



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Bureau

CONF/BUR(2019)SYN1

MEETING OF THE BUREAU DRAFT REPORT Sunday, 20 January 2019

Present

Anna Rurka - President of the Conference of INGOs
Anne Kraus - Vice-President
Christoph Spreng - Vice-President
Robert Bergougnan - Vice-President
Anne Negre - Vice-President in charge of equality
Katarzyna Sokolowska - Rapporteur
Richard Pirolt Rapporteur
Rares-Augustin Craiut - Rapporteur
Annelise Oeschger - President of INGO-Service

1. The meeting was opened by Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs
2. Agenda for adoption – adopted
3. Report of the meeting of [11 December 2018](#) – adopted
4. The Activity Report 2018 was adopted with minor modifications proposed by Christoph Spreng and Simon Matthijssen.

Decision: The report should be published on the website and also sent to the Conference of INGOs members and institutional partners and state representatives as soon as possible with the mention “report for adoption, preceded by a letter from the Bureau stating key messages

5. Meeting with Youth organisations, Conference of INGOs members in Brussels – report

Rares Craiut reported on the meeting he organised with the Conference of INGOs members from youth organisations based in Brussels. The meeting took place in December and was met with a lot of requests for one-to-one meetings. Members were not sure what the Conference was doing nor how the Conference benefitted them. They would like to send representatives to the meetings in Strasbourg but they would like all, or part, of these costs to be covered. The Secretariat organised a few events for the open doors day and would also put together a little manual on how NGOs could engage with the Council of Europe and also the Conference

Anna Rurka remarked how the “youthification” the Conference had been promised ever since the reform of Jean-Marie Heydt. A call for youth representatives was needed and one way to encourage them would be to identify the topics important to young people such as freedom

of media; defending digital civic space or the no hate speech in public space and ask them to relate to these topics in their applications.

Decision: A call would be sent out for the April session for 5 young representatives. Priority topics: freedom of media, defending digital civic space, no hate speech in the public space.

6. Code of conduct – preparation for adoption:

The Secretariat had received the answer from a translator with a legal background on whether or not it should be called “Code” or “Charte” in French. The explanations given indicated both possibilities although “Charte” was less binding. It was crucial that the Code/Charter be adopted at the April session.

Anne Nègre proposed an amendment on sexist behaviour for article 8. Discussions on the topic suggest that it would be good to add also “any other discriminatory behaviour”. Anne Nègre mentioned that paragraph 9 seemed incomplete as “just bringing something to the attention of the President” is insufficient; there needs to be an action following that.

7. Drafting Group on the revision of the Rules of procedures of the Conference of INGOs – Preliminary Report and inquiry - preparation for discussion

Christoph Spreng mentioned that the inquiry prepared by him and circulated before tomorrow’s meeting was meant to go deeper than just wording and was intended to help to achieve ownership from the other Standing Committee members. He proposed that during the Standing Committee meeting the members would work in 4 smaller groups and try to go through the 3-pages inquiry document. He would collect the answers and integrate the results into the drafting group’s work which was meeting on the following day.

The drafting group wished to have time on its scenario narrative, which would be a continuation from its preliminary report 2018.

It was important for September/October to present the new revision/reform/restructuring of the Conference to the new Secretary General, after the elections in June.

8. Committee of Ministers conference on its interactions with INGOs

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Poland was organising a conference in Warsaw on the interactions between INGOs and Committee of Ministers. There would be a possibility to have a discussion after each panel. The process of discussion and reflection would have 3 stages: first - during the event on the occasion on World NGO Day (27 February) organised by the Conference of INGOs, second – the Warsaw Conference and third - discussion during the plenary meeting of the Conference of INGOs in April. The final step would be the Session of the Committee of Ministers in Helsinki in May.

Decision: prepare the communication action / information during the Warsaw Conference. Katarzyna Sokolowska would contact the secretariat to discuss this issue.

9. World NGO day – event

The programme would be composed of three panels which would highlight the contribution of the INGOs to the Council of Europe mandate. The event would conclude with contributors from the Conference and outside and a message to send to the Committee of Ministers.

10. External and internal communication of the Conference of INGOs – progress

Access of storage for data in Council of Europe web environment was being examined. Whilst Google met General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) criteria it would be better to have the documents on the Council of Europe backbone. The Calendar would meet these criteria.

11. Mid – term assessment of the Action Plan of the Conference of INGOs

A questionnaire had been prepared by Katarzyna Sokolowska and Robert Bergougnan that would be circulated tomorrow after the meeting of the Standing Committee.

12. Preparation of the Spring Session (April) 2019

For the April session, Karl Donert agreed to take the lead on the working session on digital civic space. This event would be without translation and discussions should be language grouped. Standing Committee members who act as Rapporteurs would give a brief report on the event at the meeting of the plenary on Friday morning. The working groups would be able to meet on Monday and Thursday.

13. OING-Service

Decision: OING-Service would devote 4000€ in 2019 for the youth delegates. In order to try to increase the number of subscriptions, the members of the Board would have a stand during the session in April allowing them to inform and discuss with INGOs.

14. Any other business

Anna Rurka asked the Bureau members to update the Google agenda with their activities.

15. Date of the next meeting: skype meeting on 13 March at 17.00.