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OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CINGO Committee Report for the General Assembly (required format)

Version: Spring 2023

Committee Chairs are advised to read the Guidance for CINGO Committees to assist in completing this report for the General Assembly.

Committee name: Civil Society Committee on the Rights of the Child (CSC-RC)

Date of report: 2023/03/15

Report author name and contact details:

Michel Grangeat michel.grangeat@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

Date committee was approved by CINGO General Assembly: 2021/04/28

N.B. If this committee was approved in Spring 2021 it will come to the end of its mandate at the 2023 Spring Session of the General Assembly and you must complete section 7 if you wish the committee to continue for another year.

1. Committee Chair/Vice Chair name/s and contact emails

Michel Grangeat michel.grangeat@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr
Professeur Émérite de Sciences de l'Éducation et de la Formation
Université Grenoble Alpes Laboratoire de Recherche sur les
Apprentissages en Contexte (LaRAC)

Dr Ruth Allen – International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), Europe region Contact,
Chief Executive of the British Association of Social Workers. Delegate for Europe to INGO –
United Kingdom – ruth.allen@basw.co.uk

2. Which INGOs are represented on the committee?

1. EUROCEF
2. International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)
3. Hope For Children
4. Defence for Children International (DCI)
5. Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE)
6. International Council on Shared Parenting (ICSP)

7. International Alliance of Women (IAW)
8. Federation of Catholic Family Associations (FAFCE)
9. Parents International (IPA)
10. European Social Action Network (ESAN)

3. Which Council of Europe committees and other activities is this committee mainly involved in? Please provide a list, a brief description of how your committee is involved.

1. The CoE Ministerial Steering Committee of the Rights of the Child (CDENF) within which (under its terms of Reference 2022 – 2025) CINGO has (non-voting) participant status. The CINGO Committee has been represented by the Chair and members of CINGO Committee have been present as observer representatives of their own INGOS.

The CINGO Committee involvement has focused particularly on the subordinate body to the CDENF – *The Committee of experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)*. The committee Chair and other members have contributed to the ongoing work of the Committee of Experts, in Strasbourg and Dublin as well as online, providing in depth, expert consultation input to drafting and in particular advocated from a civil society perspective, the importance of a focus on the voice of the child/adolescent in proceedings and the importance of ongoing relationships with both parents where feasible within parental separation.

Lanzarote Committee

On behalf of the Conference of NGOs of the Council of Europe, FAFCE Policy Manager attended between the 31st of January and 2nd of February 2023 the 37th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee, the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The 3 days meeting focused first on initiatives to protect children against sexual abuse and sexual exploitation as a consequence of the war in Ukraine. Participants also tackled the increase in the issue of self-generated sexual content. Experts from the GREVIO Committee were also participating to present the link between the Lanzarote and Istanbul Convention in the protection of girls and boys from violence, especially when witnessing domestic violence. Observers NGOs were invited to present their field work, and Ambassadors received the most recent handbooks drafted by the Lanzarote Committee.

4. How has this committee linked with other CINGO committees in the last year?

Cooperation with the committee Rights of persons who are migrants to organise a webinar in the autumn of 2023.

Exchanges with the Standing Committee for the publication of the declaration '*The fundamental rights of Ukrainian children must be respected – Conference of INGOS Declaration*'

The Committee has shared members with the CINGO Gender Equality and Rights of Women Committee

5. How can new members join the committee (please provide email address for expression of interest)?

Members of OING are welcome to participate.

Email address: civilsocietycommittee.rc@gmail.com

6. What else could CINGO Standing Committee and Secretariat do to support the work of the committee and the communications between your committee, other members of CINGO and other parts of CoE?

We need dedicated staff time to follow the events organised by the Council of Europe, identify INGOs that can participate and/or represent the Committee at these events. For example, due to lack of resources we were unable to organise representation at the 7th plenary meeting of the CDENF (28-29 March 2023)

7. If your committee is at the end of its two-year mandate at the 2023 Spring Session of the General Assembly, please answer the following questions:

- a. Does the committee wish to continue its mandate for another year? Yes
- b. Please explain why the extension of mandate for another year is being requested and describe what objectives this committee will be pursuing over the next 12 months up to Spring 2024 (no more than 250 words). (Please also send a work plan for 2024/24 with this form if available).

- The committee is still building momentum and establishing its impact within CoE.

