



CONFERENCE OF INGOs  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## Terms of Reference - CINGO Committee Proposal Form

approved by the General Assembly on 10 April 2024

**1. Name of Proposed (New) Committee:**

**Committee for interreligious & interconvictional Dialogue**

**2. Name of proposers:**

Gabriela Frey / Lilia Bensedrine Thabet

**3. The INGO you represent:**

European Buddhist Union (EBU) & Institute Robert Schuman pour l'Europe (IRSE)

**4. Your email address:**

[gabriela.frey@free.fr](mailto:gabriela.frey@free.fr) [lilia.bensedrine@wanadoo.fr](mailto:lilia.bensedrine@wanadoo.fr)

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/interreligious-and-interconvictional-dialogue>

**5. Summary of the purpose of the committee: (no more than 100 words)**

In a world dominated by conflict, ongoing inter-religious and inter-convictional dialogue is needed as a sustainable process to strengthen democratic and peaceful co-existence. Our committee has been engaged in this dialogue since 2021.

Central objective: the establishment of a permanent platform for interreligious, interconvictional, democratic and equality-based dialogue within the Council of Europe, with a view to constructive cooperation between religions and convictions to meet the challenges of today: democratic crisis, migration crisis, protection of religious and ethnic minorities, prevention of discrimination, violence and extremism.

Education is a decisive factor, and we are building up a database of good practice in dialogue.

<p><b>6. Date of proposal: 4. March 2024</b></p>
<p><b>7. Are you seeking a <b>mandate</b> for an existing committee? <b>Yes</b></b></p> <p><b>If yes, what is the current name of the committee?</b></p> <p><b>Committee for interreligious and interconvictional Dialogue</b></p>
<p><b>8. Proposed Committee Chair Name, INGO and email address</b></p> <p>Gabriela Frey, European Buddhist Union (EBU)</p> <p><b>Proposed Committee Vice Chair Name, INGO and email address (if relevant)</b></p> <p>Lilia Bensedrine, Robert Schuman Institute for Europe (IRSE)</p>
<p><b>9. Every new committee must include members from <u>at least 5 different INGO Heads of Delegation to CINGO and must have at least 7 members in total</u>. Please list below the names and role of INGO representatives and any non-CINGO experts forming the new committee.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ANDANTE</b>, European Alliance of Catholic Women's Organisations - Sybille Bader</li> <li>• <b>CEC</b> (Conference European Churches) - Elizabeta Kitanovic</li> <li>• <b>CPCE</b> (Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe) – Christian Albecker/ Sören Lenz / Friedrich Nell</li> <li>• <b>EBU</b> (European Buddhist Union) - Gabriela Frey / Dr. Thea Mohr</li> <li>• <b>EFECW</b> (Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women) – Anne Marie Schott</li> <li>• <b>GERFEC</b> (European Group for research and training of teachers holding Christian and other convictions) - Martine Hermann</li> <li>• <b>ICBB (B'NAI B'RITH International)</b> - Stéphane Teicher / Jean-Luc Vallens</li> <li>• <b>ICCS</b> (Intereuropean Commission on Churches and School) - James Barnett</li> <li>• <b>ICJW</b> (International Council of Jewish Women) – Mary Liling / Nadine Iarchy</li> <li>• <b>IRSE</b> (Robert Schuman Institute for Europe) - Sabine Rohmann / Lilia Bensedrine</li> <li>• <b>JUSTITIA PAX</b> (Conference of European Justice &amp; Peace Commissions) - Jean-Bernard MARIE</li> <li>• <b>LGBTI+ European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups</b> - Wilie Elhorst + Kees Goedegebuur</li> <li>• <b>MIAMSI</b> (International Movement of Apostolate in middle and upper classes) - Daniel Guery, Jean-Michel Strub</li> <li>• <b>MIIC Pax Romana</b> (Int. Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs) - Begona Ocio</li> <li>• <b>OIEC</b> (International Office for Catholic Education), Pierre Dussere, Bernard Senelle</li> <li>• <b>QCEA</b> (Quaker Council for European Affairs) – Timmon Wallis</li> </ul> <p><b>Active partners and experts of the committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AWR</b> (Academy of World Religions, University of Hamburg) – Prof. Wolfram Weisse (Founding director), Dr. Carola Roloff (Guest professor for Buddhism)</li> <li>• <b>DECERE</b> (Democracy European Construction and Religion, Strasbourg France) – Bernard Senelle, Jean-François Bour</li> <li>• <b>EMOUNA</b> (Amphi des Religions, Science Po, Paris, France) – Pauline Bebe</li> <li>• <b>FDCW</b> (Foundation for the development of Compassion and Wisdom, UK/France) – Victoria Coleman</li> <li>• <b>G3I</b> (Groupe interreligious, interconvictionnel, intercultural, Paris, France), François Becker, Rafaël Tyszblat</li> <li>• <b>IARF</b> (International Association for Religious Freedom), Esther R. Suter</li> <li>• <b>LOGOÏ</b> (Institute interconvictionnel, Belgique, Brussels) – Tatiana Letovalsteva</li> <li>• <b>Mind with Heart</b>, (Educating inner values, international charity) - David Rycroft</li> <li>• <b>Religions for Peace Europe</b>, Luigi De Salvia / Joan Hernández Serret / Dario Girolami</li> <li>• <b>TUSMO</b> (Dialogue between generations, Bergen / Norway) – Kassim A. Adan</li> </ul>

