



Standing Committee **CONF/SC(2022)SYN3**

Standing Committee meeting **Report** **03 March 2022** **15.00 – 17.00** **Online meeting**

Present:

- Anna RURKA (AR), Chair of Action for Social Rights Committee
- Christoph SPRENG (CS), SC Vice-President
- Davide CAPECCHI (DC), INGO-Service President
- Gerhard ERMISCHER (GE), President
- Goran MILETIĆ (GC), SC Member
- Mary-Ann HENNESSY (MAH), CINGO Secretariat
- Piotr SADOWSKI (PS), SC Member
- Ruth ALLEN (RA), SC Member
- Simon MATTHIJSEN (SM), SC Member; *apologies after 1 hour of the meeting*

1. The meeting is opened by GE at 15:00 CET; GE gives an informal update on the developments regarding Russia's membership in the CoE and the process of the vote on Russia's suspension.
2. PS is appointed as Rapporteur for the meeting.
3. The agenda is adopted, with SM requesting that "adoption of minutes of the previous meeting" is added as a regular agenda item going forward; the request is agreed by all.
4. Discussion on the upcoming Spring General Assembly 4-6 April 2022:
 - The General Assembly can be attended in person and on Blue Jeans for hybrid format.
 - GE hopes that larger meeting spaces will be made available, with MAH later confirming Room 9 (for proceedings in English) and Room 1 (for proceedings in French) in the Palais where 72 participants are allowed, in addition to all the other rooms which are needed.
 - It is expected that with the current geopolitical situation and developments, many people will attend, as well as due to the range of important working reports of the various Committees of the CINGO, which will require dedicated time space during the proceedings of the General Assembly (including Social Rights; Human Rights; Rights of the Child; presentation and vote on the new Education CTE).
 - The situation with the Russian aggression on Ukraine and its impact will be very prevalent during the General Assembly; AR stresses the importance of communicating that the General Assembly stands

with all the people who oppose the war; SM reflects on the brain drain from Russia; GE informs that there will be a communique on Ukraine coming out very shortly.

- RA asks about whether a slot for strategy is needed at the GA.
- GE informs he will finalise the agendas together with the CINGO Secretariat and these will be published on the dedicated General Assembly page on the CINGO website.

5. Discussion on the removals of members from the CINGO membership; a document provided by the CINGO Secretariat accompanies the proceedings:

- Example raised of EAPN – even though all acknowledge that the organisation is a very important INGO, the period of not complying with the membership rules has been very lengthy and according to the rules of membership procedure, the organisation will be removed from the membership.
- Organisations removed from the membership can reapply and when doing so, should indicate their previous engagement and highlight the areas in which they work, to ensure compliance with the membership eligibility.
- It is agreed by all that the issue of membership and compliance with its rules of procedure will be raised at the General Assembly.

6. Discussion on the new applications from INGOs wishing to join the CINGO membership – list of recommendations from the Secretary General accompanies the proceedings:

- There are no objections from the SC members present.
- Concern with the Russian GONGO and how it is not complying with the Resolution 2016/3 procedure – GE to write to the Secretary General via the CINGO Secretariat.
- After a brief conversation, the SC members present have no objections on the application from the Open Dialogue Foundation.

7. Discussion on the two new members to the Expert Council, Andrea Menapace and Marta Padavi. SC members who know of the candidates recommend them, but it is noted by CS that for the next time such nominations are made, the SC receives at least a brief profile document on them for everyone to be able to make an informed decision. All agree.

8. Discussion on the representation in the CoE Steering Committees:

- Concerning CoE Task Force on Visibility, CS checks on whether SM has capacity for that as he is on CDDH.
- Committee on Hate Crime PC/ADI-CH – AR suggests nominating one of the police-related INGOs or the European Jurist Federation.

9. Discussion on Andorra:

- GE updates on his meeting with and follow-up letter to the Ambassador of Andorra.
- AR suggests a similar approach could be taken with San Marino, Monaco, and Lichtenstein, as these are member states in a similar situation as to that of Andorra, i.e., where civil society is not very vibrant.

10. Further discussion on Russia:

- MAH informs about the next stages in the process of the discussions in the bodies of the CoE with regards to Russia's membership.

- GE to speak about the process and CINGO support with Ambassadors.

11. Next SC meeting takes place on Monday 4 April 2022 in Strasbourg (with remote joining for those unable to attend in person) at 10:00 CET; a pre-meeting to take place on Monday 21 March 2021 at 9:00 CET.

12. The meeting is closed by GE at 17:00 CET.