

Standing Committee

CONF/SC(2019)SYN3

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
DRAFT REPORT
Monday 24 June 2019
9.30-12.30
14.00 - 17.00

1. Opening of the meeting by Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs

Members present: Anna Rurka, Robert Bergougnan, Miguel Cabral de Pinho, Gerhard Ermischer, Anne Kraus, Salomon Levy, Thierry Mathieu, Annelise Oeschger, Richard Pirolt, Cyril Ritchie, Katarzyna Sokolowska, Christoph Spreng, Simon Matthijssen, Claude Vivier LeGot,

Apologies for absence: Rares Craiut (Proxy: Anne Kraus), Karl Donert (Proxy: Claude Vivier LeGot), Anne Nègre (Proxy: Thierry Mathieu), Iamvi Totsi (Proxy: Simon Matthijssen), Luminita Petrescu joins the meeting online

2. Nomination of the Rapporteur of the meeting: Richard Pirolt
3. Agenda for adoption: Adopted as amended
4. Report of the meeting of 8 April – for adoption

Several modifications were discussed. The report should be modified. It will be sent to the standing committee members for adoption through electronic way.

5. Revised Code of good practice for civil participation in the decision-making process – for approval (Gerhard Ermischer, Cyril Ritchie, Katarzyna Sokolowska)

The Standing Committee decided with the secretariat to update the Code, 10 years after its creation. It is important to mention that it was a joint drafting group with the Congress that was highly efficient with outstanding cooperation and both Secretariats (esp. Jane Crozier). The French translation will be done by the Congress.

It is important to adopt the Code during the session, on Wednesday morning at the plenary, before its adoption by the Congress the same day in the afternoon. The joint reception after the adoption of the Code is scheduled for 18.20.

After the adoption of the Code we have to create a “Toolkit” starting as a collection of good and bad practices coming from the Congress and grassroot NGOs.

The revised draft code is unanimously adopted by the Standing Committee

6. Drafting group in charge of proposals regarding the Rules of Procedure or other statutory provisions of the Conference of INGOs – presentation of the revised Rules of Procedure and the timetable until adoption (Christoph Spreng, Gerhard Ermischer, Miguel Cabral, Jeremy McBride, Salomon Levy)

Jeremy McBride couldn't join the meeting because of a work-related trip to Ukraine. The working group has met and drafted the 3 parts of it. The group has been working on the English version – so it is the lead version. The drafted document has been presented by Christoph Spreng. The SC has to agree on the Explanatory Note presenting the principle direction. The consultation of Standing Committee members and Honorary Presidents on the revised version of the Rules of procedure will take place till the 15th of August. After the drafting group will finish with the comments from the Standing Committee there will be an official translation into French. The consultation of INGO members will start afterwards with the possibility to send the modifications until the end of November. During the October session we will have a debate with NGOs members on the document. The document will be sent to the Legal Service of the Council of Europe and be finalized until February. It will be sent out to the member INGOs (amendments procedure) in order to be presented for adoption during the Spring session in April 2020.

Vote on the Explanatory Note and general orientation: 4 against, 12 in favour. The general orientation is approved by the Standing Committee

Vote to prolongue of the mandate of the group: 0 against, 1 abstention and 15 in favour

7. Requests for participatory status: Standing Committee Opinion

Discussion on what we understand as partnership and memberships of the organisations. The SC members are asked to give their opinion which of the requests for participatory status should be approved and which not. Deadline: Sunday, 30/06. – decision

8. Answers to the satisfaction questionnaire (Katarzyna Sokolowska)

38 answers received, this is about 12% of the members. Katarzyna Sokolowska asks the chairs and vice-chairs of the thematic committees to look into the questions. Members want more space at meetings with limitations to numbers of speakers (no big panels without exchange), more breaks and interactive elements

Other wishes:

- Annual dinner: generally good, some would like it earlier in the week, warm food
- Introductions into sessions
- Documents earlier in advance to sessions
- Video transmission
- Less experts and super important people but more space for them as INGOs

A follow-up of the questionnaire is planned, this time it represents a small share of the conference, we cannot draw lessons very well.

9. Preparation of the autumn session (October 2019) (for discussion and approval of the draft calendar)

General topic: migration, (post)migratory process. The session will be shorter Problems: Thematic Committees should not meet on Monday afternoon

The Plenary on Wednesday morning should be fix because of the vote for the Code.

WGs cannot meet at the same time as Thematic Committees or the Plenary.

Decisions:

The planning of the meeting of the thematic committees in the future calendar of the sessions will take place at the base of a rotation.

The common workshop on monitoring for the thematic committees is postponed for the next session (April 2020).

During the Thematic Committee meetings there will be a space for the cooperative work of the working groups of each committee.

The exhibition about women in migration will be organised in the Palais thanks to collaboration with Action for Women and Quaker of European Affairs.

The projection of the film "Grand H" and a debate will be organised in Cinema Odyssey.

The relevant external partnership will be built around these two events.

10. 17 October 2019 – ceremony on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

This year the transversal working group will prepare a 45-minutes ceremony with politically relevant people from the CoE and the City of Strasbourg, topics: decent housing, children, migrants.

Next year a bigger event on the application of the Social Charter in the member states will be organized, depending on the budget.

11. Conclusions of the CM session in Helsinki (17 May 2019)

Anna Rurka tells about a tight reaction as the 1st draft mentioned the INGO Conference just on the last sentence, but after interventions (Ambassadors of Poland) there was a last minute amendment. Still we should take our power to implement the decision.

12. Future of the Conference of INGOs in the light of the Council of Europe reform

Mary-Ann Hennessey gives an overview of the current situation with the contingency plan. DG2 will have the biggest cuts; the youth sector will be moved to the partial agreements. 250 posts will be cut, as there will be no money nor staff for the INGO Conference. We are at the process of preparation for 2020 and 2021 annual budget. There are 2 lines:

1. Regular plan
2. The announced cuts of 48 %.

The adoption of the budget will be in September. Decision: depending on evolution of the situation, we have to inform our members about the situation.

13. World Forum for Democracy: Is democracy in danger in the information age? (6-8 November 2019) - Standing Committee contribution

The proposal made by the Working Group on freedom of expression and freedom of journalists under the HR Committee is accepted as a Forum Talk (new format). The Event will be sponsored by Conference, Standing Committee's members should be present from 6-8 November.

14. Invitation for support / partnership: ('20)

- a. Call to action for tomorrow's volunteerism – France Voluntaries (for decision) - approved
- b. IFSW Europe Conference, Vienna 9 September - Workshop entitled "Human rights and participation of service users to the design of social policy (for information)

- c. Congress on 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) and Ethics from a Legal Gender Perspective – EWLA (European Women Lawyers Associations), Madrid, 21-22 November – INGO Conference should join as Co-organizer - approved
- d. Youth Department meeting on shrinking civil space (for information)

15. Information on INGO Service

16. Any other business

North South Price: Christoph Spreng asks for the suggestion from our side – he suggests Ragmohmn Gahma, a grandson of Mahatma Gandhi

Invitation to the second edition of the Shrinking Civil Society seminar by the Youth Department

17. Date of the next meeting: 28 October 2019