

**ACTION FOR SOCIAL RIGHTS" COMMITTEE
OF THE INGO CONFERENCE**

FINAL REPORT

**Anna Rurka
Outgoing Chair**

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MANDATE AND FUNCTIONING

CHAIR: ANNA RURKA
RAPPORTEUR: JEAN BERNARD MARIE

INGOs that contributed to the work of the committee: AEH, European Association of Families, AIC, ATD Fourth World, Caritas Europa, Dynamo International, EASSW, ESAN, Eurocef, Feantsa, FIAPA, Justice and Peace, MIAMSI, Social Platform, RENATE, Soroptimist International of Europe, Volonteuropa,

Human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent (Vienna Declaration adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, 1993).

Social, economic and cultural rights (ESCR) are therefore rights that must be implemented in practice and guaranteed effectively. However, these rights are still underdeveloped and are often considered as "second-class" rights or reduced to "social policy objectives" rather than genuine rights that are enforceable and justiciable.



1993-2024



"THERE CAN BE NO HUMAN DIGNITY WITHOUT EQUALITY, AND THERE CAN BE NO REAL EQUALITY WITHOUT SOLIDARITY, WITHOUT MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN ALL HUMAN BEINGS AND WITHOUT THE RECOGNITION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS" (Christos GIAKOUMOPOULOS, DG1).



6 objectives in action 2021-2024

WEBINAR ON "SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION: BREAKING THE PERPETUATION OF POVERTY ACROSS GENERATIONS" (19 FEBRUARY 2024)

1) TO RAISE AWARENESS AND PROMOTE, AMONG OING AND THEIR MEMBERS IN THE FIELD, THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE ESC

2 WEBINARS ORGANISED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER ON THE IMPACT OF THE MONITORIGN MECHANISMS AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY TO THESE PROCESSES (29 MARCH AND 14 JUNE 2022)

SOCIAL RIGHTS TRACKER

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Social Rights Tracker website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo 'SocialRightsTracker', a menu with 'Home', 'Cases', 'Resources', 'About', and 'Contact', a language selector for 'French', and a 'SEND ALERT' button. The main heading is 'European Social Rights Tracker', followed by a sub-heading: 'A platform to monitor, track and strengthen social rights in Council of Europe and European Union Member States'. Below this, there are two buttons: 'Send encrypted alert' and 'View more'. A large central image shows a group of people in a meeting, surrounded by several smaller circular icons representing different social rights topics. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Explore our topics' with five buttons: 'Employment, Training & Labour Rights', 'Equal Opportunities & Social Inclusion', 'Health, Social Security and Social Protection', 'Families, children', and 'Migration'.

This sidebar contains a list of social rights topics, each with an icon and text: 'Employment, Training Labour Rights' (red icon), 'Equal Opportunities Social Inclusion' (blue icon), 'Health, Social Security and Social Protection' (orange icon), 'Families, children' (green icon), and 'Migration' (purple icon). Below the list is a section with the question 'Do you have any informations about social injustice?' and a button with an arrow icon and the text 'Send an alert!'. At the bottom of this section, it says 'Use our end-to-end encrypted contact form to send sensitive informations'.

2) STRENGTHEN ADVOCACY WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS FOR FULL RATIFICATION BY ALL MEMBER STATES OF ALL ARTICLES OF THE CHARTER, AS WELL AS MORE WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE COLLECTIVE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN THEIR COMMUNICATION WITH THE STATES ON SOCIAL RIGHTS ISSUES

THE COMMITTEE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEXT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN VILNIUS IN JULY 2024

3) TO ENCOURAGE NATIONAL OR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS TO IDENTIFY CASES OR SITUATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE ESC AND TO SUPPORT THEM IN THE PROCESS OF WHICH WOULD BE TRIGGERED;

DISCUSSION BETWEEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION "VAINCRE L'AUTISME" ON THE FEASIBILITY OF A COLLECTIVE COMPLAINT

**4) TO ENSURE THE
PARTICIPATION OF
THE CONFERENCE
OF INGO IN THE
ONGOING REFORM
OF THE
THE CHARTER**

**PARTICIPATION IN THE
AD HOC WORKING
GROUP (GT-CHARTE)
SET UP BY THE
COMMITTEE OF
MINISTERS ON
IMPROVING THE SOCIAL
CHARTER SYSTEM**

**PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION
(5CONF-AG(2023)REC3) ON THE
RIGHT TO SOCIAL PROTECTION AS
A HUMAN RIGHT - THE NEED TO
TAKE ACTION AGAINST NON-TAKE-
UP OF RIGHTS**

