



## **Standing Committee**

CONF/SC(2020)SYN7

### **Standing Committee meeting**

#### **Report**

**16 November 2020**

**9.30 am – 12.30 pm**

**Online meeting**

Present: Miguel Cabral (part of the meeting), Simon Matthijssen, Karl Donert, Claude Vivier Le Got, Thierry Mathieu, Anne Nègre, Anne Kraus, Richard Pirolt, Anna Rurka, Annelise Oeschger, Christoph Spreng, Robert Bergougnan, Cyril Ritchi, Salomon Levy, Katarzyna Sokolowska, Gerhard Ermisher,

Proxies: Miguel Cabral to Simon Matthijssen or Anna Rurka, Karl Donert to Claude Vivier Le Got in case of connection problems, Thierry Mathieu to Anne Nègre in case of absence of the meeting, Rares Craiut to Anne Kraus, Luminita Petrescou to Gerhard Ermisher

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

Translation is not provided in this session

#### **2. Appointment of the rapporteur of the meeting – Richard Pirolt**

#### **3. Draft agenda - for adoption**

Thierry: rec/res > point 5: just list, texts will follow

The Athens declaration is not on the agenda, maybe mentioned in “Any other business”

Regarding Nagorno Karabakh: COING will not be concerned, Minsk Group is engaged, not CoE. Armenia/Azerbaijan is a conflictual situation and we should avoid further discussion by now.

**Decision: The agenda is adopted unanimously.**

#### **4. Report of the meeting of 14 October 2020 (CONF/SC(2020)SYN6)**

Discussion:

Christoph Spreng mentioned the upcoming Lisbon Forum entitled “Enhancing Solidarity”, as an online event organized by the North South Center at the beginning of December.

The report does not show the discussions or dissenting opinions, should that be considered in the reports? Have all decisions been noted, especially abstentions? Claude Vivier LeGot does not agree with the report.

Concerning the Draft declaration on the role of civil society, Mary Ann Hennessey states that in her notes the declaration had unanimous support and no objections on 14/10

Proposal: members who want to have dissenting opinions mentioned should send that to the Secretariat (Jane Crozier) to be decided in the next SC meeting.

**Decision: the report is not adopted by now, such modifications and dissenting opinions to the report shall be sent to Jane until Wed, Nov 18<sup>th</sup>.**

## **5. Preparation of the second part of the Autumn Session (15-16 December 2020)**

The Plenary will focus on the revision of the rules of procedure. The Kudo system will be available.

- Draft calendar

Discussion:

Political debate on Belarus and civil society: we should invite civil society representatives of Belarus.

By now the calendar doesn't regard social problems according Covid situation, also to consider INGO situation, we should take some time to discuss this.

Draft Rules of Procedure: Suggestion to present the opinions expressed by the minority of the Standing Committee members the Standing Committee opinion is the opinion adopted by majority, the results of vote also (against and abstention) are presented in the written document,

- Organization of the vote

The Kudo system will be available. The vote will be open at the beginning of the plenary on Dec 15, 9.30 a.m. all day, but not the day before. All proposals for amendment will be presented during the day. The end of vote will be around 4:45 p.m., the results will be presented around 5.30 p.m.

The voting system is incorporated into KUDO, the vote is both anonymous and individualized. Participants and Voters will be registered, each INGO has 1 vote (head of delegation or the person delegated by the INGO)

As there are 58 separate votes, people who present the proposal and the argument supporting it are designated in advance to keep the time. The Secretariat will send out to all INGOs the material they need to make their decisions, a) proposal b ) rational c) technical instructions

The list of voters shall be fixed 3 days in advance to the meeting. As the vote is open all day INGOs can vote even if technical problems may occur at some moment, however there will be a test in advance. It is essential to appeal to INGO representatives to take time.

- Discussion:

IS Kudo 100% confidential? The CDPPE had a vote and the moderator said he knows who votes. - This information will not be presented on screen (Mary Ann Hennessey).

It is the standard practice of the Conference that a proposal for amendment is presented by the proposing INGO.

