

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

DIRECTORATE GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW



DEPARTMENT OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

13 September 2017

PECS(2017)1rev

**EUROPEAN SOCIAL COHESION PLATFORM
(PECS)**

**2nd meeting
Strasbourg, 19 – 20 September 2017**

Council of Europe, Agora Building, room G 03

Point 5 of the draft Agenda

**Draft Report
of the
Meeting of the PECS Vice-Chair and Rapporteurs**

(Strasbourg, 12-13 June 2017)

DRAFT REPORT

I. Opening of the meeting by the PECS Vice-Chair

1. The meeting was opened by the PECS Vice-Chair, who recalled the crucial role of this meeting for the work of the Platform. The support to the European Social Cohesion Platform is an integral effort to streamline the importance of social cohesion for the Council of Europe's work, and within its member States. The added value of interaction in this regard of all relevant stakeholders to find an appropriate answer to the need for new impetus and the appropriate communication tools for the messages were put forward;

II. Adoption of the agenda (PECS(2017)1)

2. The agenda [PECS(2017)OJ1] was adopted (Appendix 1).

III. Information by the Secretariat

3. The Secretariat updated the participants on the developments since the first meeting of the Platform, in particular the Interim Report by the Secretary General (SG/Inf (2017)3).

IV. State of the Art

4. The Rapporteurs informed the participants of the on-going work of their respective Working Group:

a. WG1 "Mainstreaming of social cohesion throughout the Council of Europe"

by Linda Niki Volosinovsky

During the Rapporteur's presentation and the following discussion, focus was put on:

- i. The broad mandate of the Platform when it comes "*to ensure the mainstreaming of social cohesion throughout the Council of Europe*", more specifically:

- *'by further developing the concept'*

At the first meeting of the Platform, it was decided that, for the time being, the Council of Europe's definition of social cohesion should not be revised (nor the 2010 Strategy), but the Platform was instructed in its mandate to 'further develop the concept' of social cohesion, which was a dynamic and changing concept. This issue should be discussed thoroughly at the second meeting of the Platform, in particular in the light of new developments resulting from the work of WGs 2 and 3;

- *'by contributing to impact assessments of the various activities in the different sectors with regard to achieving social cohesion - including the relevant activities aimed at building inclusive societies'*

To cover impact assessment of all Council of Europe's Committees and Bodies is a large and challenging task. So far focus was put on the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on Access of Young People from Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods to Social Rights (Enter! Recommendation), but the overview of the state of implementation of main activities of other sectors or of CoE instruments in the making should also be done. For instance, for the Action Plan 'Building inclusive societies (2016-2019)'. Furthermore the exchanges with representatives of the different sectors - as during this meeting - are also meant to help in assessing and supporting the social cohesion aspects of their activities. A more systematic and coordinated way of proceeding should be found.

- *'by promoting specific actions which contribute to social cohesion' 'with particular attention to:*

- a. *ensuring that everyone can enjoy their social rights, as guaranteed by the European Social Charter and other relevant instruments, in practice and without any discrimination,*
- b. *with a special emphasis on vulnerable groups and young people,*
- c. *taking into account the findings of the relevant monitoring mechanisms.*
- d. *the Platform, for this purpose, will support co-operation activities carried out upon the request of member States.'*

For point a., particular attention should be put on the conclusions and decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights, in order to consider what actions were taken and the main problems faced by member States in the implementation of the provisions.

For point b., the question is relating to the methodology for ensuring access to social rights and the impact of the Council of Europe's work.

For point c., an internal questionnaire was sent in 2016 to all monitoring bodies and it should be updated before the second meeting of the Platform.

For point d., should the Platform support co-operation activities already existing in its domain or co-operation activities which should originate from the work of the Platform, such as the outcome of the questionnaire on good practices and innovative approaches?

ii. There was a common agreement on the fact that this approach was too complex and complicated, making it difficult to deliver this task. Therefore, with a view to preparing the report of WG1 for the meeting of the Platform, the mainstreaming issue would be dealt with in the following way:

'On the basis of the European Social Charter's definition and conceptualisation of social rights and social cohesion, to gather together the activities of the different bodies and committees, the way they affect social cohesion in order to have the opportunity to draw a "new" framework / reach a new perspective of social cohesion and a new way to develop it. To give indications to member states on different angles/approaches they can use to improve social cohesion and access to / enjoyment of social rights in their countries.'

