



Standing Committee
CONF/SC(2022)SYN4

Standing Committee meeting
Report
21 March 2022
09.00 – 10.30
Online meeting

Present:

- Anna Sevortian (AS), SC Member
- Beata ZWIERZYŃSKA (BZ), SC Member
- Christoph SPRENG (CS), SC Vice-President
- Gerhard ERMISCHER (GE), President
- Piotr SADOWSKI (PS), SC Member
- Ruth ALLEN (RA), SC Member
- Simon MATTHIJSEN (SM), SC Member

1. The meeting is opened by GE at 09:00 CET.
2. PS volunteers as Rapporteur for the meeting.
3. The agenda is adopted; PS apologises for not delivering the notes of the previous meeting in time for this gathering.
4. Discussion on the upcoming Spring General Assembly 4-6 April 2022:
 - Considering the ongoing war in Ukraine and the fallout and consequences, including the migration crisis, there will be a need to have a longer opening and introduction, including informing the INGO members on how Russia' expulsion proceeded and the impact on CINGOs.
 - AS states that while we need to address important issues such as humanitarian efforts, the humanitarian crisis, the General Assembly nevertheless must also retain the standing regular components required for governance reasons.
 - GE reiterates that in our conversations and discussions during the General Assembly, we need to continue stressing the importance of cohesion, revamp of democracy and the need to continue fighting for democracy.
 - It is agreed that: the SC meeting takes place in the morning of 4 April 2022, with the open dialogue between the members of the CINGO and the SC on the work in the CoE taking place in the afternoon (GE to chair the English debate; Genevieve Laloy to chair the French debate; GE to invite Ambassadors to attend this session to witness the discussions); 5 April 2022 to

focus on report of SC activities, discussions on economic and social rights in times of war and Action for Social Rights Committee report, presentation of the CURE Campaign, Committee on the Rights of Migrants; afternoon of 5 April 2022 to be dedicated to the General Assembly of the INGO-Service; 6 April 2022 dedicated to presentations from the Committees (half an hour each), followed by the presentation of the new proposal for the a potential Committee on Education, vote on the Committee and its Chair.

- Regarding the logistics, GE informs that as of 18 March 2022, full participation capacity is allowed in the CoE meeting rooms, with masks/face coverings remaining mandatory, but allowed to be removed for speaking interventions; this means 100 participants can be present in the General Assembly plenary room and as of now, 65 participants have registered.
5. GE gives an update on how the process of Russia’s expulsion from the CoE membership proceeded:
- The Council of Ministers invoked Paragraph 8, all member states voted in favour, bar Russia (voting against), and Serbia and Armenia (abstaining).
 - This was followed by very undiplomatic messaging appearing on the Russian Foreign Ministry website and letters sent by Russia to countries stating, in essence, that Russia would withdraw from the CoE when and how it suits them; this was sent by email and not handed in personally to the Secretary General, violating the rules of procedure.
 - The Council of Ministers invoked the “Consensus Procedure” resulting in a unanimous vote on expelling Russia; the Russian flag was removed.
 - GE informed that he is still receiving Russian newsletters and updates so this to be followed up by him in the higher echelons of the CoE.
6. The meeting is closed by GE at 10:30 CET.