



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

SUMMER SESSION COMMISSION ON DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL COHESION AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

CONF/DEM(2013)SYN2

Strasbourg, 6 January 2014

SYNOPSIS

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL COHESION AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The committee on Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges, meeting 26 June 2013 in Strasbourg, chaired by Anne-Marie CHAVANON,

1. Draft Agenda

adopted the draft agenda of the meeting

2. Synopsis of the previous meeting

adopted without amendment the synopsis of the 22 January 2013 meeting

3. Local Authorities and citizen participation :

3.1. Good Governance of Large Metropolises

exchanges, with a panel on « Governance of large cities »

- on the case of London, Berlin and Istanbul with Jeffrey Donaldson, a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, author of a report on this subject
- on the events in Istanbul motivated by opposition from residents of the metropolis to an urban development project with Kayhan KARACA, European correspondent of NTV Turkey
- on a young citizens initiative, conducted outside the formal organisations of Marseille Capital of Culture, with Nicolas DETRIE, Director of *Yes we camp*,

decided, after discussion, that a appeal would be mailed to the Turkish authorities by the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, inviting Turkey as a founding member of the Council of Europe, to resume and intensify a peaceful dialogue with protesters (appendix 1 and [link](#))

3.2. Good practices to be shared

informed by Antonella VALMORBIDA of the work done by the Committee and the Conference of INGOs to promote the Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in Decision-making

4. Global Challenges

4.1. Human Rights and Climate Change

heard the positions of Annelise OESCHGER, Chair Human Rights Committee and Edith Wenger, Head of the Working group 'climate change and human rights'

decided that a statement to this effect would be adopted electronically before the UNFCCC Conference in Warsaw, and disseminated to governmental and non-governmental organizations and posted on the websites of the Commission (appendix 2 and [link](#))

4.2. The situation in Syria, the commitment of humanitarian NGOs

exchanged with Pierre SALIGNON, Executive Director of Médecins du Monde on the extreme gravity of the situation of victims in Syria, the dramatic conditions in which health services work and ongoing violation of the Geneva Conventions and the IACHR

decided to support the call by Médecins du Monde to Syria to respect these international conventions (appendix 3 and [link](#))

heard an analysis by Jean-Pierre ESTIVAL, author of a recent book on Syria, on the evolution of conflict

5. Participation of the Committee to the Council of Europe 2013 activity on behalf of the Conference of INGOs

heard

5.1. Anne-Marie CHAVANON, chair, reporting on the Seminar on good democratic governance at local and regional level held in Strasbourg on 17 and 18 June 2013 and on the 2013 edition of the European Landscape Convention Award

5.2. Patrice COLLIGNON, director of RED, on the conclusions of the 7th Conference of the Council of Europe on the European Landscape Convention on 26 and 27 March 2013

5.3. Vera JOHN-MIKOLAJEWSKI, vice-president of the Committee on the work of the communication platform of civil society in Belarus

6. Partnership with the other bodies of the Council of Europe

6.1. **2013 World Forum for Democracy** on the theme "*Rewiring Democracy - reconnecting democratic institutions and citizens in the age of information*"

had an exchange of views with Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Head of the democratic initiatives department, on the theme, the course of the event and the role of the Conference of INGOs

was informed of the initiative of the Chair to propose the city of Porto Alegre innovative examples in the field of e-democracy

6.2. European Local Democracy Week

had an exchange of views with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities pilot of the event and committed to actively contribute to this new edition dedicated to « Active citizenship, vote, share, participate »

6.3. Advisory Youth Council and the Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

heard Israël MENSAH, Vice-Chairman of the Committee call to support the "against Hate Speech" movement launched on 3 and 4 April 2013 in Budapest

7. Working groups activity

took note of the progress of the working groups on presentation of their leaders

- European Citizenship (Hélène PICHON)
- Habitat and Health (Bernard AUBERT)
- Relations with the EU civil society (Claude-Laurent GENTY)
- Gender perspectives in the political and democratic process especially during and after conflict »

agreed to adopt the principle of a draft recommendation presented by Anje WIERSINGA, Head of the Working Group

approved the creation of a new working group "Social cohesion and intercultural dialogue" led by Israel Mensah, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and presented by Laure-Marie SCHAER

8. Date of the next plenary committee meeting : janvier 2014

AMC



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

Démocracy, Social Cohesion
and Global Challenges Committee

Mr Abdullah Gül
President of Turkey
General Secretariat of the Turkish Presidency
06689 Çankaya
Ankara
Turkey

Strasbourg, 3 July 2013

Dear President,

Turkey is one of the most active founding members of the Council of Europe. It is one of the first countries to have signed the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in 1950. Similarly, it was the first to join the recent campaign to combat violence against women by signing the Istanbul Convention, in 2011.

Turkey cannot afford today to undermine its European and international commitments, either in the sphere of democracy and human rights or in others such as sustainable development or protection of the heritage or the environment.

Consequently, the international NGOs in the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe – many of which are also represented at the European Union and the United Nations – appeal to your government to show its wisdom and you yourself to exercise your personal authority in this respect.

They would like Turkey to show, both inside and outside its borders, that it is able to meet the challenge of upholding democracy and protecting its citizens in times of crisis.

We call on you to do everything within your power to restore the dialogue between the authorities and civil society and see to it that everyone's fundamental rights and freedoms are protected and that bodies for mediation and direct democracy, citizens' assemblies, neighbourhood councils, conciliation conferences and other forms of direct participation are set up.

