



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The President

Mr Marin MRČELA
Chairman of GRECO
Group of States against Corruption
Council of Europe
Strasbourg

Strasbourg, 3 February 2017

Dear Chairman,

The Conference of INGOs is one of the pillar institutions of the Council of Europe, bringing the voice of civil society into our Organisation alongside those of governments, parliaments and local and regional authorities.

The Conference is a self-governing body whose members are the International Non-Governmental Organisations which hold participatory status with the CoE under CM Resolution (2016) 3. It adopts its own Rules of Procedure (attached), which are rather perfunctory and practical.

During the Parliamentary Assembly Session of January 2017, I wrote a letter to the President of PACE (attached) and subsequently met with him in order to raise the issue of allegations of corruption in the Assembly. I did so out of concern for civil society in Azerbaijan in part, but also out of concern for the integrity and honorable reputation of the Council of Europe as a whole. I informed the President of PACE that the Conference of INGOs is considering means of improving its own corruption prevention framework and would consider very favourably any proposal for an Organisation-wide external supervisory mechanism.

Therefore, ahead of the preparatory work for a new and enhanced legal framework which will be undertaken this year, I would like to request the GRECO to provide its expertise on the risks for corruption or conflicts of interest facing the Conference and the existing legal framework and rules of procedure. On the basis of GRECO's findings and recommendations I plan to task a working group to make proposals for consideration by the Conference of INGOs. Your assistance will be of great help towards my aim that the Conference adopt and implement exemplary measures for transparency, prevention and integrity befitting an Institution of the Council of Europe.

Looking forward to your response, I remain

Yours sincerely,

Anna RURKA