

### MEETING Report 13.09.2021 online

#### Presents:

EUROPARC: Carol Ritchie, Stefania Petrosillo

IDF: Elisabeth Dupont, Alina Chebes

EAA: Sophie Hueglin

ECYC: Jonas Posset

EURODOC: Beata Zwierzynska (member of INGOs Standing Committee), Katarzyna Turon

Friends of the Earth: Friedrich Wulf

CIVILSCAPE: Gerhard Ermischer

#### Report by: EUROPARC

AGENDA	REPORT	ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Brief introductions and welcome to new members</a></li> </ul>		
<b>IDF Europe presentation.</b>	<p>IDF Europe, represented by the Regional Coordinator Elisabeth Dupont, is the International Diabetes Federation, umbrella organization of 77 diabetes national associations in 44 countries. Aim is to improve diabetic people's life quality. This is connected to human rights and social aspects as inequality, lack of education and poverty.</p> <p>Elisabeth is supported by Alina Chebes, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator.</p> <p>IDF EUROPE is member of CoE INGOs since some time. Elisabeth joined 2 years ago. Now the organization is looking a way to be more engaged. Beata put Elisabeth in contact with Carol, and all agreed that to have IDF on board of ECCH&amp;H could be a good opportunity.</p> <p>So, a warm welcome to IDF and thanks for the interest of this organization to be member of ECCH&amp;H: it will bring an important health perspective in the Committee.</p>	
<b>Other members.</b>	The door is of course still open to other organizations interested to join.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Overview of our remit</a></li> </ul>		

