CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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Recommendation to the Committee of Ministers on the suspension of the activities of the ad hoc Committee of experts on the Rights of persons with disabilities (CAHPH)

Adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 29 June 2018

The Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe:

Taking note of the decision made by the Committee of Ministers suspending the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee of experts on the Rights of persons with disabilities (CAHPH);

Deeply concerned by the negative message that this suspension sends to persons with disabilities;

Recalling the work achieved under the Council of Europe previous Action Plan and its conclusions;

Recalling the commitment of the Council of Europe, to promote the Disability Strategy 2017-2023 "Human Rights for all" launched on 28th March 2017;

Stressing the importance of this Strategy for all persons with disabilities living in the 47 member States of the Council of Europe;

Stressing that the five priority areas of this Strategy require to be further developed and that exchanges of good practice should be promoted encouraging the States in taking accordingly new legal provisions;

Concerned that the experts' activities on the rights of persons with disabilities have now been suspended;

Urges the Committee of Ministers:

- to ensure that this suspension related to the current difficult financial situation of the Organisation, will be as short as possible so that the work already undertaken will resume quickly and support the States in the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy especially in the legislative area where it is particularly needed;

- to encourage the various Council of Europe bodies to promote, in their field of activity, the equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities and to consider working on the specific measures that States will have to undertake to this purpose;

- to make sure that the implementation of the decided Strategy will build upon the expertise of the organisations of persons with disabilities, of service providers and other INGOs involved in promoting equal rights and dignity for persons with disabilities.