iii. The important past work of the Council of Europe in the field of social cohesion was recalled, such as the study on 'Access to social rights' (2002), which analysed obstacles and how to overcome them through cross-sectoral policy measures.

iv. Some awareness-raising on social cohesion / social rights seemed to be needed for Council of Europe's Committees, especially considering that when assessing how the Committees did mainstream gender and social cohesion into their work with concrete examples, very few committees replied to the question on social cohesion.

v. Though the monthly PECS Newsletter was considered as a valuable tool to keep the record of Council of Europe's activities relating to social cohesion/social rights, it would be advisable to have regular intra-Secretariat meetings in order to reach a coordinated approach and share achievements, activities and events.

b. WG2 "Good practices and innovative approaches"

by Arman Sargsyan

i. The rapporteur took into account the replies received so far to the questionnaire on good practices and innovative approaches and stressed that social cohesion needed innovative projects.

ii. General points from the questionnaire were presented together with specific examples. Focus was put on people in vulnerable situation, including as a result of the economic crisis, and the risk of poverty. Many groups needed help, but priorities had to be fixed and innovative ways had also to be foreseen for everybody.

iii. It was also said that an issue might be new for some countries but not for others. Measuring poverty was particularly problematic in countries with a shadow economy. The question of income, such as minimum income for every citizen could also be taken into account. Furthermore, migrants and refugees were an issue faced by several countries.

iv. The role of civil society was generally considered as important and the Conference of INGOs also replied to the questionnaire.

v. The projects could be brought together under a broader specific group.

c. WG3 ‘New trends and challenges’

by Joseph Gerada

i. The rapporteur recalled the part of the mandate relating to the work of WG3:

d. *to examine new trends and challenges to social cohesion in specific areas (such as the protection and integration of migrants and refugees, the impact of the economic crisis on social and health protection, in particular combating poverty and exclusion which may foster violent radicalisation, and the access of vulnerable groups and young people to social rights);*

e. *to include a human dignity and anti-discrimination perspective in this work;*

f. *to advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on any appropriate action to be taken.*

ii. He added that the Secretary General’s interim report, and the groups specified in there, would also be taken into account in the report.

iii. He submitted to the participants a proposal of three questions in order to collect the information on what trends and challenges member States are facing at this point, the impact their country has had on social and health protection and how impact the quality, as well as poverty and social exclusion issues. Policy measures that were currently taken to address the question and recommendations to be addressed to the Committee of Ministers would also be focused upon.

iv. The questions would be addressed to the members of the three working groups and the outcome should be used by the consultant preparing the prospective study. A draft mandate for the consultant was discussed, with a focus also on a wider framework of economic policy to be taken into account.

v. The replies should take into account gender perspective, human dignity and anti-discrimination.

* * *

5. The Group agreed on:

- the need to have more active working groups
- the participation of the Vice-Chair and the Rapporteur on Gender Equality in the three working groups;
- the fact that the three rapporteurs should stay in touch in order to harmonise their work;
- the deadline for the draft reports: end of August.

V. Gender Equality Approach

6. Gender equality and social cohesion are the two issues mainstreamed throughout the Council of Europe and they are often interlinked.

7. From the presentation by Cécile Greboval, Programme Advisor, Gender Equality Unit, the following should be stressed:

- a draft CM Recommendation on preventing and combatting sexism is being elaborated; the issue is new and there is no international definition of sexism;
- the gender related consequences of austerity measures on women and men in policy documents should be considered – for instance in terms of gender gaps in employment, pay, pension and poverty – as part of the general contextual analysis on what is going on socio-economic developments;
- the new Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 (to be adopted by Gender Equality Commission in November 2017) includes two issues, related to social cohesion; an additional strategic objective on protecting the rights of migrants and asylum seeking women and girls and measures to improve women's economic independence and empowerment;
- another important issue will be a renewed focus on integrating the role of men and boys to achieve gender equality.

8. Merita Xhafai, PECS Gender Equality Rapporteur, said that:

- gender equality should be discussed at the next meeting of the Platform and a short document should be prepared on Gender Equality perspective for the PECS;
- the ratification of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence should be promoted, even more because part of it is relating to social cohesion; the Chair of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence/GREVIO monitoring the Convention should be invited to a meeting of the Platform. This Convention was going to be signed by the European Union on 13 June 2017.
- focus on poverty was important, as well as the role of social services, especially for victims of violence and trafficking;
- structures in charge of gender equality should focus on gender budgeting, as strategies could not be implemented without budget;
- it was important to support member States in terms of data collection as it was difficult to have figures of policies.

