

## CINGO Committee Report – common format

**Committee name:** Interreligious & interconvictional dialogue

**Date of report:** 22. 9. 2022

**Report author name and contact details:** Gabriela Frey / Sören Lenz

*To encourage members to read all the committee reports and to share information effectively, please keep your free text sections short and focused on priorities activities and actions.*

**1. Committee Chairs name and contact email:**

Gabriela Frey (EBU), [Gabriela.frey@free.fr](mailto:Gabriela.frey@free.fr)

Sören Lenz (CEC), [slenz@cec-kek.be](mailto:slenz@cec-kek.be)

**2. Which INGOs are represented on the committee?**

- CEC-KEK - Sören Lenz
- EBU – Gabriela Frey
- EN-RE – Hugo Castelli
- ICCS – James Barnett
- IRSE – Sabine Rohmann
- MIAMSI – Daniel Guery
- Justice & Paix Europe - Jean-Bernard MARIE
- OIEC - Bernard Senelle
- GERFEC - Kari Flornes
- European Forum of LGBTI-Christian groups - Wielie ELHORST

**3. Which Council of Europe committees and other activities is this committee mainly involved in? Please provide a list and a brief description of how your committee is involved.**

- The committee has contact to the General Secretary's special representative on Antisemitic, Anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes and informs of Incidents of intolerance reported from religious communities themselves.
- Sören Lenz participates as observer for CEC in the Steering Committee in the CDPPE, Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI)
- *Meeting with the Intercultural & Interreligious Dialogue Unit of the PPE-Group in the European Parliament, 18-01-2022 Strasbourg. Presentation of our Interreligious & Interconvictional Dialog Committee (IRICDC) as well as the Conference of INGOs.*

**4. How has this committee linked with other CINGO committees in the last year?**

We have started to link with the committee *NGOs as advocates for gender equality*, and hope to interact more regularly in the coming month.

**How can new members join the committee (please provide email address for expression of interest)?** By contacting Gabriela Frey: [Gabriela.frey@free.fr](mailto:Gabriela.frey@free.fr) Sören Lenz (CEC), [slenz@cec-kek.be](mailto:slenz@cec-kek.be) and visiting our website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/interreligious-and-interconvictional-dialogue>

**1. What else could CINGO Standing Committee and Secretariat do to support the work of the committee and the communications between your committee, other members of CINGO and other parts of CoE?**

- We would like to contact the Secretary General adjoint Bjørn Berge concerning a more inclusiveness in interreligious dialogue events in the CoE, especially in response to :

<https://www.coe.int/fr/web/portal/-/support-for-strasbourg-principles-in-inter-religious-dialogue-on-religion-and-peace-religion-and-human-rights>

(Gerhard Ermischer knows about this matter)

- We would like to contact the Congress of local and regional authorities and in particular those who are involved in the interreligious dialogue, i.e. <https://www.congress-intercultural.eu/en/>

Please continue to pages 2 and 3 to provide a report on key activities and objectives.

**Activity and Outcomes Report – please choose up to 6 main topics/activity areas**

Key topic/activity	Summary of progress / impact in last 6 months	Current key issues	Plans for next 6 months
1  16. 12. 2021 Presentation of the SASCE project	Support for organising further events of introduction to the SASCE-project in Europe	Continue to give input in discrimination issue to SASCE via their online format: <a href="http://www.sasce.eu">www.sasce.eu</a>	23-10-2022 preparing a SASCE training and interfaith conference in Berlin with the Senate
2  15-03-2022 Statement on the war in Ukraine	Research for deeper understanding of non-violence in the context of interreligious and interconvictional dialogue	The Ambiguity of maintaining non-violence in the context of war.	Keeping contact between faith based organisations and forwarding requests for help
3  1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 Organising our first Webinar: <i>Identity Formation in Europe by Mutual Recognition in Interreligious and Interconvictional Dialogue</i>	Interreligious dialogue, paths to mutual recognition: crises, chances, means, and benefits  See first booklet: <a href="https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/interreligious-and-interconvictional-dialogue">https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/interreligious-and-interconvictional-dialogue</a>	Genuine, inclusive dialogue is fundamental to consolidate inner balance, to transform anxiety and toxic emotions. Learning to accept transience, staying open-minded and committed to common Universal values.	Follow-up the dialogue with the Academy of World Religions in Hamburg

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2 <sup>nd</sup> Webinar on 13 <sup>th</sup> of October from 5-7 p.m. <i>Self-Awareness as key for intercultural &amp; interreligious understanding</i>	In continuation of webinar N°1	<i>Self-Awareness helps to learn how to open up and appreciate those different from us and contributes to break down cultural barriers and build empathic bridges.</i>	Preparing a 2 <sup>nd</sup> booklet and a consecutive third webinar

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

*Religious and belief communities play a vital role in civil society that should not be underestimated. They do not represent specific interests, but represent groupings that respectively have a distinct view on the world and on values. These include traditional religions, with different faith structures each ("monotheistic", "pluritheistic", "panteistic", "atheistic"). Faith communities, whether a minority or a majority, play a role in modern civil societies insofar as they generally refer to an ultimate foundation. They are socially anchored in all states, are visible and effective in public even in organised form. This also brings with it the potential for conflict, as shown by the fact that the Council of Europe has been taking targeted action against religious intolerance since 2019 with the creation of the office of a Special Representative against Religious Intolerance. As a CINGO Committee, we see our task in contributing to peaceful coexistence and equal acceptance of religions and world views, as well as to the protection of human rights, within the framework of the Council of Europe.*