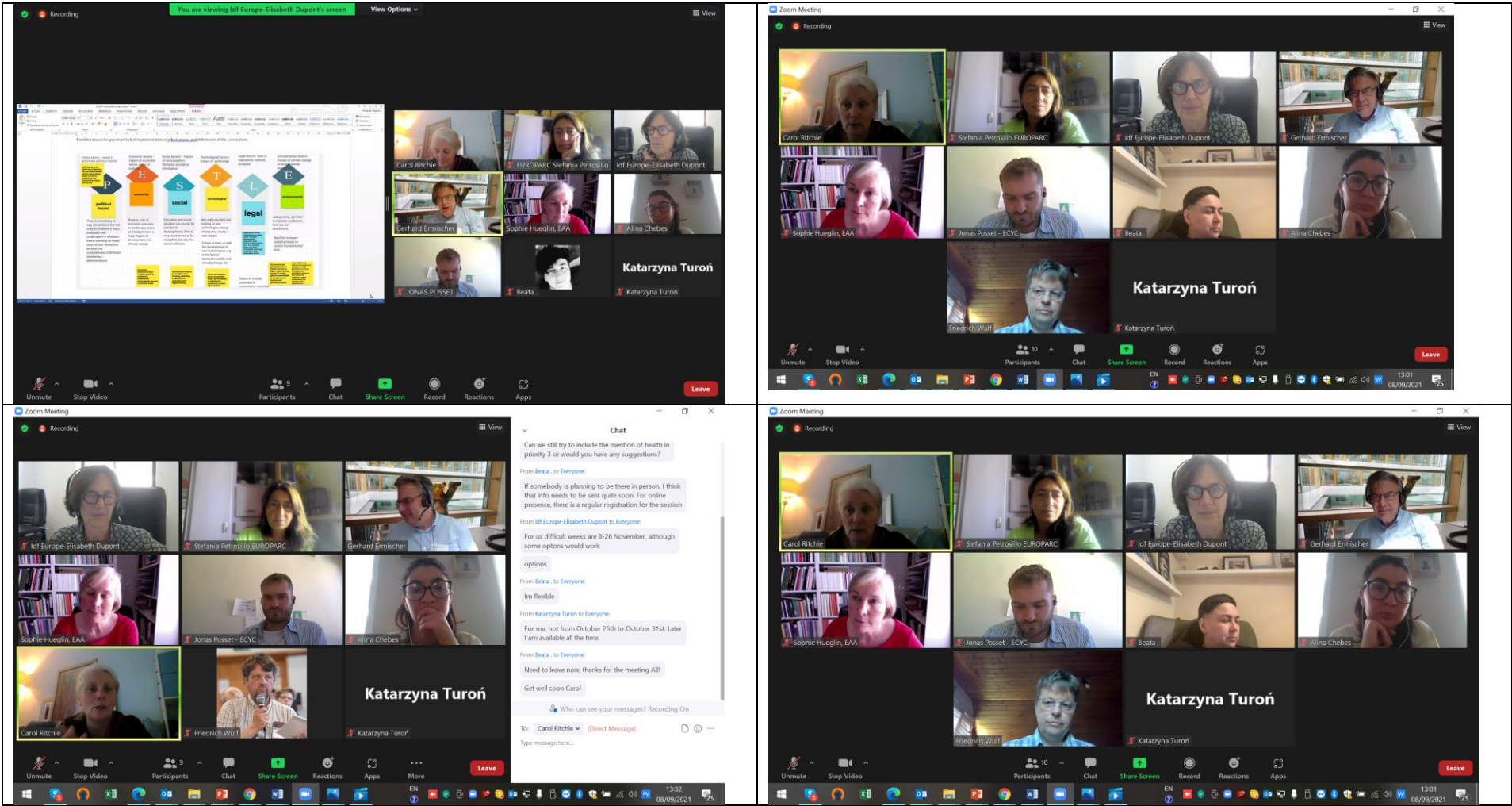
<b>Update from Gerhald.</b>	After a small board meeting about difficult staff and human resources' situation after COVID, Gerhald decided to continue to follow directly himself this Committee until he will be able to recruit a new person to replace him.	
<b>ECCH&amp;H ToR and plan.</b>	<p>The terms of reference of the Committee have already been set up with a general timetable and plan that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- May-August 2021: Convene committee, agree action plan;</li> <li>- August-December 2021: Undertake situational analysis and produce report. Include contact with all relevant conventions and including liaison with ad hoc committee for Artificial Intelligence and links to all branches of the Council of Europe;</li> <li>- June-December 2021: Create platform of interest across INGO conference; plan and deliver workshop (if agreed);</li> </ul> <p>We are quite in the time. Currently we are analysing what each organisation does individually and the connection with this Committee, and the CoE in general. We also started our situational analysis: see below.</p>	
<b>• <u>Overview of analysis</u></b>		
<b>Analysis.</b>	<p>Following the analysis done by the Committee's members and available in <a href="https://jamboard.google.com/d/1Lv2EivP999Na3XGH2SO2iud0QZq13ymcc5c6bLO8R6c/viewer?f=0">https://jamboard.google.com/d/1Lv2EivP999Na3XGH2SO2iud0QZq13ymcc5c6bLO8R6c/viewer?f=0</a>, a "summary of Conventions and deficiencies across our work areas" has been prepared by Carol (see below ANNEX 2).</p> <p>Even if each convention per-se is a very good instrument, the very high risk is that today the Conventions risk to lose interest and effectiveness.</p> <p>Coordination among them is missing.</p> <p>The coordination is missing for the structure: they are interlinked but currently are managed by different departments and involve different organizations.</p> <p>The coordination is missing for the content: some conventions are not addressing to some key topics, as youth or climate or health. The way is that conventions have been created in different moment of the history and they reflect the debate of that historical moment.</p> <p>If Conventions were connected as a toolbox they would have much more added value. The big question is how to create this toolbox.</p> <p>It is interesting to see that EU already did it, by referring to the all conventions in its Environmental Impact Assessment addressed to EU Member States.</p> <p>It is a general issue to avoid to work in separated boxes.</p> <p>How to overcome this difficulty, update</p>	<p>The Committee will ask the CoE to put together experts from all Conventions to create this strong connection, to revitalize the Conventions and increase their relevance among Member States and civil society.</p>

