

Berlin, 04 February 2024

MOTIVATION LETTER

Dear Madam/ Sir,

It is my pleasure to be running for the second term at the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs (CINGO) of the Council of Europe.

After joining in 2021, one of the first things I contributed to at the Standing Committee was designing a participatory members' process of elaborating the three-year Strategy of the Conference.

People's participation is key to good governance, and better civil society participation remains one of my goals for the Council of Europe. My public administration training and experience convince me that as citizens we should engage with our institutions to improve them.

Just a few months after CINGO membership adopted the strategy, Europe faced the reality of war in Ukraine. Outpouring solidarity and response to it made me even stronger believe in citizens' power.

During my first term at the Standing Committee, we tried hard to empower the new forms of people's participation.

A year ago, in 2023, we have been hard at work in the Hague – preparing the first ever Civil Society Summit in the Council of Europe's history. CINGO co-organised it with CURE campaign. I am proud to have been able to witness this impressive assembly of over 100 European non-profits and to facilitate many exchanges around the summit, support it on site. Being civil society, we have managed to hold our summit two months ahead of the "big official one" in Reykjavik!

Less than a month ago, it was heartwarming to learn: as civil society we have organised the only event, where three candidates for the new Commissioner for Human Rights mandate have had a chance to be in conversation with one another, together, not just on separate campaign trails.

I look back at the past three years at the Standing Committee with gratitude – for it has been an opportunity to collaborate with a much wider community than my own. I have learned from associations and professionals specialising on social and community work, higher education, humanitarian aid, interfaith dialogue, artificial intelligence & from so many!.. In times of political divide, such fora play a special role of connecting and amplifying the voice of civil society.

I am running for the Conference of INGOs' Standing Committee in 2024 to serve this purpose, to do more for a strong effective Council of Europe.

Thank you for considering my candidature!

Yours respectfully,
Anna Sevortian

Sevortian