

MOTIVATION LETTER David LOPEZ

I have followed the work of the Conference of INGOs for many years, with different degrees of attendance. I participated in the Education Commission throughout different periods of time. In 2005, I asked the Conference and the Council of Europe to support the creation of the European Civic Forum - a civic platform which to this day acts at European level, for the recognition of the fundamental role played by civil society, alongside and in interlocation with political bodies in the general sense.

I am well acquainted with several NGOs of the Conference in the fields of education, civil society, human rights, social sector.

My biography shows a strong European commitment, through associative platforms in which I have exercised and still exercise responsibilities.

I believe what I can bring to the Conference, in its new organisation, is a link between institutional structures and between associative practices, for I am an EPALE “ambassador” and a member of the Erasmus Committee in France. I exercise associative responsibilities in France and in Europe (at all levels: local, regional, national and European) and I represent NGOs in CDPPE Bureau (Steering Committee for Educational Policies and Practices) of the Council of Europe.

I think I can bring a link between the field of practice and of advocacy, having acted personally in these different sectors mentioned.

My main motivation is to put at the service of the NGOs and the Conference my European and international experience, accumulated over the years with my various commitments. I deem to have the capacity to work cooperatively and to write documents. I can also mobilise and put a large network of associations and partners at the service of the Conference. Furthermore, I speak and write in the two languages of the Council of Europe and my mother tongue is Spanish. My strong interests lie in the sectors of education, lifelong learning, culture and social life, and intercultural dialogue.

Civil society is an essential actor for democratic and civic functioning of society, now more than ever – as the pandemic has shown us. The Conference will foster, after its reform, new stages, where the presence of each and every one is fundamental. It will need energies combining ages, sectors of work, skills, territorial presence, individual and collective capacity building, dialogue and the desire for common creation.

This new stage in the life of the Conference motivates me to make a modest contribution, from my place and with my competences. Were I to be elected, I would use the opportunity given to me to utilise and demonstrate my expertise, and to be accountant in front of different governance bodies.