**PROPOSAL FOR THE POSITION OF THE
INGO CONFERENCE ON THE REFORM OF
THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER
SYSTEM ON THE OCCASION OF THE
60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTER
AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
REVISED CHARTER**

**EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH
CERTAIN PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
MEMBER STATES INVOLVED IN
THE REFORM OF THE SOCIAL
CHARTER SYSTEM**

**5) COMBATING
POVERTY: PROVIDING
NGO EXPERTISE TO
COMBAT ALL FORMS OF
POVERTY
POVERTY, ON ALL
FRONTS**

**6) STRENGTHEN THE
ACTION OF THE OINGIS
REPRESENTED IN
BRUSSELS AND
STRASBOURG TO
PROMOTE THE EU SOCIAL
RIGHTS BASE IN SYNERGY
WITH THE CSER SYSTEM.**

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE VOLONTEUROPE
EVENT "CIVIL SOCIETY PROTECTING AND
ADVANCING SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS IN
EUROPE" 20 JUNE 2023**

**NEW INFORMATION PANEL WITH THE
MESSAGE IN ENGLISH OF THE HUMAN
RIGHTS STONE AGAINST POVERTY OFFERED
BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF
IRELAND. (2023)**

**4 COMMEMORATIONS BRINGING
TOGETHER COUNCIL OF EUROPE
PERSONALITIES TO MARK THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE
ERADICATION OF POVERTY**

Including

**EVENT "PUTTING AN END TO NON-
RECOURSE - FOR EFFECTIVE ACCESS
TO RIGHTS AND SERVICES FOR ALL"
ON 17 OCTOBER 2022**

**EVENTS TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL
DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF
POVERTY (17 OCTOBER) AND
EUROPEAN ANTI-TRAFFICKING DAY (18
OCTOBER).**

Points of attention for the future

States should commit to combating inequality by ratifying and universally applying the rights set out in the Revised European Social Charter.

The Charter system is a whole. There are substantial and interdependent links between the articles of the Social Charter and the Additional Protocol on Collective Complaints Procedure,

Article 30 of the European Social Charter states that "everyone has the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion". Only 19 of our 46 Member States have accepted this provision.

EU accession to the European Social Charter should be encouraged, as has been proposed by various players, including the European Parliament, thus in order to strengthen the scope of application of social rights and their collective guarantee.

Remove the limitation on personal scope of application whereby the Charter applies to foreigners "only insofar as they are nationals of other Contracting Parties lawfully residing or lawfully working the territory of the Contracting Party concerned

This restrictive clause, in the Annex to the Charter does not comply with the requirement for universal application of human rights and excludes from this protection categories of particularly vulnerable populations present on the territory of States Parties

Ongoing work and vigilance for INGOs

• **ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS-RAISING IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER STATES**

To facilitate the ratification of the unaccepted provisions of the CSER, INGOs can advocate for government policies that are in line with the standards of the Charter. They can raise awareness among political decision-makers, the media and the general public of the causes and consequences of the inequalities that result.

• **A PLEA FOR ECO-SOCIAL JUSTICE**

SYSTEMICALLY INTEGRATE THE REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESMENT in the legislation process, particularly those relating to the environment, in order to build an inclusive environmental and economic model, respectful of social and economic rights of vulnerable people

**COMBAT DISCRIMINATION STEMMING FROM SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES:
"POVERTISM", IN THE SAME WAY AS COMBATING HOMOPHOBIA AND RACISM.**

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF MARGINALISED GROUPS TO CLAIM THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL NGO:

INGOs and CINGO can provide technical assistance and capacity-building to local civil society organisations to lodge collective complaints and assess access to economic and social rights.



POVERTY IS THE RESULT OF A POLITICAL CHOICE AND ENDING POVERTY IS ALSO A POLITICAL CHOICE. ENDING POVERTY IS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE POLITICAL CHOICE AND THE SOLUTIONS ARE AT A HANDSIDE'S EASY REACH. FAILING TO PUT THEM IN PLACE IS NOT JUST AN ACT OF NEGLECTING THE DUTY OF POLITICAL DECISION-MAKERS. IT IS ALSO AN ACT OF CRUELTY, EXTREME CRUELTY. PASSING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR POVERTY ONTO THE VICTIMS IS, MOREOVER, A SIGN OF COWARDICE AND A BETRAYAL OF THE PEOPLE THEY HAVE A DUTY TO CARE FOR.

Christos GIAKOUMOPOULOS, DG 1, on the occasion
of the International Day for the Eradication of
Poverty, 10 October 2023

**HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN
SOCIAL CHARTER
WITH A VIEW TO MAKING FURTHER
COMMITMENTS UNDER THE CHARTER
3-4 JULY 2024, VILNIUS, LITHUANIA**