9. An exchange on the best way to implement both mainstreaming mandates took place. A concrete example of the interaction between the two sectors was the Conference on 'Old-Age Pension for Women - entitlement and poverty avoidance', which took place in 2014, under the Austrian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The following elements were stressed:

- the need to have a very clear focus in the field of social cohesion;
- situations where women and men were affected differently had to be taken into account;
- the importance of the internal process of reporting on what the Platform does;
- the improvement of networking and tools;
- the support to the work of colleagues; the importance of monitoring, evaluating and giving recommendations.

VI. Exchange with representatives of relevant Council of Europe Bodies and Committees

A. EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

10. Henrik Kristensen, Deputy Head of the Department of the European Social Charter and Deputy Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights, recalled that the European Committee of Social Rights was a quasi-judicial mechanism similar to the European Court of Human Rights. The collective complaint procedure concerned 15 States and the Council of Europe did not select complaints, but took them in the order of arrival.

11. He highlighted new elements relating to the Charter's monitoring mechanism and collective complaints as well as recent developments at the political level, such as:

- the Parliamentary Assembly's report on the Turin Process which would be debated at the June session of the Assembly, with the view to adopting a resolution and a recommendation;
- the Secretary General's opinion - which was transmitted to the EU - calling for incorporating formally the European Social Charter into the European Pillar of Social Rights. The EU Social Summit in Gothenburg, in November, could be an opportunity to advance in this area;
- the increased number of collective complaints which led to more difficult and longer proceedings.

12. He mentioned several important decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights, among which:

- the violation of article 16 for poor access of Roma to housing and inadequate access to health care services
- the breach of article 24 on unlawful dismissal
- inadequate social assistance benefits
- decisions on labour market, following violation by austerity policies
- social housing standards
- other interesting issues included financial exploitation of the elderly and a health related case.

13. A complaint by University Women of Europe against each the 15 states party on equal treatment of men and women was pending.

14. Karl-Friedrich Bopp, Head of Reporting Procedure Division, gave an overview of the conclusions of last year's reporting system which focused in Employment, Training and Equal Opportunities and the findings of conformity and non-conformity. For conclusions of non-conformity, some guidance could be given through good practices. Among the means to support the compliance with the provisions of the Charter were mentioned awareness raising seminars, providing information, discussing obstacles to the ratification of the revised Charter, seminars and workshops. The Digest of case law with basic requirements was also an importune tool.

15. Pio Angelico Carotenuto, Programme Officer, reported on the Governmental Committee, which was responsible for examining the conclusions of non-conformity adopted by the European Committee of Social Rights and complemented therefore its work. The State concerned had to report on the measures taken to bring the conclusions into conformity. If the majority considered that the situation was not brought into conformity, a recommendation to the member State could be voted on and submitted to the Committee of Ministers which would address it to the State concerned.

16. Sheila Hirschinger, Coordinator of the European Code of Social Security ("Code"), explained that the Governmental Committee during one meeting each year, discussed and approved the draft Resolutions on application of the Code. In accordance with an agreement with the ILO, the relevant ILO Committee of Experts dealt with the examination of the annual national reports and adopted Conclusions, which formed the basis for the draft Resolutions. She pointed out that the Code was linked to Article 12.2 of the European Social Charter.

17. She informed participants that Ukraine had signed the Code in 2016 and was taking steps towards ratification. With regard to the Governmental Committee's agenda item on the subject of the Code and the prevention/reduction of poverty, a presentation had been given by the ILO representative on "Tackling poverty through social security and methodological considerations of poverty assessment".

18. The following discussion focused on the best way to strengthen the PECS mandate when it comes to the European Social Charter and to support the efficient implementation of conclusions and decisions by States Parties, in particular to ensure the empowerment and protection of vulnerable groups.

19. How could the PECS work be better related to the results of European Committee of Social Rights? For instance, to consider cases of non-conformity or decisions and support member States to become closer to the requirements of the Charter. One concrete way could be to consider systematically the conclusions/decisions from the previous year and identify some relevant issue.

