



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Draft of 15 June 2016

The treatment of migrants, refugees and NGOs defending their rights

From findings to action

**Topical debate for civil society
organised by the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe**

**24 June 2016, 10.00 am - 1 pm
Palais de l'Europe, room 1**

PROGRAMME

- 10.00 am Introduction by the President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, *Anna Rurka*
- 10.10 am Opening remarks by Ambassador Astrid Helle, Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe, Chair of the Ministers' Deputies' Rapporteur Group on Democracy (GR-DEM),
- 10.20 am How can the NGOs contribute to Council of Europe action on migration?
Tomáš Boček, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees
- 10.35 am What need for action in Greece and along the transit routes? NGO perspective
Smile of the Child - Ambassador Marc Van den Reeck, Head of the International Cooperation
METAdrasi, Action for Migration and Development - *Lora Pappa*
- 11.00 am How to guarantee adequate reception conditions and access to rights of asylum seekers.
Open society Justice Initiative - *Simon Cox*, migration lawyer
European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) – *Mauro Striano*
Conference of European Churches: *Richard Fischer*

- 11.25 am Is NGO solidarity with refugees an offence?
Social Platform – *Annica Ryngbeck*
- 11.40 am What needs to be done so that national and international legislation better protects NGOs and persons who help migrants?
Sahiba Gavarova, President of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.
- 11.50 am Open debate
- 12.45 pm Closing remarks by *Jean Michel Caudron* – member of the Bureau of the Conference of INGOs