

Profession of Faith

On 27 and 28 April 2021, the INGO members of the Conference will have the responsibility to collectively write a new page of the Conference. This election will have to ensure equality, diversity but also the representation of the different sensitivities that exist within the Conference.

As a representative of the LICRA, I have been heavily involved in the work of the Conference: interventions on the rise of antisemitism in the countries of the Council of Europe, on "hate speech on the Internet" in order to consider the different possible responses (legal, technical, pedagogical...), in the webinars organised by the COING in June and October 2020 (the fight against hate speech and the place and role of NGOs in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic).

I represent the Conference in the new "Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI)" and I actively participate, in relation with the President of the Conference, in the work of the CDADI and the group of experts on combating hate speech (ADI/MIS-DIS) through written and oral contributions, thanks to the information provided by the INGOs of the Conference, in particular in the framework of a survey on the consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic on the most vulnerable populations (access to information, to care and more generally to essential services such as water and electricity, to schools, to mobility, to respect for the dignity and rights of these populations...);

The functioning of the Conference should encourage collective reflection within the Standing Committee, but also between INGOs in the framework of plenary meetings and future committees. We must mobilise the skills and expertise that exist within the INGOs and which make up the richness of the Conference.

The Conference must be attentive to the problems of national NGOs, promote their dialogue with the bodies of the Council of Europe and provide them with the technical, legal and political support they need, particularly in their relations with their national authorities.

In the new committees, the Conference should mobilise the expertise of INGOs on topical issues, in particular equality, the defence of the environment and of town planning that preserves social cohesion and security, climate protection, health, migration, education for democratic citizenship, youth participation in democracy, the fight against poverty and social inequality. These committees must both encourage in-depth reflection and have a significant capacity for initiative and responsiveness to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law in these different areas. Their proposals will enable INGOs to play their full part in the work undertaken within the Council of Europe's Steering Committees (CAHAI and CDADI) and the committees of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

This is why I wish, in line with my associative commitments and professional experience, to present my candidature as an elected member of the Standing Committee.

Gilbert Flam