20. The question of economic measures and social rights was raised, and it was said that although social rights as fundamental basic human rights should not be subject to budgetary fluctuations, some of the measures for economic growth were against social rights as defined by the European Social Charter. The European Committee of Social Rights did recognise that some rights were very complex and could not be implemented immediately or presupposed a certain level of wealth. The Committee therefore required a precise action plan with measurable indicators proving that the right is progressively achieved.

B. YOUTH DEPARTMENT

21. Natalja Turenne, Secretary to the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ), provided the following information:

- the Youth sector is operating within the Agenda 2020, which was adopted by the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth and was based on democracy and human rights; participation and social inclusion, with biennial expected results;
- the Joint Council of Youth (CMJ) was a common decision-making body composed by the CDEJ (50 member States of the European Cultural Convention) and the CCJ representing youth organisations;
- the CMJ decided that its first priority for 2018-2019 would be inclusive and peaceful society;
- the Partial Agreement on Mobility through the Youth Card had 6 million young card holders in Europe and targeted also social inclusion of young people;
- the recent Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on youth work, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 31 May 2017. Measures were recommended in order to recognise and support youth work, which was also linked to social inclusion of young people;
- Other issues of interest to social cohesion were: autonomy and well-being of young people and their transition to working life; solidarity between generations; work with multiple discriminations and access to social rights for vulnerable groups. The financial support by the European Youth Foundation was based on the priorities of the Agenda 2020.

22. Joanne Hunting, Secretary to the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), explained that:

- the Advisory Council was the non-governmental partner in the co-management system and enabled young people's voice to be heard in the youth sector's work;
- as far as the PECS' priorities were concerned, the CCJ was contributing to the youth sector's priorities concerning the situation of unaccompanied minors and minors in transition to adulthood; young people's – especially those from vulnerable groups – access to rights, including social rights; the building of inclusive and peaceful societies;
- an intersectional approach was used in assessing needs in the youth sector;

- the CCJ mainstreams disability issues and supports independent living of young people with disabilities, as well as gender mainstreaming including of transgender and non-binary people in all the youth sector activities.

23. Rui Gomes, Head of Education and Training Division, said that it was very important that CDEJ and CCJ could bring input to the work of the PECS, especially when mainstreaming the concept of Social Cohesion, which was not necessarily well known yet. He informed the Group of the adopted draft programme for 2018 and focused on the main activities or processes where social cohesion could connect, such as:

- a long term training course addressing violence, exclusion and discrimination from the perspective of social rights, in the framework of the Enter! Recommendation;
- building on the capacities of youth workers;
- the first review 2018/2019 on the impact of the Enter! Recommendation and the fact that the PECS should be involved in the process in connection with the CDEJ;
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on young people's access to rights, which looked at all situations where young people face barriers to the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and to their active participation in society which related also to social cohesion and social rights;
- a summer school for capacity development for young migrants;
- the situation of young people in transition to adulthood, as they lose status becoming adults;
- Internet as a better place for Human Rights, where citizenship and social interactions occur;
- how to address and prevent Anti-gypsism.

24. An exchange of views took place on the best way of strengthening and having a more concrete cooperation and of making the concept of social cohesion operational in this context. The following possibilities were foreseen:

- cooperation around pilot projects, for instance by having representative of ministries in charge of social cohesion;
- inclusion of good practices and innovative approaches from the Youth Sector into the Compendium relating to the PECS' Questionnaire;
- identify areas in which participation of some social cohesion's experts would be useful. For instance the Seminar on access to right, on 5-7 July;
- a Workshop on implication for young people of social cohesion; with experts from both areas, could take place in 2018-2019;
- the Platform's contribution to the review of the Enter! Recommendation, which was not yet started, through some debate or exchange of views on the report;
- deepening of good practices and innovative approaches;
- both Council of Europe's Action Plans – on The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism (2015-2017) and on Building inclusive societies (2016-2019) – had a strong youth component, but were also of interest to social cohesion.

C. COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

25. Claudia Lam gave an update on the work of the Commissioner and recalled that the Commissioner was an independent and impartial non-judicial institution with a six-year mandate not renewable. The activities focused on: country visits and dialogue with national authorities and civil society; thematic studies and advice as well as awareness-raising. The Commissioner decided which country to visit.