This is the hope that we the INGOs at the Council of Europe, would like to express on this day of 26 June 2013.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Anne-Marie Chavanon
Chair

Annelise Oeschger
Chair of the Human Rights Committee

Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Tél.: +33 (0)3 88 41 31 07
Fax: +33 (0)3 90 21 47 66

E-mail: NGO-unit@coe.int
<http://www.coe.int/ONG>



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

Democracy, Social Cohesion
and Global Challenges Committee

R. Tayyip Erdoğan
Prime Minister
Vekaletler Cad. Başbakanlık Merkez Bina
06573 Kızılay
Ankara
Turkey

Strasbourg, 3 July 2013

Dear Prime Minister,

Turkey is one of the most active founding members of the Council of Europe. It is one of the first countries to have signed the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in 1950. Similarly, it was the first to join the recent campaign to combat violence against women by signing the Istanbul Convention, in 2011.

Turkey cannot afford today to undermine its European and international commitments, either in the sphere of democracy and human rights or in others such as sustainable development or protection of the heritage or the environment.

Consequently, the international NGOs in the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe – many of which are also represented at the European Union and the United Nations – appeal to your government to show its wisdom and you yourself to exercise your personal authority in this respect.

They would like Turkey to show, both inside and outside its borders, that it is able to meet the challenge of upholding democracy and protecting its citizens in times of crisis.

We call on you to do everything within your power to restore the dialogue between the authorities and civil society and see to it that everyone's fundamental rights and freedoms are protected and that bodies for mediation and direct democracy, citizens' assemblies, neighbourhood councils, conciliation conferences and other forms of direct participation are set up.

This is the hope that we the INGOs at the Council of Europe, would like to express on this day of 26 June 2013.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

AM Chavanon

Anne-Marie Chavanon
Chair

A. Oeschger

Annelise Oeschger
Chair of the Human Rights Committee

Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Tél: +33 (0)3 88 41 31 07
Fax: +33 (0)3 90 21 47 66

E-mail: NGO-unit@coe.int
<http://www.coe.int/ONG>



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

Convention on Climate Change

"Climate change and Human Rights "

*Declaration from the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe,
to the Warsaw Climate Change Conference
adopted by its Standing Committee on 5 November 2013*

Alarmed by reports of scientists gathered in the IPCC under the aegis of the UN and noting that human action is increasingly obvious in climatic disturbances

Considering the Principle 1 of the Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (1972), recognizes "*the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being*", and Principle 1 of the Rio Declaration (1992) on Environment and Development which states that "*Human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature*"

Considering that the Declaration "*The Future We Want*" adopted at the Summit of the United Nations Rio +20 (2012) reaffirms *the importance of respect for all human rights* (§ 8 and 9), acknowledges that "*democracy, good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment are essential for sustainable development*" (§10), and reaffirms that "*climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time*" (§ 190)

Referring to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Whereas the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted at the Rio Summit (1992) provides that "*the Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities*"

Recalling that the Millennium Development Goals underline that those concerning health and environmental protection can be achieved by ensuring respect for human rights

Considering the European Convention on Human Rights (1950)

Having regard to the Recommendation Rec (2002) 1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on "*the Guiding principles for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent*", to implement a new integrated territorial development policy that promotes social cohesion, economic and territorial preservation of the natural basis

of life and cultural heritage, a better quality of life and more balanced competitiveness of land use

Recalling Recommendation 1885 (2009) of the Parliamentary Assembly on the Elaboration of a Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights concerning the right to a healthy environment

Recognizing that public access to information and justice as well as citizen participation in decision making, recognized in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development as a basic human right, have been formally established in the Aarhus Convention (1998) on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters

Considering that the current round of international negotiations should lead to a new Treaty in Paris in 2015

The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

asserts the utmost importance to put climate change at the top of the priorities for action to ensure the future of humanity

is convinced that urgent and necessary solutions can only be found by involving civil society at all levels of commitment and decision-making

calls for international negotiations beyond the strict framework of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, integrating the protection of human rights, and taking into account the involvement of all phenomena related to climate change on the enjoyment of those rights

calls for the respect of the right to life, dignity and mobility to include the establishment of international rules and urges States and regional institutions such as the EU, to take immediate consideration of

- the threat of extreme weather events to habitat, water and food supply
- regular assessment of natural and industrial risks exacerbated by climate change
- the prevention of political and social conflicts related to resource sharing
- hosting people forced away from their place of residence by rising waters, the scarcity of vital goods and resources or deprivation of essential services
- assistance to the people deprived of their land and property

requests the Heads of States and Governments to integrate human rights into the Treaty to be adopted in Paris in 2015 and to officially recognize the right to a healthy environment as a fundamental human right.

We, Doctors of the World, are calling for all parties to respect the rules of international law in times of war, including respecting medical care providers and their ethical obligation to provide care.

Health professionals are murdered and tortured; hospitals are inaccessible to the wounded who fear reprisals and there are constant barriers to receiving medical care in hospitals and in bombed and besieged areas. Secretly carrying medicines is now a crime. Today, violence toward civilians knows no bounds...

There are an estimated 70,000 dead, in addition to thousands of prison detainees, hundreds of thousands of displaced people or refugees, and how many wounded with no medical care?

Those are the first lines of the call for Syria launched by Doctors of the World and presented to us by its Director General, **Pierre SALIGNON**

A call to be supported by all NGOs attending the committee last June 26th, in Strasbourg

Links to be put on our websites :

- <http://appelsyrie.medecinsdumonde.org/EN/>
- <http://appelsyrie.medecinsdumonde.org/>