



Anita Schnetzer-Spranger
Chair ZI Council of Europe Committee
Head of Delegation to the Council of Europe

**Anita Schnetzer-Spranger, ZI Past International Director, ZI Council of Europe Committee Chair
Head of Delegation to the Council of Europe**

**Commitment: Creation of the Committee of the Conference of INGOs “NGOs as Advocates for
Gender Equality and Women’s Rights”.**

Being a member of ZONTA International (ZI) since 1983, Anita has served Zonta on all levels of the organization with the highest position held as Director of the International Board and the International Foundation Board. The different roles and the longtime membership in Zonta made her an advocate for women’s rights and gender equality and an expert in human rights standards and legal instruments, provided by the UN and the Council of Europe.

ZONTA International is a global network of professionals, empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Founded in 1919 in Buffalo, New York. With 1.200 clubs and over 28.000 members in 63 countries today, the non-partisan NGO campaigns for gender equality and the rights of women and girls with service projects, educational programs and impactful advocacy activities, that benefit women in their local communities and around the world.

Since its inception in 2012 the “Zonta Says NO to Violence against Women”- Campaign units Zonta clubs worldwide to fight gender based violence and domestic violence and to raise awareness of this severe human rights violation. For Anita, in her position as ZI Council of Europe Committee Chair, it is key to educate Zonta members on the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention as a concrete advocacy tool to urge governments to sign and ratify the Convention and to implement the requirements of the Convention on the national level.

To advocate successfully with conviction and ambition, it is crucial to gain knowledge on the international standards and instruments, to promote international agreements and recommendations. Therefore, INGOs have to be well prepared to point out setbacks in human rights in the CoE member states and to fulfill their role as the voice of Europe’s civil society, a key aspect in the collaboration with the Council of Europe.

To train INGOs and provide support to fulfill their participatory task as members of the Conference of INGOs is the purpose of this committee.

Anita is an economist and specialized in Marketing Management.