26. A lot was done in the field of social cohesion, in particular when it came to exclusion, discrimination against certain groups and to ensuring that states were taking measures to integrate them and ensure social cohesion.

27. The Commissioner encouraged the states to ratify human rights standards, including the European Social Charter and its collective complaint procedure, and checked that the conventions were applied.

28. Lots of work has been done also on the economic crisis and subsequent austerity measures with an assessment on the impact on human rights. Particularly in some countries where, though the austerity measures were over, the negative impact on human rights was not overcome. The damage of austerity measures had to be repaired.

29. Other issues related to poverty affecting children and the access to education in some of the wealthiest countries; migration measures which should include integration and improvement of family reunification for refugees. Solidarity between member states was also a crucial point. A position paper on inclusive education was expected for September. Poverty, also in developed countries, in relation with vulnerable groups was important topic for the PECS, as some situations of vulnerability were directly linked to poverty.

30. Deinstitutionalisation and child protection were also discussed as important issue, in particular the fact that new structures should not become new institutions of the same kind with human rights violations or children going back to the streets. The crucial role of social workers and education in this field was recalled.

31. The question of effective cooperation between the PECS and the Commissioner was raised and it was said that the Platform could inform the Commissioner about specific topics of interest to the PECS and gather the information by the Commissioner on what was done already and what could be done further. Website pages were dedicated to certain topics, with country reports and thematic documents, including speeches.

D. PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

32. Aiste Ramanauskaite, Secretary to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development gave an update on the work of the Committee which was structured around the initiatives of parliamentarians, and stressed that:

- different reports and parliamentary cooperation activities aimed to promote good practices and their exchanges;

- the Committee did follow-up the annual conclusions (this year employment and equal opportunities) of the European Committee of Social Rights by focusing on specific sets that required attention of legislator in member States, in case of structural deficiencies or from the point of view of practice; it did also promote ratification and *the facto* implementation of the Charter;

- a Sub-Committee was dealing specifically with the European Social Charter;

- seminars on social rights, on the national implementation of the Charter and seminars on specific articles highlighted in the conclusions of European Committee of Social Rights were organised;

- for vulnerable groups, the mandate on the issue of non-discrimination overlapped with the one of the Committee of equal opportunities and non-discrimination;

- lots of topics were of major interest to social cohesion; some important issues were dealt with by the Parliamentary Assembly, such as Resolution 2068 (2015) Towards a New European Social Model; social rights, health care issues; children rights – including the question of removal of children from their families by social services; protection of rights relating to employment; growing social inequalities, ...;

- the draft report on Turin Process – which was distributed during the meeting – was going to be discussed by PACE at its June session;

- another topical issue was basic income, not an easy one because concepts and understanding differed and because of its economic implication, but which could be used to fight extreme poverty. Discussions were taking place in individual member states, including parliaments. A parliamentary report was being dealt with to take into account members' questions; the rapporteur position is a medium to long term one and discussions were taking place to see how existing income schemes could be improved.

33. During the discussion which followed, it was suggested that PACE's draft recommendation on the Turin process should consider social cohesion aspects as well as the civil society and that these rights were an immediate need of all member States not only for those which ratified the Charter.

34. PACE's seminars were organised in the light of parliamentary priorities and needs in member States. For instance, what has been discussed during this meeting could be taken into account in the October Seminar, where Parliamentarians from countries not having ratified the Charter were also invited. When possible, representatives of civil society were heard and intergovernmental representatives could also take part in the meeting and contribute to documents.

35. Cooperation with PACE should be a dynamic process, with continuous dialogue and exchange of information. In case a debate on citizenship income would take place at the next PECS' meeting, the Parliamentary Assembly could take part in it on 20 September.

E. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ROMA ISSUES - SUPPORT TEAM

36. Thorsten Afflerbach, Head of the SRSG Roma Support Team, gave an update of the activities of the Special Representative and its support team:

- he recalled that CAHROM was an intergovernmental ad hoc committee overseeing activities in this field, and that other activities were implemented through joint programmes with the European Union. The four-year specific thematic action plan adopted in 2016 was implemented with 21 specific actions in three priority areas: fight against anti-Gypsyism, protection of the most vulnerable groups (women, children, youth), support of innovative local-level solutions;
- an implementation report on all activities undertaken was provided every year to the Committee of Ministers and would be available after its submission to the Committee of Ministers; one of the key messages was to convince member States to adopt a life cycle approach, which was missing, to look more specifically at age groups
- the European Rom Institute on Arts and Culture was recently inaugurated and should give the opportunity to show the Roms' rich contribution to the European society and help to fight stereotypes and prejudice.