**10. All CINGO committees should relate and contribute to the work of at least one significant workstream within the Council of Europe. Which Council of Europe committee/s of other activity/ies will your committee primarily contribute to?**

**Interreligious and intercultural Dialogue on all levels CM / PACE/ Congress:**

- In dialogue with the Cabinet of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General Mrs. Irene Kitsou-Milonas, Special Representative of the Secretary General on anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes and all forms of religious intolerance
- Frank Schwabe, PACE member and Federal Government Commissioner for Freedom of Religion or Belief. He proposed that our committee organise a side event to bring the REC-2080 back into the spotlight.
- ECRI's Working Group on Relations with Civil Society and Equality Bodies.
- Intercultural cities
- Education
- Human Rights

**11. How can new members find out about and join the committee?**

They are invited to contact us via

- our website: <https://www.coe.int/fr/web/ingo/interreligious-and-interconvictional-dialogue>
- our Webinars offered twice a year to interested stakeholders
- And via our committee member organisations

**12. Please summarise how the new committee contribute to and advance the priorities and influence of CINGO and Civil Society within the Council of Europe? (no more than 200 words)**

Our committee intends to contribute to the implementation of the **Parliamentary Assembly's REC-2080 (2015)** entitled "Religious freedom and coexistence in a democratic society" and supports in particular point 3 aimed at creating **a permanent platform for dialogue** between representatives of religions and philosophical and non-confessional organisations within the CoE.

We consider it important to involve representatives of civil society, the Congress and PACE in all formats of inter-religious dialogue to ensure that they are meaningful.

The Council of Ministers has asked PACE (*CM/AS(2016)Rec2080-final*, 15 April 2016) to further define the dialogue platform in terms of activity, composition and possible funding.

We also refer to the work of the Congress "Organising intercultural and interreligious activities, a toolbox for local authorities" [www.congress-intercultural.eu/en/initiative/12-organising-intercultural-and-interreligious-activities--a-toolkit-for-local-authorities---resolution-397-2016-.html](http://www.congress-intercultural.eu/en/initiative/12-organising-intercultural-and-interreligious-activities--a-toolkit-for-local-authorities---resolution-397-2016-.html)

Our committee is working for the development of formats for inter-religious and inter-faith dialogue that include the 4 pillars of the CoE, including COING, in order to contribute to the revitalisation of European democracies.

**We recommend that a drafting group composed of representatives of PACE, the Congress and the Conference of INGOs be set up to define the form a more inclusive and gender-balanced permanent DIR-Dialogue platform could adopt.**

**13. Please provide an outline of the new committee’s work plan priorities for the first year (April 2024 – March 2025)**

Council of Europe and/or CINGO priority topic/area of work	Committee objective/s	Summary of planned activities April – October 2024	Summary of planned activities November 2024 – March 2025
<p><b>1.</b> Webinars in <u>Autumn 2024</u>: peace-building initiatives <u>Spring 2025</u>: Education limited by structural discrimination <u>Automne 2025</u>: Resonance (H. Rosa)</p>	<p>Contributing to more democracy and peace</p> <p>Applying human rights</p> <p><i>"Why democracy needs religion"</i></p>	<p>Research of speakers Compiling a booklet of the texts</p>	<p>Planning the next Webinars Making appointments with MPs and other stakeholders in IRD at the CoE</p>
<p><b>2.</b> <b>European Interconvictional Rendezvous</b> at the CINGO Autumn session (14 – 16 oct 2024)</p>	<p>Make inter-religious dialogue more inclusive, i.e. more inter-convictional and easier to access for the general public.</p>	<p>Helping to prepare and organise the First European Interconvictional Rendezvous during the October Session....</p>	<p>Contribute to the preparation and organisation of the next annual events (2025, 2026, etc.) and to the creation of a European interconvictional media.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> <b>Side Event</b> together with Frank Schwabe Date : ??</p>	<p>To remind about the REC-2080</p>		
<p><b>4.</b> Continuing to develop a toolkit of inspirational practices for interreligious &amp;</p>	<p>Building democracy</p>		<p>It's a work in progress To be continued ...</p>

interconvictional dialogue.			
<b>5</b> Strengthening links between the various CoE institutions involved in our topic		Setting up a Drafting group to respond to the CM's request to specify the dialogue platform.	It's a work in progress To be continued ...

**14. Is there anything else you would like to share with CINGO members and/or the CINGO Standing Committee?**

**Interview with Gabriela Frey on the work of our committee on France 2 (Sagesses Bouddhistes):**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMsaFIO7wvQ>

**The chairs of our committee are regularly invited by the EPP Group for Interreligious Dialogue**

<https://www.eppgroup.eu/newsroom/20-years-of-interreligious-dialogue>

**Tolerance Award 2023** presented by the European Court of Human Rights at the Sacrées Journées in Strasbourg, directed by Lilia Bensedrine-Thabet. <https://sacreesjournées.eu/>