Association OING-SERVICE

Maison des Associations
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F-67000 STRASBOURG

OINGSERVICE

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"the association promotes the functioning and the activities of the Conference of INGOs by collecting and making available the necessary means".

General Assembly
April 9, 2025, 12:00-13:10
In person and via videoconference
Minutes

Board - present in person: Marie-Claire Galibert (Vice-President), Heleen Jansen (Treasurer), Annelise Oeschger (President)
Present online via Kudo: Joyce Herrent (Secretary)

Voting instructions: The President explained that voting would be by show of hands with ballot paper for those present and via voting on the Kudo platform for those attending online. For any other questions, or if there are any objections, any member may raise their objection at any time during the General Assembly.

1) Welcome and adoption of the agenda - vote

The Chairperson welcomes the assembly.
This General Assembly is very important as we will be electing the members of the next Board of Directors. Among recent developments, OING-Service closely monitored the creation of the website for the Interreligious and Interfaith Dialogue Committee, ensuring its compliance with all legal requirements and those of the Council of Europe. This website will serve as a prototype for other committees. Also noteworthy is the management of the ZOOM platform, made available free of charge to all bodies and activities, such as the Conference's Youth Programme.
The Conference's activities are growing, and OING-Service is increasingly becoming a service, but there are naturally limitations. In 2024, we have a deficit because the two sources of income are insufficient to cover all expenses.
We received a record sum of over €22,000 in membership fees – half of the NGOs with participatory status paid their dues, and we thank them. The Council of Europe also increased its grant by €2,000. It should be noted that the Council also supports OING-Service by providing secretarial services for the website, interpretation, technical support, and a meeting room for the General Assemblies.
The Chair warmly thanks all those involved.

There were no comments on the agenda.
The agenda was adopted unanimously without any remarks.
2) Nomination of the rapporteur

The secretary is appointed as rapporteur.

3) Adoption of the General Assembly minutes of October 16, 2024 – vote

There are no observations on this account. This account is adopted unanimously.

4) Moral Report 2024 (Marie-Claire Galibert, Vice-présidente) – vote

The Moral Report is presented by the Vice-President.
It covers six years since Annelise, Helene and Marie-Claire, are in their second mandate (the first mandate started on June 27, 2018).
The Vice-Président by the end of her term "I believe in the new perspectives, the beautiful projects that awaits new developments, guided by Joyce Herrent. The current team leaves. I wish you good winds and good sailing! »

The President thanks "the Bureau" for constructive discussions and effective collaboration.

There are no remarks on the Moral Rapport. The Moral Report is adopted unanimously.

5) Presentation of the accounts and financial report 2024 (Heleen Jansen, treasurer, and Philippe Burcklé, chartered accountant)

The Treasurer presents her report.

She noted that things have changed considerably in recent years with more and more digital technology, which hasn't always made her job easier.

As for the financial results, 2024 saw higher expenses than anticipated. For the first time, reserves had to be drawn upon due to increased reimbursement costs. Initially, the number of membership fees received was disappointing, but after repeated reminders, more NGOs finally paid their dues. There has been a slight year-on-year increase. It is important to remain vigilant regarding these membership fees in the coming years.

The chartered accountant, who, with pleasure, has been practicing since 2013, presents his report for this year 2024 (from January 1st to December 31st).

The total budget is €40,000. It was initially projected at €34,000.
Membership fees amounted to €22,170, and the Council of Europe contributed €18,000.
Expenditure exceeded revenue after approval by the Board of Directors, in order to support the growing activities of the Conference of INGOs. The result is a deficit of €9,000, of which €4,000 was allocated through a supplementary budget approved by the General Assembly on October 16, 2024.
This does not, however, present any difficulties, as there are still €36,000 in reserves, more than enough to cover this deficit. As of December 31, 2024, available funds exceeded €30,000.

In conclusion, 2024 is a year which is certainly not the best in terms of results but one of the best in terms of contributions, members and activities.

There are no questions.

As foreseen in the agenda we proceed to the auditor's report.

6) Auditor's Report (Jean-Pierre Demange) – Vote

Mr. Demange reports that he has audited the accounts for the year 2024. He has received all the necessary documents submitted to him for this purpose.

He notes a 20% increase in travel expenses and an 80% increase in interpretation costs, which reveals a significant increase in the Conference's vitality. Expenses have risen sharply, and this increase is not compensated by an increase in contributions. Increased by 10% the Council's subsidy from €16,000 to €18,000.
Savings now amount to €30,000.

The auditor emphasizes that the reimbursement request must be accompanied by all invoices justifying these expenses and a mission report from the applicant.
The association's operating costs are significantly less than 1% of its expenditures, which reflects well on the members of its board.
The auditor specifies that he found nothing that violates applicable regulations.
He therefore requests approval of the accounts and a discharge of the current board members.

The accounts were unanimously approved, and the members of the board of directors were discharged.
The President thanked the members for their confidence in the Board of Directors, which has consistently promoted the Conference's activities.
The President thanked the chartered accountant and the auditor for their work.

7. Presentation of planned activities for 2025 and the draft 2025 budget – vote

The President clarified that it will primarily be up to the new team to plan future activities.
For the first three months of 2025, the conference has been as active as in 2024. At least €22,000 in membership fees and a grant of at least €20,000 from the Council of Europe are still expected.

We received €500 in donations thanks to the interrelious and interconvictional dialogue committee, some of whose members worked without pay or financially supported the new website. The new members of the board of directors are committed to increasing the amount of donations.

The budget was adopted unanimously.

8) Annual Membership Fees 2026 – Vote

The membership fee collection will be launched in January 2026 before the next General Meeting, which is why we are discussing it today.

It is proposed that the annual membership fees remain unchanged (€150 standard, €100 minimum, €200 for a supporting amount).
The proposal is adopted unanimously.

9) Election of the 5 elected members to the Board of Directors – vote

Nominations (in alphabetical order: Henk Baars / EN-RE, Wielie Elhorst / FEGCLGBT, Joyce Herrent / EYBA, Thea Mohr / UEB, Harry Rogge / EUROGEO)
There are five candidates for five positions.
We were fortunate to find five people willing to commit.

Each candidate introduces themselves.
The Chair proposes that the candidates be elected as a group, since there are no more candidates than positions.

She puts this method of election to a vote.
There is one vote against this group election.
Another speaker specifies that the vote must be conducted secretly but does not insist that this be enforced.
The president clarifies that local law is applicable and that this is not necessary.

As requested by a member, voting is conducted individually.
The ballots given to each member are collected in the ballot box for counting by the two scrutineers, Patricia Alliot-Guichard/ERA and Marie-Claire Galibert/FIAPA. Online voting is also open for each candidate.
The paper ballots will be counted, and the overall result will be announced at the reopening of the next session of the Conference of INGOs at 2:40 p.m.

The voting results are as follows:
Henk Baars 47 votes
Wielie Elhorst 46 votes
Joyce Herrent 49 votes
Thea Mohr 45 votes
Harry Rogge 47 votes
All candidates were elected.

10) Other Business

Nothing to report.
The Chair closed the General Assembly and thanked all participants.
The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Translation in English: Google Translate; editing Harry Rogge