37. The PECS Rapporteur on Gender Equality was also member of the CAHROM and said that it was important to involve local governments in this domain and to have national action plans and reports on the standards, as well as internal strategies in compliance with the Council of Europe's Strategy.

38. In reply, it was said that local authorities do not have necessarily the same skills, but there were joint programmes for local authorities (such as ROM-ACT and ROM-ACTED aiming at a better interaction between local authorities and Rom Communities or a pilot project aiming at providing free legal and health support at local level)

39. Finally, to have some example of good practices/innovative approaches focusing on Roma issues would be interesting for the compilation of answers to the PECS questionnaire. A tailored made selection of examples relating to social cohesion could be possible.

F. STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

40. Kathrin Merkle, Head of Culture and Cultural Heritage Division, stressed the fact that there were interlinkages between culture, cultural heritage and landscape, and social cohesion, but that it was sometimes difficult to draw the line. Some cultural heritage and landscapes' activities had a very clear social policy agenda. She gave concrete examples of work involving social issues, where the PECS could see grounds for cooperation, such as:

- the Indicators framework on culture and democracy, composed by 31 indicators, which had been asked by the Ministers of Culture in 2013 to show the role of culture for the Council of Europe's values. Complete data were available now, including an interactive data explorer, a guidebook and the 2017 thematic report on 'cultural participation and inclusive societies', which showed that, for instance, cultural participation as well as cultural activities went closely with tolerance. These findings were included in the Secretary General's Report on

State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law. More work on data collection and qualitative data and on sub national levels had to be achieved.

- 'Strategy 21' – "the European Heritage Strategy for the 21st century" – aimed to make cultural governance more participative and effective, but reflected also a need for action. The Strategy had three components which interacted: (i) the social component, to promote diversity, empowerment and participatory governance (ii) territorial and economic development, strengthening the contribution to sustainable development (iii) knowledge and education. Based on field experience and good practices. The Strategy meant to be innovative through combinations of actions and recommendations.

41. Hakan Demir, responsible for Faro Convention implementation and technical assistance, emphasized that:

- the Council of Europe was looking at heritage as a social and political construct, considering where people live, how they live and the relationship with their territories. Heritage was also a tool for human rights and democracy;
- the Faro Convention provided a framework which gave a new way to look at the heritage, including social inclusion and anti-discrimination approaches and considering how to transform conflicts;
- the Convention's Action Plan, with people centred actions, was used as a workshop with a lot of activities on the ground trying to make 'the invisible visible'; some concrete relevant examples were given;
- synergies were created between the Faro Convention approach and Cultural Routes.

42. During the discussion, the accent was put on:

- the fact that developing social cohesion through cultural heritage specificity of the Council of Europe and that this should be reflected in the PECS compendium of good practices and innovative approaches;
- the use of culture as a security tool, as cultural issues are often at the basis of conflicts;
- the importance of investing in young people as there was a direct impact on the economy and they created audience for the future.

G. STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (CDDH)

43. Manuel Paolillo, Lawyer, Human Rights Intergovernmental Cooperation Division, presented the work in progress of the CDDH-SOC, which was a sub-committee of the CDDH, with 15 member States plus observers. The Terms of Reference of the latter mandated the Committee to undertake an analysis of the legal framework and sources of the Council of Europe regarding Social Rights.

- The CDDH-SOC proceeded with:
 - an analysis of the legal framework through a report by a consultant, Ms Gallant, which was almost finalised; it considered the relationship between the various European instruments on the protection of social rights and mentioned the European Social Cohesion Platform and its work;
 - a questionnaire to identify good practices and to make proposals in order to improve the implementation of social rights. This questionnaire was not overlapping with that of the PECS, as the CDDH was dealing with legal and institutional aspects and the PECS had rather a social policy's approach. The CDDH questionnaire was sent for replies to the Governmental Committee and for information to the PECS; the outcome should lead to a Guide on good practices on the implementation of social rights; Though the questionnaires were different in their purpose, they were

complementary, therefore an exchange of resulting good practices would be interesting, including for the PECS' prospective study;

Another outcome could be the proposal of a non-binding instrument to the CDDH.

