeting on Wednesday morning.

7. Prolongation of the mandate of the drafting group in charge of proposals regarding the Rules of Procedure or other statutory provisions:

This item had already been discussed during the previous Standing Committee meeting. All members were in favour. The mandate of the drafting group was prolonged until the vote of the draft rules of procedure by the Conference of INGOs.

8. Dates of the sessions of the Conference of INGOs in 2020 and logistical aspects: Possible options were presented and discussed.

The Standing Committee agreed to present to the Members the following dates:

Spring Session: 20 - 24 April 2020

Autumn Session: 12 - 16 October 2020

The Standing Committee proposed to hold the 2020 sessions in parallel to two PACE sessions and in 2021 to alternate between Congress and PACE. The Standing Committee members underlined that in this way the annual celebration organized by the Conference of INGOs on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October 2020) could be integrated into the agenda of its autumn session on 16 October 2020.

9. Update on the Youth Delegates Programme:

The current state of youth delegates programme was discussed. All members agreed that it should continue for the next year with the financial support from INGO Service. The next cycle of Youth Delegates could focus on "Youth Checks" (youth perspective in line with the youth roadmap).

10. Preparation of the 2019 activity report:

Each thematic committee, the persons in charge of the integrated approaches, as well as the Expert Council on NGO Law would prepare its activity report 2019 and send it to President.

Each committee should adopt its Activity Report 2019 during its meeting in April. The deadline for sending the documents would be agreed upon.

The outline for the Conference activity report remained the same as last year. Elected persons are invited to make a substantial contribution which develops the content of the activities carried out.

For economical reasons the Standing Committee agreed to translate all documents in French and English by its own human resources.

11. Evaluation of the 2018-2021 Action Plan and the timetable for the end of the mandates of the Conference of INGOs bodies:

Discussion on evaluation took place and the method used to evaluate the last Action Plan was recalled.

Due to the fact that the Conference has changed the dates of its Sessions, the mandate of the thematic Committees will continue until October 2020 – instead of finishing in June 2020. The Bureau will continue its mandate until April 2021 instead of January 2021. Elections for all required positions will take place in April 2021. During the period from October 2020 to April 2021, the Bureau will work on the evaluation of the Action Plan 2018-2021 on the basis of the documents and information transmitted by all entities.

12. Planning of activities and events 2020:

The following events were discussed:

- World NGO Day, 27 February 2020 – It would be good to organise something with member organisations;
- The Georgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers was planning to organise a high-level Conference on Civil Participation. The Secretariat would inform the Standing Committee as soon as it had more information;
- A specific capacity-building training on monitoring will be organised during April Session of the Conference of INGOs. It will be a common training organised by 3 thematic Committees of the Conference of INGOs;
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October 2020 - There was an idea to take the Sustainable Development Goals as a transversal topic for the October session and finish the week with a special event on 16 October linked to the 2020 International Day for Eradication of Poverty.

13. Updating the list of Conference of INGOs representatives to the steering committees and information exchange about progress of the work within the committees

The following changes were made:

- Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH) and Committee of experts on the system of ECHR (DH-SYSC): Jeremy McBride with the possibility for Jean Bernard Marie to join after the period of unavailability;
- Drafting group on civil society and national human rights institutions (CDDH-INS): Antoine Buyse;
- Ad hoc Committee of Experts for Roma and Travellers issues (ADI-ROM): Claude Vivier le Got;
- Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child: Cristina Rigman;
- Ad hoc Committee on artificial intelligence (CAHAI): Didier Schretter, Francesca Fannuci;
- Committee of Bioethics (DH-BIO): Miguel Cabral de Pinho.

13. Gender Equality Rapporteurs of the working groups of the Conference of INGOs: Anne Nègre expressed what should be done in order to improve developments on the work on gender equality within the Conference of INGOs, especially regarding the work of Rapporteurs on gender issues. Together with Bettina Hahne they will organise a training for the Chairs of the Committees to introduce the work of Rapporteurs.

15. INGO Service budget and activities:

The budget of the thematic Committees was presented and discussed. There was no change since June 2019. In October 2019 the association INGO-Service had 94 contributors. All planned activities will take place. The Conference had saved some money on translation.

16. Horizon 2020 – ACTION project:

The project submitted by INGO-Service and partners was refused by the European Commission. Miguel Cabral de Pinho nevertheless thought it was a good initiative that could be renewed at some point.

17. Any other business:

- A study session on shrinking civic space, organised by the European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC) would take place at the European Youth

Centre, Strasbourg from 2-6 March 2020. A call for participants would be sent out. The Standing Committee agreed to support the promotion of the call.

- Anne Nègre suggested to represent the Conference of INGOs at the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, in March 2020.

18. Date of the next meeting:

The date of the next meeting (27 January 2020) would be confirmed during the week after checking the financial situation.