

ASSOCIATION OING-SERVICE

Maison des Associations
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Moral report OING-Service 2022

adopted by the General Assembly of 25 April 2023

1) INTRODUCTION

These are very troubled times. After the Covid pandemic, which seems to have been brought under control, the war in Ukraine has imposed itself with extreme violence. This forces us to reconsider our assessments of a European construction that we thought was nearing completion. More generally, our immediate concerns include CO2 reduction, energy reform, the environment and digital development.

All of these major projects will take time to complete because Europe is made up of states with often divergent policies. Nevertheless, it is necessary to act quickly, efficiently and boldly in order to be in step with the dramatic events that are taking place.

In this context, and in order to be constructive, we refer to the draft Recommendation of the Conference of INGOs in view of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in May in Reykjavik.

We, the members of INGO-Service, know our very small role in this brilliant project. However, we believe that without the carefully managed funds of the President and Treasurer, many expenses would not be possible for our Committees and elected representatives. We reiterate our enthusiasm for the objectives of the INGO Conference. And to contribute to their achievement, we take advantage of this annual report to ask the competent authorities to grant it more material means.

2) INTERNALLY

Internally, the year 2022 was marked by the resignation, for professional reasons, of the President Davide Capecchi/EFIL in early October. We thank him for his work and his kindness. On 10 October, Annelise Oeschger accepted the election as President by the Board and Joyce Herrent accepted to be Secretary. A call for applications in 2023 for the vacant position did not receive any response. Nevertheless, with the current Board members, the statutory bodies are complete. For the record, I nominate them:

The elected members are:

Annelise OESCHGER, ATD QM, President

Marie-Claire GALIBERT, FIAPA, Vice-president

Heleen JANSEN, IAW, Treasurer

Joyce HERRENT, EYBA, Secretary

These four people form the Bureau and are at the same time members of the Board.

The ex-officio members, who are also members of the Board, are
Gerhard ERMISCHER, President of the Conference of INGOs
Geneviève LALOY, Vice-President of the Conference of INGOs
Simon MATTHIJSEN, member of the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs

3) MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Webinars and other Committee actions

Several Committees of the Conference of INGOs have organised webinars for representatives of their member INGOs and other committed persons, in order to advance reflection and action on their themes, but also to support INGOs in contributing further to the implementation of relevant Council of Europe instruments such as the European Social Charter. For the following Committees' webinars, INGO-Service financed the interpretation and sometimes also the provision of the zoom platform: Action for Social Rights, Interreligious and Interconvictional Dialogue, Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence. The same funding was given to a webinar - side event on women's rights and disability. In addition, INGO-Service financed some translations for which it was impossible to find volunteers because the deadlines were too short.

In the framework of its "Specific Committee Projects" programme, INGO-Service financed the setting up, by the Committee Action for Social Rights, of the "Social Rights Tracker" platform - a monitoring tool for the effective implementation of the rights guaranteed by the European Social Charter. In the same framework, the webinar "Education and Artificial Intelligence" organised by the Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence Committee was funded.

- Mission visit to Greece by the Committee on the Rights of Migrants

INGO-Service financed the travel and accommodation costs in Greece of a delegation of this committee. The aim was to contribute to the access of NGOs to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and the access of migrants to their fundamental rights (security, health and education). The delegation met with around 20 local NGOs and the visit was very fruitful as evidenced by the draft recommendation "For a comprehensive approach to the rights of refugees and migrants and the role of civil society".

- Roadmap for youth participation

Also in 2022, the Conference of INGOs conducted its "Youth Delegates" action in relation with its member INGOs. And towards the end of the year a meeting could be organised in Brussels between these youth delegates, Brussels-based NGOs and other European youth NGOs. The topic was the shrinking space for civil society in Europe and how to deal with it. Meetings on the theme of civil society and the European institutions were held with the Secretariat General of the European Commission and the CoE-EU Youth Partnership.

- Representation of the Conference of INGOs

INGO-Service reimbursed the travel and subsistence expenses for a meeting of the Standing Committee in Strasbourg and the travel expenses for a second meeting in Strasbourg (April and October) as well as the travel and subsistence expenses of the representatives of the Conference of INGOs to the various Steering Committees and subordinate bodies and to the North-South Centre.

The President of the Conference of INGOs regularly visited the Council of Europe in Strasbourg for meetings with the members of the secretariat, with the Ministers' Deputies and with the Parliamentary Assembly and Congress and their secretariats.

Since the end of the summer, the President has been based in Strasbourg, which allows him to have a much more constant presence at the Council of Europe to make the voice of civil society heard and to consolidate the position of the Conference of INGOs. At the same time, this reduces the travel expenses of the presidency and INGO-Service contributes financially to this installation on site.

4) ACCOUNTS

The accounts show a deficit of almost 400 € for a budget of 32'000 € and a charge on previous reserves of 4'302.94 € as foreseen by the General Assembly for actions in the framework of the "Roadmap for Youth Participation". The reserves are 42,000 € and therefore remain higher than the expenses for one year.

The number of contributing INGOs has decreased slightly: 107 INGOs have contributed a total of €16'170 (2021: 111 INGOs - €16'790). It took a huge effort to reach this sum - an important sum because the Council of Europe grant (16'000 € planned for 2022) is still limited by the amount contributed by the INGOs themselves.

Details of resources and expenditure are published in the accountant's report.

5) PROJECTS

INGO-Service is pleased to see the fruits of funding projects such as the "Social Rights Tracker" as a sustainable and effective platform for monitoring the situation of social and human rights in Europe, or the follow-up of the Recommendation on the Rights of Refugees and Migrants.

The next meetings of the youth delegates are planned in April in Strasbourg and in June in Portugal, under the aegis of the National Federation of Youth Organisations. The youth delegates are part of the organising committee and will attend both meetings in person.

Moreover, INGO-Service now has a Zoom Pro subscription and creates a network of interpreters at the disposal of the Committees and for specific actions initiated or supported by the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs.

INGO-Service also remains financially available to Committees with dynamic projects validated by the Standing Committee.