



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Standing Committee

CONF/SC(2017)SYN3

SYNOPSIS OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE on Tuesday 27 June 2017

Present: Anna RURKA, Anne KRAUS, Jean-Michel CAUDRON, Jessica CHAMBA, Anne-Marie CHAVANON, Antonina DASHKINA, Karl DONERT, Simon MATHIJSEN, Oren GOSTIAUX, Salomon LEVY, Roseline MOREAU, Anne NEGRE (*until 12 noon*), Maritchu RALL, Iamvi TOTSI (*until 11.30 a.m.*), Cyril RITCHIE, Jean-Marie HEYDT, Thierry MATHIEU, Sabine ROHMANN, and Didier SCHRETTTER.

Apologised for absence:

Michel AGUILAR, Antonina DASHKINA, Laura FRATI-GUCCI, and Jean Marie HEYDT

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1. **Opening of the meeting by Anna RURKA, President of the Conference of INGOs**
 2. **Appointment of the rapporteur:** Jessica Chamba
 3. **Adoption of the agenda:** unanimously adopted
 4. **Report of the meeting held on 24 April 2017:** unanimously adopted
 5. **Evaluation of the Action Plan of the Conference of INGOs**

Following the presentation by Jessica Chamba of the answers to the questionnaire received to date, it was decided to continue filling out the questionnaire in respect of the latest activities in the terms of reference until 10 November 2017 (*to include the World Forum for Democracy*), so that translation could start on 20 November.

At the seminar to be held by the Standing Committee in October, it would be useful to hold an exchange of views on the evaluation of activities so as to identify genuine evaluation criteria for the coming years and in particular to study the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of the activities carried out.

6. **Activity reports and recommendations linked to the roadmaps of the thematic committees at the end of the terms of office of the Chairs and Vice Chairs and conclusions of the working groups**

A summary would be made by the committee chairs at the plenary meeting to be held on the Thursday afternoon.

The President of the Conference asked that a summary be made of the work done by each committee over the previous three years so as to underline the value of the work done and to have a record of the work of the Conference.

7. Election of the chairs and vice-chairs of the thematic committees at the plenary meeting held on 29 June 2017

The Chair of the Verification and Dispute Committee informed members of the election procedure. Each candidate would have two minutes to introduce themselves during the plenary and could also send further information to the Conference with appendices of their choice (in addition to the details of their candidature put on line on the conference website).

8. Events planned during the session and preparation of the plenary meeting of the Conference of INGOs on 29 and 30 June 2017

- *Side event* “Women’s mobilisation in Europe in 2016 and its impact on policies”;
- Meeting to welcome new INGOs and the new representatives of INGOs: informal meeting without interpretation;
- Debate and training on “how to combat discrimination and hate speech in the post-truth era”;
- Reception to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Conference of INGOs;
- Situation of NGOs in member states: reports on fact-finding visits to various member states;
- Texts to be adopted: the draft recommendation on “Human rights and business” would be presented at the meeting of the Human Rights Committee.

9. Initiatives implemented and planned by the Expert Council on NGO Law

The visits to member states were very useful and the systematic presence of a member of the Council of Experts facilitated contacts with the latter;

The question of the new law on civil participation in Hungary had been a major issue for concern over the previous few months.

The application of the state of emergency in Turkey was also very worrying as it was being used against NGOs.

An agreement had been signed, registering the President of the Conference of INGOs as an observer on the Advisory Panel of the FRA (*European Fundamental Rights Agency*). In exchange a representative of the FRA would attend the meetings of the Expert Council on NGO Law and perhaps even in the future the plenary meetings of the Conference of INGOs. However, this reciprocity first had to be made official.

10. Appointment of the members of the Verification and Dispute Committee (*for information*)

The President of the Conference thanked the members of the Verification and Dispute Committee for their work and congratulated them.

The current members were re-appointed, with the exception of Martine Schmelck, who did not wish to be re-appointed and was replaced by Jean-Bernard Marie.

These persons would take up office after the plenary meeting and would subsequently elect the Committee Chair.

11. Information on INGO-Service

It should be possible to maintain the provisional budget of €19 000 but only 92 INGOs had to date paid their subscriptions (125 had done so at the same date last year). A reminder had been sent to the other INGOs.

It was pointed out that the chairs of the thematic committees had to take part in Administrative Council of INGO-Service.

The term of office of the members of the Administrative Council would expire in June 2018.