



CONFERENCE OF INGOs  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONFERENCE DES OING DU  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## Report of the ad hoc Committee on the representativeness of the Conference of INGOs

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To increase its impact, the Conference of INGOs must make its work as meaningful as possible and increase its representativeness. The Ad hoc Committee, set up by the Standing Committee in October 2016 at the suggestion of the Bureau, proceeded in several stages:

- Finding/ Analysis of recurring difficulties
- Questioning the issues and objectives expected
- Solutions and priorities (including suggestions made by INGOs in their report)
- Tools to put in place

### Conclusions

To work effectively in a network, to make better use of the expertise of the INGOs members and to give more impact to the demands of the Conference within the bodies, the INGOs must act in a coherent way, better seize the opportunities that are available to them and organize themselves differently. Their contributions, of a voluntary nature, to the activities of the Council of Europe should be valued.

Priority measures and proposed tools - validation by the Standing Committee in April and June 2017

- The systematic training of representatives / INGOs (Preparation and empowerment of (new) representatives of INGOs (before, during and after the sessions),
- Alignment with the concerns and work of other CoE and EU entities. The identification of priority themes related to the activities of the Steering Committees
- The systematic and effective use of the expertise of INGOs (Creation of an "expertise" database, awareness-raising of INGOs)
- Provide the Conference with the necessary resources (organization and coordination) for a project management allowing visible coherent joint work with increased impact
- The development of communication in line with the Charter and the Communication Strategy of the Conference.

The Ad hoc Committee proposes that these measures be implemented as quickly as possible and incorporated into the 2018-2021 Action Plan.

- ❖ **Preparation and awareness-raising of (new) INGO representatives** / Training of INGOs and their representative (s) (before, during and between sessions)
  - Welcoming of new INGOs:

- Meeting for new representatives
  - "Mentoring" during and between sessions
  - Information on Standing Committee activities, committees, working groups and INGOs between sessions;
  - Information on the functioning of the three thematic commissions;
  - Relationship between representatives of INGOs with their own members!
  - Training of members of the Standing Committee / Bureau at the beginning of their mandate
- **Provision of clear and effective training tools:**
- Webinars: Social Charter, Toolkit, Q & A on the Council of Europe, specific mission of the Conference as a mutual force, the impact of the Conference and its link with the CoE bodies, Protection of INGOs, the right of expression etc.
  - «CoE – INGO Conference » Glossary
  - Digital workshops (ongoing training) during each session according to the needs!
- ❖ **Effective and relevant management of INGO expertise (work in progress)**
- Awareness-raising of INGOs (e-mails, workshops on INGO "expertise")
  - Creation of a "catalogue" of useful expertise for the Conference
  - Feasibility study (protection, maintenance, etc.)
  - Each INGO will have to provide information on:
    - its own expertise in general and more particularly in relation to the CoE
    - its geographical presence in the Member States
    - reliable people who can bring expertise to the Conference in a specific area in relation to the CoE's concerns in different countries and who are ready to support the Conference from time to time (on a voluntary basis).
- ❖ **Alignment of priority themes of the Conference with the work of the CoE**
- Development of a methodology for the Conference to contribute effectively to the different themes
    - Meetings with representatives of the Conference in Steering Committees etc.
    - Analysis of reports and linking with the corresponding working groups
    - Definition of priority themes to be dealt with in order to contribute in the most relevant way, preferably in a transversal way, in consultation between the various representatives of the Conference to the Committees, the President, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Thematic Committees
    - Organisation of interactive events bringing together all the actors concerned
- ❖ **Coordination**
- Provide the Conference with the necessary means
    - **organisation** allowing a transversal common work, coherent and visible (projects) with an increased impact
    - **coordination** (calendar, methods of collaboration, communication, etc.)
    - evaluation
- ❖ **Communication**
- according to the Charter and the Communication Strategy of the Conference
    - A Communication Team, to implement the Conference Communication Strategy, in line with the Charter and in cooperation with the Secretariat