44. The Vice-Chair of the Platform represented the PECS in the meeting of the CDDH-SOC and was following their work; in the Secretary General Interim Report on the Platform the cooperation with the CDDH-SOC was explicitly mentioned¹;

viii. Discussion on further work

45. From the discussion on the continuation of the implementation of the PECS' mandate, the following proposals emerged:

- a Road Map, with detailed planning;
- for WG1, the outcome should include the important information collected, including during this meeting, on mainstreaming;
- for WG2, the report should analyse and summarise the replies to a questionnaire, with the view to systemising the outcome and go in the direction towards good practices and innovative approaches for the future;
- for WG3, the agreed questions should be sent as a start to the three working groups, with the possibility later on to send them to all the PECS; gender issues as well as human dignity and antidiscrimination should be taken into account;
- each rapporteur should give an oral presentation of the WG's report and outcomes, which should bring elements for the final prospective study;
- the issue of a new Social Cohesion Strategy to frame the work of the Platform should be discussed at the next plenary meeting as well as the possibility of a Council of Europe Campaign on Social Cohesion;
- reflection on the activation of these groups was considered of the highest importance, if the work of the PECS will continue through three working groups;
- the Secretariat should take care of the consultant issue;
- a document on the basis of a few questions should be prepared to update developments before the second meeting of the PECS, in order to have only oral presentations of outstanding elements.

VII. Working methods

46. James Lawson, Administrator at the Department of the European Social Charter,, showed how to use the shared space created to facilitate the functioning of the working groups, which has been scarcely used by its members

VIII. Calendar and work programme

47. The following calendar was agreed upon:

- End of August: reports by the three rapporteurs;
- August/beginning of September: draft mandate for the Consultant;
- Mid-December: Study by the Consultant;
- December: Final Report on the Platform by the Secretary General.

¹ “the participation and advisory role in the CDDH Drafting Group on Social Rights (CDDH-SOC) [1st meeting in 2017] and close co-operation with the CDDH Rapporteur on social rights, Ms Chantal Gallant (Belgium), such as on the future CDDH questionnaire aiming to identify good practices and make proposals to improve the implementation of social rights;”

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday 12 June 2017

- I. *Opening of the meeting by the PECS Vice-Chair*
- II. *Adoption of the agenda (PECS(2017)1)*
- III. *Information by the Secretariat*
- IV. *State of the Art*
 - WG1 “Mainstreaming of social cohesion throughout the Council of Europe”
by **Linda Niki Volosinovsky**, Rapporteur
 - WG2 “Good practices and innovative approaches”
by **Arman Sargsyan**, Rapporteur
 - WG3 ‘New trends and challenges’
by **Joseph Gerada**, Rapporteur
- V. *Gender Equality Approach*
 - **Merita Xhafai**, PECS Gender Equality Rapporteur
 - **Cécile Greboval**, Programme Advisor, Gender Equality Unit, Council of Europe
- VI. *General Discussion*
- VII. *Exchange with representatives of relevant Council of Europe Bodies and Committees*
 - European Social Charter:
 - **Henrik Kristensen**, Deputy Head of the Department of the European Social Charter, Deputy Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights
 - **Karl-Friedrich Bopp**, Head of Reporting Procedure Division
 - **Pio Angelico Carotenuto**, Programme Officer
 - **Sheila Hirschinger**, Coordinator of the European Code of Social Security
 - Youth Department:
 - **Rui Gomes**, Head of Education and Training Division
 - **Natalja Turenne**, Secretary to the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)
 - **Joanne Hunting**, Secretary to the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)

Tuesday 13 June

VIII. Exchange with representatives of relevant Council of Europe Bodies and Committees

- **Claudia Lam**, Adviser, Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Aiste Ramanauskaite**, Secretary of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **Thorsten Afflerbach**, Head of the SRSG Roma Support Team

Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP):

- **Kathrin Merkle**, Head of Culture and Cultural Heritage Division
- **Hakan Demir**, Programme Manager

Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH):

- **Manuel Paolillo**, Lawyer

IX. Discussion on further work

X. Working methods

- **James Lawson**, Administrator, Department of the European Social Charter

XI. Calendar and work programme

XII. Any other business