- It has already planned two events after the April GA, a) Workshop on Child Hearing and Participation (which links to a key CDENF theme) in Portugal in May [Herminio Correa, Parents International]; b) Webinar on children in migration (with the CINGO Migration Committee) in Autumn [Katerina Melissari, Hope for Children].

- The mandate of the CINGO representative to CJ/ENF-ISE has been prolonged : CJ/ENF-ISE work plan has been prolonged for the second time. The recommendation on the BIC in parental separation will be completed by the end of 2023 and the recommendation on care proceedings by the end of 2024. This mandate is referred to the committee because the CSC-RC members are consulted on the documents to be discussed during CJ/ENF-ISE meetings. The delegate must convey the views of the CSC-RC members and civil society to the CJ/ENF-ISE experts.

- c. Has the committee decided to continue with the same Chair or appoint a new one?

If a new Chair is being proposed, please give their name.

The current Chair, Michel Grangeat, will continue to Chair the CSC-RC through 2023.

The committee will identify another potential Chair before April 2024 should a new Rights of the Child committee be proposed.

He will also pursue his mandate as CINGO representative to CDENF until the end of 2023. He will be able to work on the first CJ/ENF-ISE recommendation on children in parental separation.

A new delegate will be needed in 2024, to participate to the next steps of the CJ/ENF-ISE work plan on child in care proceedings.

After this year of extension, the recommendation of the current committee is that CINGO should renew the mandate of CSC-RC or create another children's rights committee. Child rights and the health and wellbeing of future generations are crucial to CoE Strategy. Child's rights and the rights of parents/families are also key interfaces where civil society freedoms and state powers are negotiated. These will continue to be important areas for INGOs to bring expert perspectives into the CoE Ministerial considerations. The solid foundation that we have built collectively during this first mandate needs to be developed.

The CJ/ENF-ISE work plan might be prolonged after 2024 in order to monitor the implementation of the recommendations and needs ongoing INGO input.

The involvement of civil society in CJ/ENF-ISE is crucial since our inputs are always very appreciated by national experts.

The European Commission delegate is very interested by the reflections, discussions, results and events held by our committee (CSC-RC)

8. Activity and Outcomes Report – please choose up to 6 main topics. Please add links to any online resources/publications/reports (etc) your committee has created and published in the last 12 months.

Topic	Summary of progress/impact in last 6 months	Current key issues/concerns	Plans for next 6 – 12 months
<p>1. Webinar Evaluation and determination of the best interests of the child in parental separation and care proceedings Exchange of views and knowledge among specialists and professionals</p>	<p>French translation of the last webinar report and interpretation of the 15 highlights thanks to the voluntary work of a Masters student in interpreting in Ireland</p> <p>https://rm.coe.int/cin-go-csc-rc-webinaire2022-rapport-fr/1680aa543b</p>	<p>The two 2022 webinar reports (En & Fr) had been disseminated in the European Justice Network</p>	<p>To organize :</p> <p>1- <i>Workshop on Child Hearing and Participation in Portugal (May 9 2023)</i></p> <p>2- <i>Webinar on children in migration (Autumn 2023)</i></p>

<p>2. CJ/ENF-ISE</p>	<p>Participation in the 2 meetings (Dublin, Strasbourg). Comments on the draft recommendation before each meeting.</p> <p>https://rm.coe.int/cje-nf-ise-2023-lop1-1680aa6538</p>	<p>CJ/ENF-ISE work plan was prolonged for the second time. The recommendation on the BIC in parental separation will be completed by the end of 2023 and the recommendation on care proceedings by the end of 2024.</p>	<p>To continue to contribute to the CDENF and CJ/ENF-ISE through representative presence in both. (Nb The work plan of CJ/ENF-ISE might be prolonged after 2024 in order to monitor the implementation of the recommendations.)</p>
<p>3. Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe</p>	<p>Committee participation in the meeting</p> <p>https://rm.coe.int/liste-des-decisions-37e-reunion-comite-de-lanzarote/1680aa2ccf</p>		<p>The CRC representative will continue to attend the Lanzarote Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, report to and liaise with committee members and wider CINGO and bring civil society perspectives to the committee.</p>
<p>4. Future planning for impact within CoE: Consider future focus and scope of CSC-RC from 2024</p>			<p>Scope and prioritise future work of CSC-RC (or a successor committee) in response to other priority themes of CDENF and the CoE Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2022-2027</p>

9. Is there anything else you would like to share with CINGO members and/or the CINGO Standing Committee?