

**Standing Committee**  
CONF/SC(2021)SYN1

**Standing Committee meeting**  
**Report**  
**11 January 2021**  
**10.00 – 13.00**  
**Online meeting (Kudo)**

**Present:** Anna Rurka, Anne Kraus, Rares Craiut (*online from 11:00*), Christoph Spreng, Claude Vivier LeGot, Cyril Ritchie, Gerhard Ermischer, Katarzyna Sokolowska, Iamvi Totsi (*connected later, after the beginning of the meeting*), Simon Matthijssen, Anne Nègre (*online from 11:40*), Annelise Oeschger, Thierry Mathieu (*disconnected at approx. 12:20*), Richard Pirolt, Salomon Levy (*connected after the beginning of the meeting*), Jeremy McBride (*connected after the beginning of the meeting*), Robert Bergougnan

**Absent:** Luminita Petrescu

**Proxies:** Karl Donert to Claude Vivier LeGot, Miguel Cabral de Pinho to Simon Matthijssen,

**Secretariat:** Jane Crozier, Mary-Ann Hennessey

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

Welcoming words at the first meeting in the 2021. The President informs about the changes resulting from the new Rules of Procedure impacting the way in which the SC will work.

- Circulation of documents – a week before the meeting
- The Chair of the Verification and Dispute Committee as well as the chairs of the Expert Councils may be invited to the SC meeting, with non-voting capacity, only when the agenda of the meeting requires the specific inputs from their side.

**2. Appointment of the rapporteur of the meeting**

Rapporteur of the meeting - Katarzyna Sokółowska

**3. Draft agenda - adopted without any changes**

**4. Report of the meeting of 14 December 2020 – for adoption**

The draft report will be submitted to the members of the Standing Committee via mail

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

Anna Rurka thanked the Drafting Group that had worked on the RoP over the last two years. The adoption of these rules was undoubtedly a highlight of the second part of the autumn session.

Despite the great success, there are some issues that need to be brought to our attention. Anna Rurka points out a campaign of disinformation concerning the decision-making process in the SC and the Conference of INGOs, as well as attacks against the organs of the

Conference of INGOs. Disinformation does not concern a democratic debate where different points of view can be expressed, but misleading and intentionally misinforming behaviour.

Anna Rurka declares, on her own behalf, that her confidence in the few colleagues behind this disinformation campaign is broken.

Claude Vivier le Got: First of all, I wish you all the best for this new year. Secondly, I do not agree with what has been said. Several INGOs and several members had different points of view. I regret the lack of respect that I noticed. I was attacked in my professional and personal life, I regret it. The fact that different opinions were expressed is a good thing. I won't say anything about Kudo, I didn't have a problem. There was a technical problem for some people, but the technicians were very helpful. If you think your trust is broken, I am very worried. My confidence has not been called into question. I am positive, I believe in human beings and we are responsible, and I continue to trust everyone, whatever future decisions and opinions are made.

Pending further requests to speak, Anna Rurka added that her disappointment was not linked to the diversity of the contradictory debates. However, intentionally sending bad information is a problem, especially when the intention is to destabilise. Several red lines have been crossed. She does not want to go into details now. Where there are abuses, there is also the question of legal reliability and liability.

Cyril Ritchie pointed out that looking back, he wished to thank the Chair for the grace with which she chaired the session.

#### **6. Preparation of the elections to be held during the Spring Session (26-30 April 2021)**

o Sending of the call: at the latest 90 days before the opening of the session, i.e. 26 January 2021 (art. 107);

o Receipt of candidatures at the secretariat no later than 60 days before the opening of the session (art. 109) on 26 February 2021;

o documents may be sent by e-mail and/or by post, in all cases they must be received at the secretariat before the deadline;

o Declaration of admissibility of the applications by the VDC within 2 weeks after the deadline for applications, i.e. 13 March 2021 at the latest (art. 110). Possible correction period of 3 days.

Independently and before this process, Anna Rurka will send a letter to the INGOs which explains the elections and gives information regarding the creation of committees. This letter should also encourage members to apply and participate.

#### **7. Evaluation of the Conference of INGO Action Plan 2018-2021**

Robert Bergougnan presented the concept note for the evaluation process of the Action Plan. The method will be a questionnaire for entities which were in charge of implementing the activities. There are qualitative and quantitative indicators. Questions will be asked directly to INGOs which were active in the working groups. Annual reports will not be taken into account in the evaluation reports. However, organisations may copy information from there.

The questionnaire will be disseminated by the end of January. It will be published on the website for all INGOs who were actively involved in the implementation of the Action Plan. One month will be dedicated to process the data. The evaluation report will be presented in mid-April.

The documents will be prepared by Robert Bergougnan, Katarzyna Sokolwska, Claude Vivier le Got.

There will be another document focusing on participation in the steering committees, committees of the parties, PACE commissions in the Council of Europe. It will be sent ASAP.

## **8. Renewal of the Verification and Dispute Committee members and setting up of the Appellate Committee – new procedure**

The current Verification and Dispute Committee will finish the current mandate in April at the same time as the Standing Committee. The Appellate committee is a new body.

According to the Rules of Procedure (art. 76, 88), the Verification and Dispute Committee and the Appellate Committee shall be composed each by 5 members appointed by the General Assembly, for a term of 3 years, on the basis of the SC proposal.

There were two proposals on how to manage, within the SC, the process of proposing the members of these two Committees:

1. Inviting directly the INGO representatives to the Conference of INGOs likely to be interested and who could provide the necessary expertise
2. Sending out an open call to all member INGOs

Results of the vote

1<sup>st</sup> proposal: 2 persons

2<sup>nd</sup> proposal: 11 persons and one abstention.

The current Verification and Dispute Committee will be asked for suggestions regarding the information which should be included in the application form.

The proposed candidates for both committees will be presented by the SC at the session in April.

## **9. Call for the creation of the new Committees – guidance for INGO members**

The members made several proposals to improve the form of the terms of reference of the new committees. The proposals were taken into account

## **10. Implementation of the Code of Conduct – communication to the INGOs members**

The idea is to prepare some short leaflet explaining the Code of Conduct in a simple way. The Youth Delegates will be asked for an interesting proposal. It should be ready before the session in April and be sent before the opening of the elections.

## **11. Preparation of the World NGO Day**

After an internal consultation, Anna Rurka would like to propose a topic for the World NGO Day focusing on the challenges that NGOs face in conflict and post-conflict situations. Rares Craiut and Anna Rurka will prepare a draft concept note. The event will take place over a half-day online.

World NGO Day is on 27<sup>th</sup> of February but this year the celebration will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Further info will be provided.

## **12. Date of the next meeting**

Anna Rurka will propose a doodle for the first week of March. The meeting will take place on Kudo (if available) otherwise on BlueJeans.

The last meeting of the Standing Committee will take place on 26 April during the Session of the Conference.