70 years ago no one imagined the difficulties that Europe is currently facing: terrorist attacks and their impact on our daily lives; refugees fleeing conflict zones; climate change; an ageing population; and a general feeling of mistrust towards the institutions of the State. But each of these challenges is also an opportunity for change in a Europe whose increasingly active citizens consider they have an inalienable right to make themselves heard by their governments.

The member associations of the Conference of INGOs have the resolve, the knowledge and the capacity to make those voices heard on short-, medium- and long-term issues, in keeping with the values of freedom and solidarity.

I wish to offer my experience acquired in my professional and private life, working for and with international, national and local NGOs, unions, and political stakeholders in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, the Maghreb and in Romania where I was the advisor on civil society relations to the President of Romania and where I recently served as State Secretary.

My professional experience has taught me the importance of doing one’s utmost to support and spread the fundamental values of the Council of Europe so that they pervade the European continent. That is why I am applying for the position of Vice-Chair of the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee.