

Standing Committee
CONF/SC(2022)SYN11

Standing Committee meeting
Report
10 November 2022
09.00 –11.00
Online meeting

Present: Gerhard Ermischer, Geneviève Laloy, Christoph Spreng, Ruth Allen, Goran Miletić, Piotr Sadowsky, Simon Matthijssen, Annelise Oeschger

Slightly delayed: Anna Sevortyan, Anna Rurka

Absent: Rares Craiut, Beata Zwierzinska, Olga Sadovskaya who apologized for mix-up due to time-zone changes.

Secretariat: Mary-Ann Hennessey, Bénédicte Klein, Anu Yuvonen

- 1. Opening of the meeting** by Gerhard Ermischer, President of the SC
- 2. Rapporteur according to the adopted list:** Christoph Spreng
- 3. Draft agenda for this meeting is adopted with following additions:**
Annelise: Purchase of a Laptop; Mary-Ann: Need for Management guidelines for Committees; Christoph: New Agenda point on OING-Service based on written Overview by Annelise, see new No. 9 below. The Overview is in Annex of these Minutes.
- 4. Draft minutes of the last meeting**
They are adopted unanimously.
- 5. World Forum for Democracy: state of affairs**
Here follow the points discussed: Aim at a more interactive CINGO contribution next time. Concern was shared about the bilateral bickering at the last Session, which was a waste of time for the WFD. It was/is a challenge for the hosts & session moderators. How to cut or counter the extremist narratives? Need to imbed CoE values in the hosting.
It is agreed that next time WFD planning needs to start earlier.
- 6. CINGO event in December on upcoming Summit**
Aim at 4-5 points we want to make to the Committee of Ministers: Clarify CoE relationship to EU; CoE Budget & Finances; Role of CSOs and CINGO in particular.
It is decided to hold this event online with translation, not hybrid, due to lack of funds.
It is further decided that this event will be on Wed. 14 December at 17.00 CET.

6.1 Communications in this regard

Should the CINGO President make a public statement of support/commitment re the upcoming Summit, similar to the President of the PACE?

The CINGO website is available for that and also direct mailing to the CM Reps.

The Secretariat has again received new instructions re social media accounts, there seems to be a new 'limitation policy'. Resulting from earlier instructions, we have a disclaimer on the CINGO account, there are queries as to the reappearance of this item. Gerhard requests that he be the recipient of this matter so as to respond himself.

Also, he will write a letter to the whole membership inviting for the 14 December event.

To the need of the CINGO to take part in the Summit planning, he is taking every opportunity to make this point with the CM Deputies.

7. Roadmap of our activities for upcoming Summit until May 2023

This is in continuation of the above point No. 6:

7. 1 World NGO Day on Monday 27 February

The General Secretary has been requested to engage with the CINGO on that day, as part of implementing the Helsinki CM decisions. The focus would evidently be around the CSO and more directly the CINGO interacting with the CoE. If confirmed, this would then be regarded as setting the precedent of the subsequent annual interactions of the GS with CINGO/CSO.

Also, the request for the CoE Patronage of the World NGO Day is pending.

7. 2 Early March in Den Haag

Gerhard will consult with the NL Ambassador regarding an event in Den Haag in early March that would mark the 75th anniversary of the Den Haag Conference. The CURE campaign group is looking into this activity more directly.

The very last deadline for sending input for the Summit is mid-March.

7.3 The bi-annual Plenary, 24-26 April

Consider the CINGO Plenary's role in the whole process.

7.4 CINGO Presence in Reykjavik at/around the 16-17 May

The CINGO President will receive an official invitation to the Summit. If the CINGO should hold an event, it should be for the Press/Media. Therefore, the selection of a small delegation should be criteria- and impact-based.

Ruth's INGO has a well organised, active member organisation in Iceland; possible support from them?

Gerhard will consult the Icelandic Ambassador about these dates, possible formats etc.

8. Short reports on recent meetings

8. 1 Gerhard has had contact with the City of Strasbourg. He will meet the Mayor to explore support for CINGO for local transport and meeting space.

8. 2 He has met the ARTE TV moderators at the WFD, they are open to talk more.

8. 3 The EU Representatives want to discuss.

8. 4 A meeting with the Ambassador from Georgia is foreseen.

9. OING – Service

Annelise has sent an Overview, see the Annex on page 4. She summarizes that the OING-Service Bureau has decided not to buy equipment for single CINGO Committees. As an alternative, she asks if the SC would want to buy a Laptop.

The primary use would be for access and working with the Social Tracker Website,

containing secured contents.

9. 1 The SC agrees the purchase of a Laptop and will oversee its use.

9. 2 And it agrees to follow up the official reminder to pay membership fees by writing individual reminder Emails to member INGOs who have not paid yet.

To the question if the SC needs to employ an Intern, the discussion shows that we are not quite ready for this. To begin with we need to make a job description. Piotr offers to share a j-d he and his Committee have made.

10. **Business to be carried forward**

The items below (edit from the 13th October Minutes) were postponed, remaining for follow-up at the next meeting:

10. 1 Amend minutes of 15 September to reflect new explanation from Mary Ann on Private Office requests (**Simon**)

10. 2 Project team preparing the country visit to Iceland (May 2023)

10.3 Project team preparing the country visit to Georgia (June 2023)

11. **Any other business**

11 . 1 Need for Management guidelines** for Committees. Mary-Ann reports that the Secretariat keeps getting requests by the Committees for things they should do. The Division is not able to take on their requests, such as send-outs etc. Budget discussions are still under way at the CM but there is little willingness for increases. Also, she sees room for more cohesion between Committees and the overall CINGO tasks, aims & strategy. For instance, the Poverty Day was not getting much attention. The subsequent discussion elaborates on more aspects of this need, as the Report Form for the Committees prior to the October Plenary has also revealed.

It is decided to take up this item at the next SC Meeting on 1 December.

Geneviève and Ruth with Mary-Ann's input will prepare a draft Governance Guideline.

11.2 Reminders:

Social Charter events take place on 23 November and 8 December 2021.

Report on BiH Country Visit is still due.

The President closes the meeting with thanks at 11.06 hrs

12 November 2021

Christoph Spreng