In 2016 there was one person to present the amendment proposal, another person presented the Standing Committee opinion, one person from the audience took a floor with the contrary opinion

Suggestion to postpone the vote because of freedom of expression, as PACE deputy secretary general election was postponed – Explanation: This was because of the lack of voting system, now Kudo works and PACE will do the vote. Dissenting opinions are not known, INGOs shall be able to express minority opinions by mail – Explanation: the opinion of the Standing Committee is being presented.

Anna Rurka will ask the Verification and Dispute Committee for its opinion on the whole procedure decided by the Standing Committee. The time for presentation needs to be divided equally. Currently we have 4 minutes per amendment proposal and we need the list of speakers to conduct the meeting in efficient way.

If we accept that we have a limited time, where one proposal is made by several INGOs they are invited to choose the speaker in advance. If you want to hear everybody, the time won't be enough, both in physical presence or online meetings.

Regarding remote meetings: by now it is no new situation, we all know to work remotely, there is no chance for a live meeting in December and even not at the beginning of the next year, The Standing Committee is a body & we have a collective opinion. The vote on the proposals of amendments will be open for some hours.

(Un)democratic process of which the Standing Committee is accused: Standing Committee takes decisions for the Conference of INGOs, NGOs have not been consulted at any stage - SC is a governing body that takes decisions and this is then the official opinion of this governing body. The NGOs will be informed by the secretariat which proposals for amendment will be presented to the vote so this is transparent.

**Vote: proposal (vote by chat)**

**1) 2 speakers by proposal of amendment (INGO proposer + SC opinion)  
2) 3 speakers - INGO which presents the proposal + SC opinion - INGO with counter argument (not the same INGO for every proposal of amendments). The time for each proposal of amendment is 4 minutes**

**Following the vote,**

**Decision: version 1 accepted: 11 pro, 5 against both options**

#### **6. Recommendation and Resolutions for adoption during the plenary**

- RES concerning artists' difficulties (TC Education & Culture)
- REC concerning "pandemie de la Covid 19: Appel à une gestion éthique et respectueuse des droits humains" – the final text will follow
- Two other documents are being prepared:
  - Poverty seminar – access to rights, the workgroup worked on this
  - Belarus – a draft REC will maybe follow

**7. Appointment of Michel Grangeat, Emeritus Professor (University Grenoble Alpes – France), Chair of ICSP (International Council on Shared Parenting<sup>1</sup>) with Cristine Rigman<sup>2</sup> (Child Pact<sup>3</sup>) as representative of the Conference of INGOs to the Committee of Experts on the Rights and the Best interests of the Child in Parental Separation and in Care Proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)**

Discussion: people to be appointed representatives have to be in the conference for 2 years? – Explanation given: there is no such provision in the Rules.

Proposal: Christine Rigman shall still be a representative and Michel Greangat will join her.

**Decision: unanimously adopted, no one against, no abstentions**

**8. Transversal analysis of the Conference of INGOs' contribution to the Steering committees, committees of the parties, drafting groups – (continuation)**

There will be an updated questionnaire spread out online, deadline end of month.

The Observatory of History Teaching is now having partial agreement with the Council of Europe, INGO Conference is mentioned as a partner to be invited to take part in this partial agreement

**9. Date of the next meeting – 14 December 2020 – 9.30-13.00**

**10. Any other business**

Mary Ann Hennessey gave an update on the World Forum of Democracy: 3 days event, 12 months program follows with at least one online event and one lab per month, see website. Suggestions for joint activities are welcome.

Thanks to Rares Craiut and OING Service for organizing the webinar on diversity

End of meeting 12:52

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The International Council on Shared Parenting (ICSP) is an international non-profit organization with the participatory status to the CoE. Its aim is to promote and to disseminate scientific research and makes recommendations on the needs and rights of children whose parents do not live together.

Cristine Rigman is the Conference of INGOs representative to the Council of Europe Ad-hoc Committee on the Rights of the Child (CAHENF)

ChildPact – the Regional Coalition for Child Protection – is a network of networks that bring together 650 child-focused NGOs from 10 different countries. ChildPact advocates for regional cooperation and believes that child-focused networks play an essential role in promoting the child protection reforms and innovation. The mission of ChildPact is to change children's lives by inspiring transformational child protection policy making and implementation.