

**Standing Committee**  
CONF/SC(2023)SYN4

**Standing Committee meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**06.04.2023**  
**09:00-11:00**  
**Online meeting**

1. Opening of the meeting by Gerhard Ermischer, Chair of the SC:
  - SC members present: GE, SM, AJ, BK, RA, CS, GM, GL, BZ, AO and OS.
  - Apologies: AR, ASand RC.
  - Conversation about the OING S-C, and possible candidacies.
  
2. Rapporteurs will now act according to the actual list:
  - PS appointed as rapporteur for this meeting.
  
3. Draft agenda - for adoption:
  - Additional point for the agenda for the “Sports & Human Rights”CMT.
  - Additional point for the agenda for the “Education” CMT.
  - The agenda is adopted.
  
4. Draft minutes of the last meeting – for adoption:
  - Minutes of the last meeting taken by Olga are in the process of being restored and if successful, they will be distributed to the SC for record-keeping shortly.
  
5. GA preparation:
  - a. Strategic Report of the SC:
    - All CMT reports are in apart from one, RA and BK are thanked for all their work on the Strategic Report.
    - RA goes through the report: how the CMT reports align with the INGO Strategy.
    - Country visits are being finalised (GE confirms the country visits took place to Finland and BiH, and that Andorra was a special visit reported on separately).

- Specific sections, such as support to Member State NGOs, e.g., Poland, are highlighted by RA.
- Question on action on rights defenders – GE’s letter was sent to the Embassies, for civil rights defenders to obtain EU visas to leave Russia for safety reasons; there was not a uniform solution found, but the problem was highlighted; GM remarks that it is unfortunate that by country level it depends on consulates and consul decisions.
- BZ informed about the engagement in history teaching and other initiatives which should be added to the report.
- RA highlights the importance of the CMT work alongside ongoing SC activities, which shows we all work as one CINGO.
- Participants agree that the format used for the Strategic Report is great and we can go forward with this as excellent base for the next time for the Autumn GA; RA is thanked by all.

b. State of affairs of Committees:

- Timings for the reports confirmed and all is set.
- Reports will be sent out to all the NGOs very soon after Ruth and Benedicte have gone through them.
- We know which CMTs are asking for extensions (all with their terms ending but one are asking for extension); it is also agreed that at the GA we will need to reiterate the formats and timely sending of the reports, whilst equally to build the expectations how the reporting is helpful to the effectiveness and joined-up work of the entire INGO Conference.
- BZ and GL were at the steering committee Education this week.

c. Resolution proposed for the Reykjavik Summit:

- Text from J-B Marie e.a.: going through the text.
- PS suggests an addition about linking Hague Declaration and this document, thus strengthening the link between the two in relation to the European Social Charter framework.
- GM asks to add the wording on supporting the activities at local and regional level in reference to the Western Balkans
- CS & GE ask for additions to strengthen the presence of rule of law and governance aspects when referring to the role and importance of organised civil society.
- RA and others agree to strengthen the place of civil society as safeguarding mechanism for the rule of law and democracy.
- The finalised version will be ready for the week after the Easter (Catholic) break.

d. Networking Event:

- We should form groups on different topics, such as human rights, democracy, equality, discrimination, environment and climate change, freedom of expression, education: those INGOs that see themselves as key actors go to these breakout groups, to act as partners; we as SC would only be there as facilitators; link to the

shared document on preparing this:

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!AmF8yslaYiXYhL92Nff4ID0OyRBWAw?e=7eIUTz>.

e. Any other details

- PACE CMT is taking place at the same time and this has an impact on our logistics of the access for the GA; plenaries of PACE are taking place in the EP building where INGOs have very limited access, however, screens to follow the plenary will be set up in the Palais (while the CINGO GA is taking place in the Agora).
- Badges will need to be picked up at the Palais and in any case, all the logistical details will be sent out to the INGOs prior to the GA.

6. Representative at WG AT of the CDDG Stefania Petrosillo (EUROPARK):

- CS, as our liaison in the CDDG, explains that it would be helpful to engage Stefania as an expert from the CINGO to participate in the WGs of the CDDG especially on environmental issues; unanimously agreed by the SC and CS to inform Stefania and CDDG on the decision.

7. Business carried forward:

- Proposal on the new CMT on “Sports and Human Rights” by Maritchu Rall, GE will send feedback to Maritchu, and that the proposal is prepared for April 2024 when the new mandate will begin, according to the agreed format and set-up of new CMTs.
- AJ informs the participants that the Expert Council on NGO Law is preparing a study on "undesirable NGOs" and have a questionnaire to be shared among CINGO members, but also among the members of the INGOs, especially the national NGOs.
- GL is highlighting feedback from the Education CMT, that several CINGOs are really active but not in the spirit of the common voice of the CINGO; BZ reflects that she was there as the CMT member but reaffirms the importance of being present there, but at the same time there is so much ongoing issues being picked up so that it would be helpful to have a delegation mechanism in place for the follow-up between the CMT discussions and the SC, in the spirit of one CINGO.
- CS feedback that there was no further follow-up from the AI CMT on the reasoning for the extension of this CMT’s mandate.

8. Any other business

- Request form Anne-Marie Chavanon to have a meeting space for their CMT with hybrid facilities, the request is agreed.
- Dinner on 23 April 2023: GE agrees to make the reservation (it will include two additional invitees from Volonteurope as approved previously).