	<p>Today to change the convention's text is very complicated for the legal procedures, but some approaches can be adopted.</p> <p>It is possible to add new <i>protocols</i> (even if not necessarily all States will sign the new protocol). Another way to update the convention and create a link is by working on their <i>terminology</i>: e.g. "equity" today include climate change attention.</p> <p>Finally, the <i>Guidelines for implementations</i> that is prepared for each convention can be updated by experts and easy approved by the committee of ministers. In that way for example it could be possible to include cross-references and update the glossary with new modern interpretation of concepts.</p> <p>That will be a way to reach a new life for the conventions. For the same objective, it will be crucial that ECCH&amp;H work to underline that the Conventions are <i>important instruments for the civil society</i> and not only for the public authorities.</p>	
• <u>What next?? Solutions.</u>		
	Following the analysis, the next meeting of ECCH&H will be devoted to work on this proposal	To set up next meeting as a participatory workshop
• <u>Report on issue around Bern Convention</u>		
	<p>In July Carol and Friedrich were invited for a meeting by the Secretariat of the Bern Convention to discuss about the current concerns about this convention that is one of the oldest of CoE. There are structural difficulties, internal of the Secretariat, but also wider acceptance issues. That creates a difference between the legal requirement in EU countries (habitats directives) and not-EU countries (Bern Convention).</p> <p>There is a high risk is to lose the Bern Convention Secretariat, because of internal lack of funds inside the CoE. That will create serious problems in the implementation.</p> <p>The Secretariat asks the ECCH&amp;H Committee to intervene.</p> <p>Two suggested actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A letter of concerns about the future of the Bern Convention, addressed to CoE and the Ministers of Member States</li> <li>- Awareness actions among the members of the ECCH&amp;H's organisations</li> </ul> <p>Additional issue is that there is nobody at the moment "representing" the Bern Convention in the INGOs Conference, as there is for the Landscape Convention.</p> <p>Indeed few conventions have an official representative in the INGOs Conference, but it would be very useful.</p> <p>The point is that for a representative of an NGO already present in the Conference is difficult to represent also the Convention with the appropriated diplomacy and equidistance and impartiality. In some way, it is "a different job": the representative of the Convention has a specific status and represent a body of the CoE.</p>	<p>Possibly Friedrich will prepare an internal report about the situation.</p> <p>EUROPARC has started with its members and will have an internal meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>Carol and Friedrich will prepare a draft of the letter to submit to the ECCH&amp;H.</p> <p>EUROPARC has started with its members and will have an internal meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>"Lobby" action of the ECCH&amp;H, to ask for a Bern Convention representative in the Conference INGOs</p>

	That would be another “lobby” action of the ECCH&H, to ask for a Bern Convention representative, that could be also interact to create the link with the other Conventions (see above).	
<b>IMPORTANT GENERAL RULE</b> (Gerhard’s clarification)	Views, decisions and initiatives of the Committees should be discussed and voted among the Committees’ members. After that, they are considered consolidated views, decisions of initiatives <u>of the whole Committee</u> , supported by all members, even by those voted against or abstained.  Views, decisions and initiatives can be addressed to the Standing Committee of INGOs that can reinforce them with its support and transform them in positions of the whole Conference of INGOs.	
• <a href="#"><u>INGO conference meeting plan</u></a>		
<b>Strategy Plan</b>	It will be voted in October. Environment is missing in the current draft. The Standing Committee is working to the suggested amendments, including environment and culture. It will be 3 years Strategy. The Committees will be included describing as they will help to implement the strategy. The mission statement is also under preparation. That will be presented to the Secretary General when requested.	About health, Gerhard will receive inputs from Elisabeth very quickly to be able to incorporate them before the finalization of the document in the next days.
<b>Activity of the Committees</b>	Committees should report once per year to the Conference INGOs. In October 2021 we will have not a real report but a first presentation on the work ongoing and questions and answers moment.	
<b>INGO conference</b>	The event will be hybrid, in presence and online. The request is to continue with this hybrid system in the future to assure participation. It would be very important to have someone of ECCH&H in presence or online able to answer to the questions.  Beata and Gerhard will be there but as Standing Committee and cannot represent the Committee. Jonas will attend. Katarzyna is not sure. Probably a colleague of Sophia could be present.  A part some specific exceptions, participation is not reimbursed.	EUROPARC cannot be present at all. Carol will send a video.  Sophie has the same problem and will send a video too.  The others will check and inform the members if they can attend, using the skype channel.
• <a href="#"><u>Next meeting</u></a>		
	Next meeting of the ECCH&H will be a participatory workshop in a date between 18th October and 19th November in the afternoon. The Committee will also need to decide if and how often have regularly meetings.	Carol will set up a doodle poll.

