

Standing Committee
CONF/SC(2020)SYN4

Standing Committee meeting
Draft Meeting Report
2 July 2020
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Remote meeting

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

Present: Anna Rurka, Anne Kraus, Anne Negre, Annelise Oeschger, Christoph Spreng, Claude Vivier Le Got, Cyril Ritchie, Iamvi Totsi, Jeremy McBride, Karl Donert, Miguel Cabral de Pinho, Richard Pirolt, Rares Craiut, Robert Bergougnan, Simon Matthijssen, Salomon Levy

Secretariat: Ellsworth Camilleri, Jane Crozier, Mary Ann Hennessey

Absent: Gerhard Ermischer (proxy Simon Matthijssen), Thierry Mathieu (proxy Anne Negre), Lumininta Petrescu, Katarzyna Sokolowska (proxy Anna Rurka)

2. Appointment of the rapporteur for the meeting: Rares Craiut and Richard Pirolt

3. Draft agenda - adopted

Request to add information about the Council of Europe North South Centre under the item any other business.

4. Report of the meeting of 4 May 2020 - adopted

5. Draft Rules of Procedure of the Conference of INGOs

The Standing Committee members presented their comments on the draft rules. Regarding the translation, it was stated that the French translation was still not the official working document. It would be done by the Council of Europe translators before the transmission of the document to the INGOs.

The vote on the decision to transmit the document to the member INGOs: 10 for, 4 against, 1 abstention: adopted by the majority

The vote was binding for all the members of the Standing Committee. After sending the draft to the INGOs, any modifications to be proposed must now be part of the amendment procedure at the level of the INGO members, not at the level of the members of the Standing Committee.

6. Transitory measures, timetable and voting organisation on the draft Rules of procedure by the Conference of INGOs (for adoption and decision)

INGO members would be able to send in amendments using the form designed for this purpose until 14 September midnight CET.

It was recalled that an amendment was not a new version of an article or a proposal for a new article but a modification (by addition, modification or deletion) of a part of the content of an article.

Considering the Covid-19 pandemic,

- the second wave of the pandemic was expected in the autumn,
- the economic consequences of the lockdown on the INGOs,
- the physical spaces needed for the INGO Conference to ensure the safe conditions of working in October,
- the prognosis regarding the restriction on the mobility (the EU border situation in autumn may change),

the Standing Committee gave the mandate to the President and to the Bureau to explore the possibility of electronic voting means.

The vote on exploring technical provisions for electronic votes in October: adopted with 5 abstentions

7. Activity Report of the Conference of INGOs 2019

Unanimously adopted

8. Feedback on the online June Session, preparation of the report and follow-up

The feedback received from INGOs and coordinators of the June webinars was very positive.

- a wide range of experts from the Council of Europe, (I)NGOs, outside speakers (even from Africa),
- more than 70 registrations per webinar,
- 15-20 comments from the INGO representatives that do not normally come to Strasbourg for the Conference sessions,
- Excellent exercise in engaging with a broad audience.
- Statistics: 144 participants on Kudo (day 1), 106 on day 2, 700 viewers on live streaming.

Obstacles:

- Duration: one webinar per day would be better than 2.
- Differentiate time slots to reach more participants
- Translation: We need to consider where we really need interpretation or not, thinking of the costs

Follow-up: prepare grassroots action in line with the webinars in order to show concrete continuity of action. The INGO Service Association can devote 2000€ per thematic committee if they wish to do such grassroots projects.

9. Calendar of the Autumn Session in October (14-16 October 2020)

The Standing Committee at its meeting in January decided to have a shorter session, taking into account the capacity of the Democratic Innovation Division to organise the autumn session and World Forum for Democracy with only a one-month interval between them.

The calendar of the session with its main components was discussed and adopted unanimously

10. **Planning of the Standing Committee activities for the second half of the year** (17 October 2020, follow-up of the report on Armenia, fact-finding visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Portugal, webinars...)

An online follow-up to the Armenia report was planned for the autumn;

The transversal working group "Poverty: Inequalities and the Enjoyment of Rights" was preparing an event on 16 October entitled "Access to social and medico-social services for ALL: a springboard out of poverty" to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

11. **Selection of the Youth Delegates 2020**

4 new delegates had been selected. The delegates proposed to host a webinar on vulnerable people, taken from the youth perspective, and invited the members of the Standing Committee to join in the preparation process.

The youth check initiative would be continued.

12. **Resignation of Loredana Tassone from the Expert Council on NGO Law and her replacement**

This item was not taken due to time constraints.

13. **Request for cooperation between the [Council of Europe Pompidou Group](#) and the Conference of INGOs**

The Council of Europe Pompidou Group was revising its statutory Resolution and wished to extend its mandate. After consultation with the Executive Secretary of this body, the President of the Conference of INGOs proposed to organise a consultative meeting with interested INGOs in September and to prepare a short document for a recommendation on future collaboration. Miguel Cabral would assist Anna Rurka in this initiative

14. **Preparation of the Word Forum for Democracy.**

The draft lab proposal had been well received by the secretariat but needed a bit of fine-tuning.

15. **Request for partnership by NETMUSIC SA in view of sponsorship of INGO projects focused on early childhood**

Saint-Preux, a French song writer had composed a song about children, and he wished to devote the future income from this song to support projects for/about children. He wanted to release the song on a CD and would like to establish cooperation with the Conference of INGOs and propose funding for child-related initiatives/action of the INGO members. This would entail using the Conference of INGOs logo on the CD. The legal implications were discussed by the Standing Committee. It was proposed to get clarification regarding the mutual engagement, the contracting parties (composer as a person or NETMUSIC as company) as well as the financial management of such funding.

16. **INGO Service Association – information item**

The Board of INGO-Service would meet in October either in person or remotely. The President reminded the Standing Committee of the possibility for financing the projects mentioned under item 8.

17. **Any other business**

This item was not taken due to time constraints.

18. **Date of the next meeting**

Dates would be proposed through a doodle consultation.