



CONFERENCE OF INGOS
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONFÉRENCE DES OING
DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



The President

Ms Berta Mrak
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Slovenia
to the Council of Europe

Ref ► CINGO/Pres/Slovenia

Strasbourg, 7 October 2026

Dear Ambassador,

As you know, the Conference of International NGOs (CINGO) is keeping under scrutiny the situation of democratic participation and the civic space in Europe through its ad hoc country visits, dedicated task force, thematic discussions during General Assemblies as well as through its Expert Council on NGO Law (regarding specifically the evolution of national legal frameworks related to Freedom of Association and trends across Europe).

We are very concerned to learn about the decision to redirect the dedicated revenue of the NGO Development Fund to the new Public Fund for Advanced Treatment of Rare Diseases, without providing a replacement source of funding for NGOs. This step is especially regrettable given that it comes at a time when the governing coalition members have repeatedly questioned the legitimacy of public funding for these organisations.

We recall in this connection that paragraph 57 of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2007\)14](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe provides that “NGOs should be assisted in the pursuit of their objectives through public funding and other forms of support”.

We do not, of course, call into question the right of a member State of the Council of Europe to determine its funding priorities and we recognise the importance of ensuring access to advanced treatment for people with rare diseases.

However, the pursuit of the latter objective should not lead to commitments already made to civil society being disregarded, not least because of the importance of the funding promised for organisations serving communities across Slovenia and working to protect democracy, human rights, the rule of law, transparency and accountability, all of which are values to which members of the Council of Europe have subscribed.

Certainly, organisations that have entered public calls for funding in good faith and who were selected and signed agreements with the state should not now be left to bear the consequences of a subsequent change in funding arrangements. Thus, the funding commitments extending through 2028 must be treated as binding responsibilities.

We therefore call on the Government and the National Assembly to:

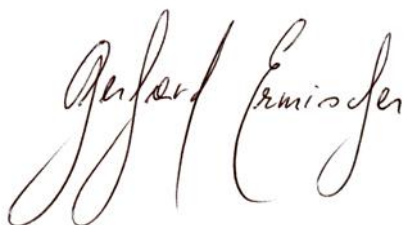
- **Reconsider the decision** to remove the NGO Development Fund's dedicated revenue without establishing a sustainable replacement;
- **Guarantee full and timely financing of existing contractual commitments**, and ensure that no signed agreement is reduced, suspended or terminated as a result of the funding change; and
- **Consult meaningfully with civil society organisations** and relevant stakeholders on any future reform of the funding system.

We urge the Slovenian authorities to act promptly to prevent disruption to organisations and the people they serve, and to restore a predictable and sustainable framework for public support to civil society.

We would appreciate, therefore, if you and the appropriate authorities would inform us about measures taken to remedy the situation and further relevant developments.

Yours sincerely,

Gerhard Ermischer
President of the Conference of INGOs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerhard Ermischer', written in a cursive style.

Jeremy McBride
President of CINGO's Expert Council
on NGO Law

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Jeremy McBride', written in a cursive style.