

**Standing Committee**  
CONF/SC(2022)SYN8

**Standing Committee meeting**  
**Report**  
**07 July 2022**  
**10.00 –12.00**  
**Online meeting**

1. **Opening.** Gerhard Ermischer, Chair of the SC, opened the meeting.

Eight Standing Committee members attended the session online (via BlueJeans): *Ruth Allen, Gerhard Ermischer, Genevieve Laloy, Simon Matthijsen, Olga Sadovskaya, Piotr Sadowski, Anna Sevortian, Christoph Spreng.* *Anu Juvonen, Benedicte Kern* joined on behalf of the CoE Secretariat.

Absent: *Davide Capecchi, Rares Craiut, Goran Miletic, Anna Rurka, Beata Zwierzynska.*

2. Anna Sevortian was appointed the meeting's rapporteur and took the notes.
3. Standing Committee proceeded with adopting the agenda of the meeting.

**4. Minutes of the last GA**

*Decision/ Action point:*

- SC should work through the past minutes and make these available at CINGO webpage.
- *Ruth and Genevieve* will finalise the Spring 2022 GA minutes (style, names, etc) through 15 July. All note-takers at the GA are requested to submit their notes.

**5. Dates for 2023 General Assemblies**

CINGO General Assemblies in 2023 will coincide with the PACE sessions. *Lusine* has booked the biggest room in the Agora for this purpose. The 2023 GA dates are:

- 24 - 26 April 2023,
- 09 – 11 October 2023.

The next General Assembly is scheduled to take place on 04-06 October 2022 in Strasbourg. An option is to start on 03 October for informal meetings (it is a national holiday in Germany though).

## 6. Agenda for the upcoming GA

*Decision/ Action points:*

Preliminary outline for the CINGO General Assembly:

DAY 0, 03 OCTOBER 2022, MON

Arrivals / SC joint dinner

DAY 1, 04 OCTOBER 2022, TUE (Internal Day, SC and members)

10 AM – NOON: Standing Committee meeting  
(<https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/october-2022>)

PM: Networking meeting by/ for members

DAY 2, 05 OCTOBER 2022, WED (CINGO reports + Outreach to Ambassadors)

AM: Committees' reports and discussion. Q & A, INGO internal/ formal processes.

PM: Country visits' reports (Bosnia Herzegovina, Andorra, Finland). Expert Council on NGO law report. Meetings with Ambassadors

DAY 3, 06 OCTOBER 2022, THU (How CINGO works inside the Council)

AM: session on the Helsinki process + the fourth Summit, engagement with the High-level reflection group

PM: session with members: how do we cooperate and act within CoE? (three areas of involvement: SC in intergovernmental committees, Expert Council on CAHA/ CAI, SR to SG re PACE Migration Subcommittee/ OR Social Charter)

*Discussion/ Suggestions:*

- CINGO Committees are to submit their progress report a month ahead, presentations on Day 2 should be short and follow a template (*Ruth* shared one per e-mail). We would need sharp, focussed reports and a lively discussion.
- *Simon* suggests each SC member reads one committee report in depth and covers it at the SC sitting at Day 1. *Genevieve* suggests the same SC members also join the Committees' meetings.
- *Christoph* reminds all that SC owes the membership a report on how CINGO works inside the CoE.
- *Gerhard* notes that new people and organisations are actively reaching out to CINGO, and the Conference/ SC got very good feedback by several Ambassadors. For the April 2023 GA/ PACE, *Gerhard* suggests another session on the Helsinki process with youth delegates and members states' representatives.
- *Benedicte* requests a list of documents (info docs, reports, resolutions/ recommendations, etc.) that will be submitted to the conference as well as the name of the person in charge. It will help the Secretariat with preparations.

*An update on the Andorra project*

*Gerhard* received an official invitation by the government of Andorra, will visit the country on 21-26 July 2022 to explore what can be done for supporting/ empowering the civil society. Andorra's government is interested in (a) developing a civic participation process, (b) making progress with Andorra's accession to the EU, (c) acquiring a UNESCO site status.

Small towns and villages in Andorra used to have a tradition for citizens' assemblies, and the idea is to revive these and improve citizens' participation through assemblies (deliberative democracy process). Andorra's example might be considered a pilot project for improving participation. Some funding can be contributed by CoE.

**7. SC CINGO position on the upcoming Summit – how we see the future of the CoE**

*Anu* updates the SC about the High-Level Reflection Group and the meeting with Ms. Luciani and Mr. Popescu in this regard (the Reflection Group is to shape ideas and the process leading to the fourth CoE heads of states Summit). *Anu* has also circulated a questionnaire to about active 75 NGOs on this matter, responses are due by 25 July. It is a positive sign that a consultation with a broader civil society is a part of the process.

CINGO is to send 3 pages of proposals on five main topics for the reflection group by 29 July.

The suggestions coming via CINGO should be very concrete. The group consists of former heads of states, and their perspective is different from one of the ambassadors, civil society, etc. SC should use this opportunity to present other feedback and suggestions to the Reflection Group.

*Decision/ Action points:*

- Suggested timeline for drafting:
  - July 08 -14 (Fri-Thu)* - substantive suggestions
  - July 15 - 21 (Fri-Thu)* - discussions on substance within SC
  - July 22 (Fri)* - collating, sending out the DRAFT
  - July 25 (Mon)* - discussing the DRAFT
  - July 26-27 (Tue-Wed)* - finalising the suggestions
  - July 28 (Thu)* - submission to the High-Level Reflection Group
- SC members are welcome to add their comments and suggestions in google doc created by *Olga*, who would produce an informal summary on 15 July:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s7zaUgFCeYLLoddKHawRjVPzpB5VSGXYzJq9iRatAk/edit?usp=sharing>
- *Christoph, Anna, Gerhard* are available for editing and finalising the draft in late July.

**8. Addition to the CINGO delegation at CDDH**

*Simon* suggests adding Jean-Bernard Marie as a representative for the Steering Committee at CDDH meetings. Jean-Marie is a Strasbourg-based professor of law, he used to be

representing CINGO at CDDH. He still takes part in these meetings informally, has expertise and in-depth knowledge of the CDDH processes, contributes to the conversation.

*Decision/ Action points:*

- Appointment of Jean-Marie Bernard as an additional member of the CINGO delegation is approved unanimously by the SC.
- *Olga, Simon and Jean-Marie* to meet internally.

#### **9. Any other business**

- *Genevieve* reminds SC about the need to organise a community call for the members/ Committees' leadership. Calls are to take place in late August – early September 2022.
- SC next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, 01 September 2022, 10 am – noon CET. Preliminary agenda: (a) preparation for the GA in October 2022, (b) progress towards strategy/ points and the SC decisions where no action has been taken.