



AUTUMN SESSION CONF/PLE(2019)SYN3

MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF INGOS (statutory business) Wednesday, 30 October 2019 9.30-13.00 Agora – Room G03 Draft meeting report

1. Opening of the meeting by Anna RURKA, President of the Conference of INGOS

Anna Rurka stressed the progress the Conference of INGOS had made on various topics since the last plenary session. The current session would show that the INGO Conference engaged in a dynamic and multilateral cooperation with the other Council of Europe organs. The President thanked all members for their efforts in the various topics dealt with by the Conference of INGOS.

2. Nomination of the Rapporteur of the meeting: Richard Pirolt
3. Draft agenda

The agenda was unanimously adopted after addition of a recommendation and a declaration under item 13.

4. Synopsis of the meetings of 10 and 12 April 2019

The Synopses were unanimously adopted.

5. [Revised Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in Decision-making Processes](#): presentation by the co-chairs of the joint working group Conference of INGOS (Gerhard ERMISCHER) and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Thomas ANDERSSON, Rapporteur of the Congress)

Ten years after its adoption, the Code was revised by the joint working group composed of members of the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOS and of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. Mr Thomas Andersson, rapporteur of the Congress and Gerhard Ermischer, coordinator of the joint working group emphasized the good cooperation and the high quality of the work accomplished. They also considered the revised Code a starting point for a new, common implementation process.

A specific toolkit would be developed, and examples of good practice would be discussed by both sides as a shared learning. The Advisory Council on Youth had also shown interest which underlined the importance of the revised Code for various bodies within the Council of Europe.

The Code was adopted by the majority of voters, with 6 abstentions.

6. Proposed revised Rules of Procedure of the Conference of INGOs: presentation of the first draft elaborated by the drafting group in charge of proposals regarding the Rules of Procedure or other statutory provisions of the Conference of INGOs, followed by an exchange with INGO members: Christoph SPRENG, Vice President of the Conference of INGOs.

In her introductory words, Anna Rurka explained the need for the Conference of INGOs to be operational and functional. This was a demand from other bodies of the Council of Europe and was also the starting point and goal of the process. Christoph Spreng presented the current state of discussion on behalf of the Drafting Group. A streamlining of the structures for increased output and impact in direct networking with other bodies of the Council of Europe was under discussion. A second call for contributions to the drafting process would be sent after the session. The member INGOs were invited to send their input by the end of November.

7. Gender Equality policy - update and information item (Anne NEGRE – Vice-President in charge of Gender Equality)

Anne Nègre reported on the latest developments regarding the Istanbul Convention and her participation in the Gender Equality Commission. She mentioned the efforts to establish equality rapporteurs in all the working groups of the Conference of INGOs.

8. "Recommendation on Equality between Women and Men: The Conference of INGOs calls on member States to respect and defend this essential Human Rights asset" – presented for adoption by Anne NEGRE, Vice President in charge of Gender Equality)

The Recommendation was adopted by majority with one vote against and 5 abstentions.

9. Proposal for a 'Youth Check' mechanism - (Rares CRAIUT, Rapporteur, Anne KRAUS, Vice-President and youth delegates)

Anna Rurka thanked INGO-Service for its financial support to the youth delegates programme. She also mentioned that the Standing Committee of the INGO Conference unanimously supported the programme.

In his statement, Rares Craiut first referred to the Youth Delegates programme that had started this year and allowed 6 young persons to join the Spring Session and this Autumn Session. As a result of their evaluation, the youth delegates proposed to the Conference of INGOs to establish a "Youth Check" tool which aimed to make the documents and decisions of the Conference of INGO more balanced and to make sure that young people were taken into consideration in the work of the Conference of INGOs.

An exchange took place and the remarks from the floor would be integrated into the final proposal.

10. Migration by Daniel GUERY, coordinator of the Task Force on migration

In his statement, Daniel Guery highlighted the 4 objectives of the Task Force:

- 1) To provide information on migration issues to Council of Europe bodies
- 2) To insist on the need to approach migration from the Human Rights perspective
- 3) To support Human Rights defenders involved
- 4) To analyse data provided from NGOs

He appealed to keep migration on the Conference of INGOs' agenda.

11. INGO-Service Association – Information by Annelise OESCHGER, President

Annelise Oeschger informed the Conference about the member subscription quota and some changes in the reimbursement administration.

12. Dates of the sessions of the Conference of INGOs in 2020

Spring: 20 -24 April 2020 (along with PACE)

Autumn: 12 -16 October 2020 (along with PACE)

For the year 2021 there would be one session alongside the PACE Session and one along with the Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities. The dates would be confirmed later.

This schedule was unanimously adopted.

13. Any other business

- Recommendation on climate change, migration and human rights in view of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP25) to be held in Santiago de Chile from 2 to 13 December 2019 proposed by the transversal Working Group on Social Cohesion

The Recommendation was unanimously adopted with one amendment.

- Declaration on the situation in Northeast Syria

The Human Rights Committee asked for the support of the Conference of INGOs for its Declaration.

The majority of voters supported the Declaration with 3 abstentions.

- Anna Rurka informed the participants about the changes to the PACE Rules of procedure and her exchange with the PACE Committees' chairs on this topic.

The meeting was closed at 13h03.