



Standing Committee **CONF/SC(2023)SYN2**

Standing Committee meeting **Minutes** **02.02.2023** **09:00-11:00** **Online meeting**

Present: Gerhard, Genevieve, Anna S, Annelise, Piotr, Ruth, Beata, Simon + Mary Ann, Anu, Benedicte, Anna R

Absent: Olga, Rares, Goran

1. Notes of last meeting: Adopted
2. Rapporteur/ Notes – Ruth for the items 1-5, Anna S thereafter
3. Agenda – Adopted with reordering of items
4. Minutes of the last meeting adopted.
5. **Committee Guidance**

(Template for the report for Committees that will allow to get out the essential info about their operation at the GA and for the external audiences)

Ruth talked through framework for the new committee guidance (circulated ahead of meeting). This was endorsed by the meeting. Key issues for inclusion/amendment in the document were raised:

- Clarify requirement on committees to fulfil the intentions and objectives in their workplans. These will be captured in the standard report template submitted for each GA to the committees
- Ensure guidance on influencing and lobbying within CoE. It is important to cooperate and closely work with Standing Committee and President and emphasize that greatest influence will come from high quality work on topics, delivering on plans, and the right kind of mandated involvement in e.g. CoE steering committees
- Working well with SC and Secretariat can spread committee work
- Guide committees to both help shape and deliver the CINGO multi year strategy

- Reflect the above 'ways of working' in the (updated) standard report template that all committees will use
- Balance requirements with encouragements/enablers
- Clarified all committees 'expire' after two years and can be reformed for one more year. Clear criteria and process for continuance to be in the guidance.
- Noted need to clarify what happens after the President/SC elections in April 2024 – will new committees be formed at that GA or in October after SC has reformed etc?

ACTION: Ruth to finalise draft next week, consult by email as needed, and complete for dissemination to members in two weeks

6. Upcoming Civil Society Summit

Gerhard provided draft statement on the CoE Iceland Summit key issues for our members. He presented the main headers/approach. Welcomed in draft by the SC.

ACTION: All SC members encouraged to **send comments to Gerhard before 3/2/23** as he is finalising the text for translation and then dissemination this week.

With the statement, members will be invited to attend the **civil society summit being organised with CURE in Hague 28/2 – 1/3**. It is clear that CURE is leading this event (and are promoting and setting agenda, sending invites etc largely unilaterally). CINGO fully supports and will be integral to the event and we want members to go if they can. There is some funding available for SC attendance.

ACTION: SC members to let Gerhard and secretariat know if they wish for funding to attend.

(Noted there is clashing meeting on similar subject by EU in Brussels on that day).

7. the RU-BEL Group met on 01.02.2023

The SecGen action plan on Belarus came out on 01.02.2023: <https://rm.coe.int/list-of-council-of-europe-activities-planned-for-2023-annex-2761-4703-/1680aa0737>

News article: Council of Europe launches action plan to support Belarusian democratic forces and civil society – Portal: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/council-of-europe-launches-action-plan-to-support-belarusian-democratic-forces-and-civil-society>

The role for CINGO is seen through involving the Expert Council.

- CINGO is invited to contribute to bringing in info re the implementation of judgments, since the Department of Execution is relying on the data by the civil society.
- CINGO to meet and interact with the execution of justice department

8. GA

The documents for GA should be ready in March, in order to be translated, esp the new agenda should be ready soon + draft resolutions.

Clarify what is needed for the networking event (more information on ToR to make reservations)

GE: we have the structure for the committees' reports, to be communicated + we would have to hear from the commissions on who will want to prolong their mandate for a year.

MA: we need to be able to inform SG on how the session with her should look like.

GE: in view of Summit, there will be more needed than just a formal speech...

Committees' requests should be formal, and the GA should vote on these.

RA: the Committees reports should be succinct and requests for prolongation of their operation justified (why they need another year).

- SC can make recommendations re decisions on extending the committees

GenV: we have discussed the GA agenda last time, Genevieve is ready to be of help

GE: plans for an informal dinner by the SC

Agreed timeline of the Country Report preparation for reminder: 10 November- 14 February CINGO delegation writing the country report, including compiling the comments from SOSTE to the draft report

- 15 February Country Report ready and sent for Secretariat / Civil Society Division
- 1 March Country Reports sent for governments for comments and for their written response, deadline 30 March
- Country report translation in French
- (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)
- 10 April Country Report online in both languages
- 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)

9. Business carried forward

SC decides to discontinue its subscription to JottaCloud, paid by OING Service

10. AOB

SM: invited the Ukraine Parliament's Ombudsman to join the GA.

*Quote (just received): Dear Mr. Matthijssen,
Dear Mr. Spreng,*

On behalf of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Lubinets we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the productive meeting during his visit to CoE. As discussed during the meeting our Office is ready to exchange directly

the latest information about the human rights in Ukraine with you. In this regard, the Commissioner is also interested to learn more about the INGOs from Ukraine or those who cooperate and work on Ukraine's issues. We appreciate if you can share and send us the list of such INGOs.

Once again thank you for your valuable input.

*Kind regards,
International Cooperation and European Integration Department
Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights*

GE. The situation of the International Ombudsmen Institute

Potential implications for Simon and CINGO

AU. Fyi, one CINGO member, International Federation of Journalists, is having negative headlines in Finland and Nordics (alleged corruption, lack of transparency etc). Finnish national journalist union just resigned from it, likely the other Nordics follow. <https://journalistiliitto.fi/en/ujf-withdraws-from-the-international-federation-of-journalists/>

Next SC meeting online to happen on 03.03.2023 (Friday)

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