



**Standing Committee**  
CONF/SC(2023)SYN1

**Standing Committee meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**12.01.2023**  
**09:00-11:00**  
**Online meeting**

**Present:** Gerhard Ermischer, Geneviève Laloy, Christoph Spreng, Ruth Allen, Piotr Sadowsky, Simon Matthijssen, Olga Sadovskaya, Annelise Oeschger

**Absent:** Rares Craiut, Beata Zwierzynska, Goran Miletić, Anna Sevortian, Anna Rurka

**Secretariat:** Mary-Ann Hennessey, Bénédicte Kern, Anu Juvonen, Lusine Sahakyan

1. **Opening of the meeting** by Gerhard Ermischer, Chair of the SC
2. **Rapporteur according to the adopted list:** Geneviève Laloy
3. **Draft agenda is adopted**
4. **Draft minutes of the last meeting:** not yet received from Goran Miletić
5. **Upcoming Summit and CS Pres-Summit in the Hague**
  - Short meeting with CURE + 2 members of the SC. Human Rights issues are strong but not strong enough concerning civil participation and role within COE/ role of OING.
  - 15 March: next dialogue of President of CINGO with the Committee of Ministers (originally scheduled for 8 February).
  - Follow-up to the online meeting of 14 December. Sending of the summary prepared by Ruth + explanations for INGOs who were not present.
  - Question of INGOs specialised in the Youth field. Other focuses to be included. Ensure that everyone is included (balance). This is the role of the SC.
  - *Mary-Ann:* We expect more diversity in the representation of INGOs, more participation. CURE is organising an event and CINGO has to co-organise (as co-convenor). We need to be more visible in the organisation. Programme: they have a good idea of what they want to do (1st March: presentations, exchanges, working groups, etc., followed by 2nd March). What scenarios do we want to focus on?
  - Financial aspects: who will go from the SC and other INGOs?

- Volunteers to join Gerhard for this summit: Simon & Olga. Geneviève could be a substitute. SC's help in background to be defined.

## **6. CINGO working with Belarus and Russia – Draft report for adaptation**

- Good document. Two very different situations for Belarus and Russia. Different relations with the COE. 12,400 judgements still pending. Whatever the situation with the COE, any violations of the law must be judged.
- We should have a meeting with the president of the court very soon to take stock.
- Implementation of the court rules. The execution committee will make a list of cases that they will bring to the CM to discuss. They are relying on input from INGOs as they no longer have any official contacts with Russia.
- They need input in certain areas covered by INGOs and which they lack (environment...). They will send us a list of what they miss. Organisation of webinars to allow INGOs to understand how to connect with the court and give input to the execution of judgements.

## **7. Preparation for GA in April**

- Introduction of the point by *Gerhard*: Terms of office coming to an end for the committees. Reports to be made for each Committee and requests to be made on their part if they want to extend their mandate for another year.
- Need better reporting from committees.
- The question of the number of committees was raised. Some committees could merge or stop. Guidelines are needed. *Ruth* is working on a summary document following the meeting with Mary-Hann, Anu, Bénédicte, Lusine & Geneviève. To be discussed at the next SC (2 February).

### **a. Recommendation of the Committee for Migrants for adaptation**

- Very good in content but should be arranged differently in form, simplified: 2 pages with annexes (more digestible and clearer for recipients)
- Help from *Christoph* possible to reformat this document.
- Gerhard contacts Daniel Guéry (President of the Committee) to inform him of these elements.

### **b. Recommendation of the Committee for Rights of Children or advices for next summit (to confirm)**

- Very good text too but suggestion to point out actions. Need for restructuring. Ruth contacts Michel Grangeat.

### **c. More general questions regarding the recommendations**

- *Simon's* suggestion: **clarify what we want in these recommendations or how to prioritise the points in the recommendations**
  - o What is new
  - o What has been forgotten and needs to be recalled
  - o What needs to be emphasised even if it is ongoing
- Question *Mary-Ann*: when will the recommendations be proposed, do we want time for debate? What procedures?
- *Gerhard*:
  - o At the beginning of February, INGOs are asked to have the draft recommendations by the beginning of March. People send in their requests for amendments before the General Assembly and we rework the texts that we propose for voting.
  - o Include the interactive part around the different committees during the General Assembly to allow as many people as possible to be there.
  - o Meeting with the city of Strasbourg. Gerhard hopes to have more support for the CINGO GA.
  - o We will probably also be able to benefit from the place "Lieu d'Europe" not far from the Agora building and get transport tickets for the members.
- It is proposed to organise the meeting with the committees & INGOs on Tuesday morning. General Assembly Tuesday afternoon followed by OING-Service GA + Dinner in the evening.
- *Olga*: compilation of Covid follow-up recommendation. Project to be done.

### **8. Situation of GA in October**

- As it is close to the World Forum for Democracy we should perhaps think of a different, "lighter" formula, with more networking, more side events etc.

### **9. BePart and campaign for participation inside CINGO**

- Thanks to Olga for her work. Information to be sent to members.

### **10. Country reports and newest developments on Finland**

*Transmitted in session by Anu Juvonen in chat*

*Agenda item 10. FYI already agreed timeline of the Country reports from 2022:*

- A. 10 November- 14 February CINGO delegation writing the country report, consults and gets the comments from the host NGO (SOSTE in Finland and Civil Rights Defenders, BiH)

- B. *15 February Country Report ready and sent for Secretariat / Civil Society Division*
- C. *1 March Country Reports sent for governments for comments and for their written response, deadline 30 March*

*Country report translation in French*

- D. *(2 March CINGO Standing Committee meeting to discuss the country report, or later before the AGM when you have the Government response, up to you)*
- E. *10 April Country Report online in both languages*
- F. *24-26 April CINGO AGM, where both the report and the government response is presented in presence of the Perm Reps of Finland and BiH as well as key representatives of national CSOs (at least the host organisation)*

Anu will be in Finland soon and will also follow up.

#### **11. OING Service and letter to members advocating payment of fees**

- Draft letter made by Olga + list of INGOs with the distribution among us of the follow-up communication with them (cfr list sent at the time by Rares)
- We support our CINGO representatives at different levels
- Important to highlight all the people who work at these different levels.

#### **12. Business carried forward**

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#### **13. Any other business**

- d. *Christoph*: What are we doing on INGO Day? Under discussion.

The President closes the meeting with thanks at 11.17 hrs

14 January 2023

Geneviève Laloy