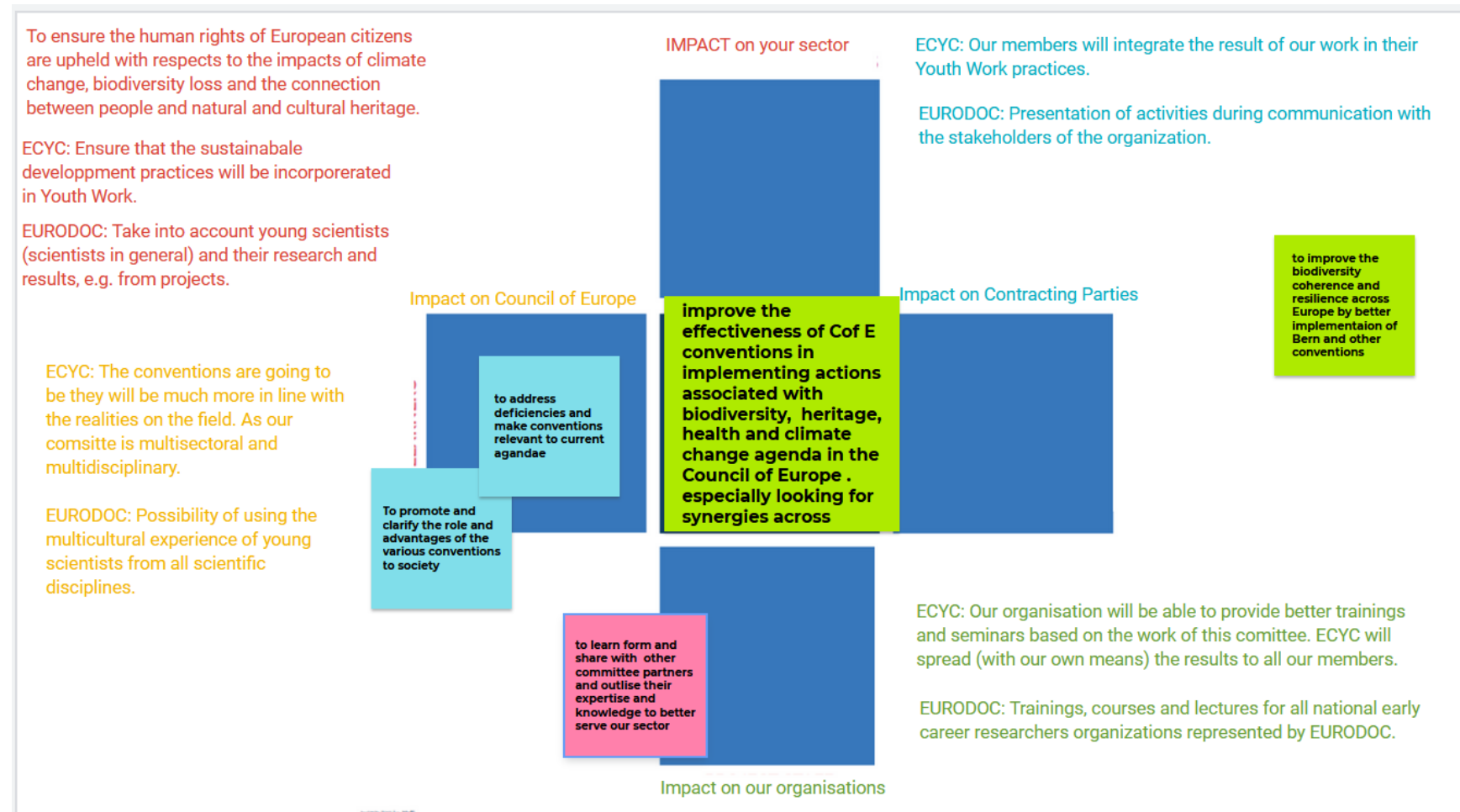
ANNEX 1.

SCREEN SHOTS of the meeting:



## ANNEX. 2

CINGO Environment, Climate Change, Heritage & Health ECCH&H  
What do what to change?...where are the opportunities?



## Summary of Conventions and deficiencies across our work areas

### Conclusion:

Conventions lack integration of current major agenda. This may be a determinant in perceived lack of effectiveness\* (we have not gathered data on this)

	EuroDoc	EUROPARC	Civilscape	EEA	EEB	ECYC	FoE/ProNatura	IDF Europe
Conventions we work with	Nicosia, Bern Aarhus, Faro, Landscape	Bern , Landscape +global and EU	Landscape +	Valetta, Faro		European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights, CM/Rec(2017)4	Bern,+ global/EU	Faro, Aarhus
Deficiencies heritage/landscape	Landscape/scientist relations	Not in bern				The CM/Rec(2018)11 does not mention heritage explicitly. However, by mentioning how to improve and protect the civil society space at national level, this recommendation addresses the heritage.		Landscape: weak connection to social determinants of health
Climate change	Not anywhere	Link through sustainable development in landscape con. Not specific In Bern. New		Archeology not addressed in c c		Not mentioned	Not mentioned in bern.	

		strategy in development						
biodiversity	No science mentioned	Barely in landscape more as cultural reference		Archaeology nowhere in bern		Not mentioned	In bern but weak legally	Bern: weak link to public health and safety
Health and well being			Health, well-being and social cohesion are implicit in the Landscape convention, but rarely connected to landscape in daily politics			Implied but not explicit		Aarhus: very strong link, human right to live in an env adequate to our health
youth	Faro: youth to access heritage		European identity relies of youth contribution					



## Possible reasons for perceived lack of implementation or effectiveness and deficiencies of the conventions

