

Standing Committee

CONF/SC(2024)SYN6

Standing Committee meeting

Report

05.09.2024

09:00-11:00h

Online meeting

Present: Gerhard Ermischer (GE); Ciaran King (CK); Ruth Allen (RA); Simon Matthijsen (SM); Olga Sadovskaya (OS); Christophe Speckbacher (CS); Christoph Spreng (CBS); Benedicte Kern (BK); Lotta Valtonen (LV); Genevieve Laloy (GL); Iordannis Chorozioglou (IC).

Apologies from: Piotr Sadowski (PS); Goran Miletic (GM); Ece Ciftci (EC); Anna Sevortian (AS).

- **Opening of the meeting by Gerhard Ermischer, Chair of the SC**

Meeting opened by GE at 09:00h.

- **Rapporteurs will now act according to the actual list**

CK takes over as minute taker

- **Draft agenda - for adoption**

Draft agenda is adopted

- **Minutes for adoption**

No comments on minutes from meeting of 22.8.24. Minutes adopted.

Please note that agreed minutes should be added to Jottacloud so they can be published on CINGO website.

- **Participation in CoE Activities:**

- Representation at the next CDDEM Working Group Meeting on 29-30 October in Strasbourg. It is possible for either SM or GL to attend (to be confirmed and discussed at next meeting).
- Representation at Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME) on 25-27 September. Amy Jacobson can attend on the SC's behalf.
Please note that Greenpeace made a request for observer status, which has been confirmed. Greenpeace is looking for a representative other than Amy Jacobson to join this group as an independent representative.
- Brussels Event on Reykjavik Principles taking place in November (on a date between 25-29 November; 26th is most likely). The SC members based in Brussels are to consider whether they can attend and confirm at next meeting. For those able to attend, please discuss with Lotta Valtonen about the conference and event details.
- CD-Edu Conference Academic Freedom 13-14th November in Strasbourg. To identify SC member to attend this meeting and discuss at next meeting.

- CDDH next meeting scheduled for 26-29 November in Strasbourg. CK and SM able to attend.
- CS: high level working group meeting in Vienna 16-18 September (Commission, CoE, FRA and others) to develop tools to support NGOs. CS to inform the SC about outcomes. Perhaps the SC can update members at the next GA.
- **Country Visits**
 - **Dates for Country Visit North Macedonia in October**
The date will be **November 4th – 6th**.
 - **Dates for Country Visit Georgia November or January**
GE: **8th – 10th January is proposed**. GE to send dates to the SC members to confirm dates and availability of SC members able to attend the visits. A member of the expert council will accompany the SC on official country visits and will receive a contract to support the SC to draft the report on the outcome of the visit.
 - RA: on topic of informal country visits, we should explore option of visit to Turkey with contacts well established between RA and EC.
GE: Turkey is the only country to have refused an official CINGO country visit, so should indeed ask again in case they make another rejection. Generally, feedback from members on country visits is low and we need to better communicate about why country visits are beneficial.
RA: communicating output and benefits of country visits to members is important for us to work on.
- **Next GA**
 - **Organisation and Agenda**
The SC agreed to have a long afternoon session on Monday (conference to start at 1pm) to allow extra time for those travelling.
GE: There will be a presentation from gender equality committee on “man-streaming”.
RA: We need to clarify what the position of the committee on this topic. Agreed that it needs to adopt a broad and intersectional perspective.
GE: It was agreed that the SC will move the ‘3-year strategy’ debate to Tuesday and the Equality committee debate to Wednesday.
Proposal to have time for formal presentations on Tuesday and a shorter networking event before lunch and the afternoon sessions.
CS: it would be helpful for the SC to make a draft programme of activities planned for 2025 so the secretariat can plan in advance.
CBS: OING service general assembly will be placed on the agenda for Wednesday morning.
 - **Recommendation on History Teaching in Europe**
The SC expressed concerns that the current proposal is too broad.
GE: we can reply to the proposal and strongly recommend shortening the recommendations and to make them more concrete.
SM: perhaps the proposal could be focused on one very specific issue that is lacking in teaching and tailor the recommendations to this.
CBS: It was remarked that adequate referencing to previous important CoE work in this field, including by CINGO members, is a requirement as this is standard content of any Recommendation.
- **Strategy and Status Conference**
 - **Questionnaire Strategy**

GE: The SC will draft a strategy to reflect the outcomes of the member survey. We should invite people who disagree with the strategy to explain why they disagree. We have identified priorities issues which generally fall under broad categories. Many of the niche issues (or issues with fewer responses) fall under these broad categories, so this should also be reflected in the strategy. For example, we could highlight topics of 'vulnerability' generally as there are low responses on specific vulnerable groups but many vulnerability-led organisations.

Drafting team (RA; AS; CK; GM; OS) to meet in 2 weeks to sketch out the draft. The strategy should reflect Reykjavik priorities, but we also need to reflect the voices and priorities of national organisations within CINGO.

GE: Final sign off of the strategy will be made via email when the draft is circulated.

- **Interview Evaluation Youth Strategy**

GE: we will present the results of the webinars with young people throughout Europe at the GA. Young people will be invited to participate at the special youth event on Thursday morning (17th October).

- **Ideas for better financial situation / status**

BK: update on cooperation of INGOs; we are currently missing 10 replies so a list will be circulated. If the SC members have contacts with the organisations, please chase their responses.

Ideas for better financial situation brought forward to next meeting.

- **Any other business**

No AOB raised.