



INVITATION

The European Social Action Network (ESAN) and the Presidency of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe invite you to come and exchange ideas in the dedicated space at the networking event :

Tuesday 9 April from 11.15am to 1pm
in the hall opposite room G.03

on the theme :

"Threats to the rights, freedoms and capacity for action of associations, the place of associations in civil society today and tomorrow".

This initiative follows warning sent by Italian NGO "ARCI APS" about the "Reform of the Third Sector" in Italy, which tends to weaken the role of NGOs, reduce their independence, and restrict their capacity for action, while making them more and more auxiliaries of the State. The Presidency of ARCI, represented by Gianluca Mengozzi, a member of ARCI's National Council will open a round table of representatives of NGOs, including Secours populaire français (France). Other speakers, representatives of associations and networks, will also talk about various situations that are unfavourable to the operation and development of associations.

This informal exchange is part of the work of the "Council of Experts on NGO Law" set up by the Conference of INGOs, which has just published a landmark report on "**The stigmatisation of NGOs in Europe**", adding to the series of studies already carried out.

Without taking the place of the essential legal expertise of this Council of Experts, it seems necessary to make a broader analysis, particularly regarding developments in Europe, which is undergoing social, economic and political changes that require a stronger response to enable people to live together and strengthen social inclusion, solidarity and democracy.

This raises two sets of questions:

- 1. *What are the situations faced by NGOs in your country, and what threats and infringements of the rights and freedoms of NGOs have you observed? Have any legal or administrative provisions been introduced to restrict your organisations' ability to act?***
- 2. *Together, how can we contribute to the organisation of a watch, an observatory and what measures can we take collectively to document, exchange and act in the face of these situations?***

You are cordially invited **to take part and share your experiences during this networking event.**

These will contribute to the debates and reflections at **a meeting organised by ESAN to be held on the same day from 4.30 to 5.30 pm in room B6 06C.**

If you have any questions about this networking event or the 4.30pm meeting, please do not hesitate to contact:

- **Jean-Louis DURAND-DROUHIN - jlduranddrouhin@gmail.com - Tel. +33 (0)6 19 46 92 25**
- **Maritchu RALL - rallmaritchu@gmail.com - Tel + 33 (0)6 62 09 45 21**

The European Social Action Network (ESAN)