

**Standing Committee**  
CONF/SC(2023)SYN8

**Standing Committee meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**07.06.2023**  
**09:00-11:00**  
**Online meeting**

**Present:** Gerhard Ermischer, Annelise Oeschger, Christoph Spreng, Geneviève Laloy, Ruth Allen.

**Absent:** Anna Sevortian, Anna Rurka, Beata Zwierzynska, Goran Miletic, Olga Sadowskaya, Piotr Sadowski, Simon Matthijssen, Rares Craiut.

**Secretariat:** Bénédicte Kern.

1. Opening of the meeting by Gerhard Ermischer, Chair of the SC
2. Rapporteurs will now act according to the actual list  
**It is Christoph.**
3. Draft agenda – **it is adopted.**
4. Draft minutes of the last meeting – **they are adopted.**
5. Information of all SC members of the outcome of our pre-meeting on August 31:
  - Preparation of GA  
Gerhard has sent us the GA Agenda on the same day as it was elaborated on August 31 for information and he summarized the Aug. 31 debate on it. He added the latest, that Marja Ruotanen (GD-DGII) is unable to join on the GA Agenda item 6. Mary Ann Hennessey will talk to Claudia Luciani about getting an alternative.
  - Reaction to PACE debate on lobbying register  
Our ExConLaw is meeting on this sensitive item on 14 September. The [questionnaire](#) circulated of all CINGO members shows a more friendly approach. **We should take the opportunity and fill it out, mentioning that the status of CINGO members is itself a CoE granted accreditation.** We were somewhat surprised that (post Caviar-Gate) PACE was asking if a Code of Conduct was desirable...
  - Recent developments in CoE  
Gerhard was invited to the Austrian Ambassador's Reception. The topic was showing up the inadequate part of CINGO in the CoE Budget – currently hard to find, because it consists of elements that are under other Budget headings. There is a general scramble for more budget. Also, it seems that yet another CoE reorganisation is being considered, that the

CDDG will be re-created as CD-DEM; even Ambassadors are asking Gerhard if he knows what is intended.

- Updating our CINGO Web Pages.

**Geneviève** asks, and also **offers to look at them** to check for any updates that are needed. Lusine has much other work, hence the need for us to work on this.

*(P.S. from the Rapporteur: The Main Theme pages “Human Rights and Business” and “Dialogue Toolkit” are correct, no need for updating.)*

## 6. State of affairs of the GA agenda and work to do

- The Gender Rapporteur function does not work well. The Monday morning event is the opportunity to begin to correct this. Aim to get introductions and discussion, not speeches. The outcome is to prepare a concept for approval next April.
- AI Recommendation: After a brief clarification regarding the mention of the EU in it, **the draft recommendation already existing in EN and FR is deemed ready** to go online with the other GA documents. The EU mention is justified, as the EU is a Party to the negotiation of the AI Framework Convention. Gerhard reported from Francesca that the US State Dept. (also Party to the negotiation) supports our clear position for HR standards in the Convention, this is good news.
- The Draft Recommendation by ODF: The subject is Countering the Sanction Evasions related to the Putin Régime’s war of aggression, in particular the role of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Our discussion showed that Sanction Evasions was a real issue, not only in the States mentioned, but in many European States whether EU members or not. Because of that, PACE is dealing with that item also. Concluding, the view is that the subject of the submitted draft is relevant and in our remit. The mention of the two States is not helpful, as they are not part of the CoE. Therefore, Gerhard a) will consult with Ukrainians about their views on this, and b) will clarify with the authors that the wording needs modification in the sense of the above-mentioned issues. **Any relevant information from SC members who were not online would be appreciated.**  
**This proposal awaits improvement prior to being published.**
- The Modern Slavery theme is ok without a pre-published document.
- Geneviève reminds us: **GA Rapporteurs are needed**. It is a good idea to be several to share this task. The same with sharing the task of moderating the Plenaries, she is ready to help.
- Ruth raises the Committee reporting. The **Committees will be asked to host tables at the Networking event** on Tuesday morning. That morning is also the time to exchange on forming new Committees for the next term. They are welcome to give any recent news in writing via the website. Ruth will share the template for this with Gerhard who will write to the Committee Chairs regarding all this. Formal Committee reporting is again due next April when their terms end.
- The Wednesday morning will be busy with decisions on draft resolutions and with information regarding the upcoming elections next April as well as the quadrennial Report that all INGO members are due to submit to the Secretariat. To this end it is **vital that INGO contact information on the [INGOs Database](#) be up to date.**

## 7. Preparation of a strategic meeting for upcoming elections / time plan until April session next year. **The SC agreed on the following steps,**

- a. to ask all SC members to reply right away to the three questions below so as to map the situation;

- b. on the 14-15 September Gerhard, Ruth and Christoph will meet in Strasbourg to get to evaluate this mapping and develop the time plan;
- c. based on this compiled data we can proceed to make a doodle to schedule our intended strategic meeting.

**Request to reply to the following three questions asap and send them to**

**Christoph:**

1. My own (your) situation, including vis-à-vis my INGO and our Rules of Procedure;
2. What themes / areas of work need covering;
3. My (your) ideas on whom to approach for possible SC candidacy.

8. Business carried forward

Minutes to put online

There are still some Minutes to be pooled and ok'd.

9. Any other business

The Steering Committee on Education meeting is on 27-28 September. As SC Contact on this theme, Geneviève reports that Beata has changed jobs and is unable to discharge her/our representative role. Geneviève will do her best to cover most of this event.

The World Forum for Democracy 6-8 November: SC members can declare their interest to participate. As usual the CINGO is hosting one of the Labs. Those interested should let Gerhard know, with cc to Mary Ann. **Ruth, Geneviève and Christoph** are interested.

The meeting ended at 10.35 hrs

8 September 2023

*Christoph Spreng, Rapporteur*