



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Bureau
CONF/Bureau(2018)SYN4**

**MEETING OF THE BUREAU
Decisions
Sunday 7 October 2018
European Youth Centre**

1. The meeting was opened by Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs.
2. Rares Craiut was nominated the Rapporteur of the meeting.
3. The agenda of the meeting was adopted with the switching of items 15 and 14.
4. The report of the meeting of [25 June 2018](#) was adopted.
5. Agenda of the Bureau (upcoming activities)
 - Some difficulties were mentioned regarding the new rules of the Parliamentary Assembly and access to its committee meetings. Invitations were now only for a specific item of the agenda which was an unfeasible rule. The President of the Conference of INGOs should be allowed to enter the Hemicycle during the PACE plenary meeting. The participation in the drafting group of the Recommendation on prevention and fight of sexism and the contribution made by the Conference of INGOs was not officially acknowledged;
 - The Vice President of the Conference of INGOs in charge of Equality informed the Bureau that she would participate in the Ministerial Conference on Genital mutilation and Forced Marriage and moderate the lab 7 during the World Forum for Democracy;
 - Preparation of the Conference of INGOs contribution to the event on shrinking civic space impacting youth organisation organised by Youth Department of the CoE on 7-8 November 2018 - Rares Craiut was in charge of coordinating the Conference's contribution:
 - The Conference would facilitate the participation of 5 INGOs with participatory status;
 - Rares Craiut would be a moderator and contribute to the concluding remarks;
 - Anna Rurka would intervene in the opening session.
 - Christoph Spreng represented the Conference of INGOs at the event organised in Geneva by [ICON](#) regarding the digital trust and IT. Didier Schretter, the Conference of INGOs representative to the CDMSI, facilitated the contact between ICON and the Conference of INGOs as well as CDMSI. The development of artificial intelligence, IT, internet governance remained a priority of the Council of Europe. The Bureau should propose a debate during the Spring Session 2019 regarding these issues

touching on the concerns of civil society. Didier Schretter could be named special advisor on this topic (charge de mission / special advisor);

- Richard Pirolt underlined the importance of the Conference of INGOs vis-à-vis the [Fundamental Rights Forum](#) organised by the EU Agency of Fundamental Rights. The Conference of INGOs was represented by Anna Rurka, Gerhard Ermischer and Richard Pirolt and had organised a special session together with the Open Government Partnership regarding citizen's participation. Anna Rurka intervened in the opening plenary session;
- On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, on 19 September, the Conference of INGOs and the Directorate General of Democracy co-organised an event "[People & Democracy](#)";
- Anna Rurka intervened during [OGP summit](#) in Tbilisi;
- Following the fact-finding visit to London in May, an additional visit to London would take place on 16 and 17 October;
- A follow up visit to Romania would take place in December.

6. Code of conduct (Salomon Levy)

The necessity to adopt the Code remained a priority with regard to the accountability of the Conference of INGOs. In normal society, a Code would not be necessary. However, the Conference of INGOs functioned in a context where there was a risk of corruption. The Code as an instrument would not be perfect and would certainly evolve over the years. 8 September had been the deadline for INGOs to send in their comments and proposals. The drafting group met on 12 September to discuss the 124 proposals received. All proposals were read and considered, even some contradictory remarks. It was noted that some of the draft text was redundant. It was pointed out that the proposed draft had already taken 2 years of work.

The Bureau would meet on 11 December in Paris and finalise the draft that would be discussed at the Standing Committee meeting on 21 January.

7. Preparation of the meeting with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly

A delegation of the Bureau composed of Anne Kraus, Anne Nègre and Christoph Spreng, would accompany Anna Rurka for the courtesy visit to the newly elected PACE President. The delegation should put forward a positive approach and express its willingness and the urgency to collaborate with the PACE committees.

8. Nomination of Intigam Aliyev as a Special Observer to the Expert Council on NGO Law: Following the application submitted by the Human Rights House Foundation on his behalf for his appointment as an expert, Intigam Aliyev was unanimously nominated as a Special Observer to the Expert Council on NGO Law.

9. The Reform process within the Council of Europe and its effects on the Conference of INGOs activities (Anna Rurka)

Anna Rurka made a synthesis of her exchange of views with the Secretary General which took place in June regarding the project on freedom of association and the vision of the Secretary General regarding the place of the Conference of INGOs in the Council of Europe

reform process. Concerning the last point, the Conference of INGOs should improve its effectiveness and functionality, draw up a proposal and translate these changes into action in the near future. Among other changes, the Conference of INGOs should increase the country perspective of its work. This would entail inviting more delegations of national NGOs to the Conference of INGOs sessions and other events. The Conference should organise thematic panel discussions with them.

10. Drafting group in charge of proposals regarding the Rules of Procedure or other statutory provisions of the Conference of INGOs (Christoph Spreng)

The drafting group would prepare a specific survey for consultation within the Standing Committee and voluntary INGOs. The survey would be open for contributions from all INGOs. Currently there were two drafting groups working simultaneously, one on the Rules of Procedures, another one on the Code of Conduct. In order to provide good material and for the drafting group in charge of the Rules, the Code of conduct should be adopted in April.

11. Pool of experts of the Conference of INGOs (Anne Kraus, Richard Pirolt, Rares Craiut)

In order to go further with the idea of the pool of experts, certain questions required answers. Who can define what changes are needed? Who can check if the experts are really experts? The terms of use of the database need formalised (confidentiality, data protection etc.). A team in charge of the pool would be in place by November. The question of who would supervise the team remained unanswered.

A first focus should be on legal experts competent in the different areas of the Action Plan of the Conference of INGOs.

12. Internal and external communication (newsletter, blog, Vademecum, reporting, etc.)
Anne Kraus, Richard Pirolt, Rares Craiut)

Work on the newsletter continued. The Bureau should propose a standard model on reporting for each entity; an editorial note on the reporting was needed.

13. Consultative meeting on shrinking civic space, European Youth Centre Strasbourg, 7-8 November (Rares Craiut) – item evoked under item 5 above.
14. Implementation of the Action Plan – steps forward (Robert Bergougnan, Katarzyna Sokolowska)

It was necessary to change the last two questions of the survey which were too inflexible.

15. Preparation of the Spring Session 2019

The Standing Committee should insist and implement its own decision regarding a more interactive schema for the session. At the last session the interactive aspect did not work very well. The session and interactive methods would allow participants to co-create something during the session. The proposal of the Bureau was to suggest a main theme for each session. For April the proposal would concern the IT, digital civic space, artificial intelligence.

16. Common task force equality / parity (Anne Negre)

Anne Nègre informed the Bureau that the person in charge of the task force would be Gabriela Fray.

17. Activities related to the youth and migration integrated approaches – for discussion

A meeting with the Youth Department was planned in order to discuss the financial and institutional support in terms of youth participation in the activities of the Conference of INGOs.

18. INGO Service activities (A. Oeschger)

The Committees had not spent all of their budget. The Bureau could also make proposals for activities until December.

19. Any other business.

- Prize of the “Grand Temoin”

After consultations made by Maritchu Rall with the Honorary Presidents of the Conference of INGOs, the creation of this prize raised several questions. The Bureau gave a mandate to Maritchu Rall to propose to the City of Strasbourg to set up this Prize (as initiators) in collaboration with the Conference of INGOs.

20. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting would take place in Paris on 11 December.