

## **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:** ECCH&H - Environment, Climate Change, Heritage & Health

**Date of report:** 14.04.2023

**Report author name and contact details:** Members of the Committee (Stefania Petrosillo, [stefania.petrosillo@europarc.org](mailto:stefania.petrosillo@europarc.org))

**Date committee was approved by CINGO General Assembly:** Spring 2021

***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.***

*To encourage members to read all the committee reports and to share information effectively, please keep your free text sections **short and focused on priorities activities and actions.***

**1. Committee Chair/Vice Chair name/s and contact emails**  
Carol Ritchie, EUROPARC Federation, [carol.ritchie@europarc.org](mailto:carol.ritchie@europarc.org) (additional contact person [stefania.petrosillo@europarc.org](mailto:stefania.petrosillo@europarc.org) )

**2. Which INGOs are represented on the committee?**

EUROPARC Federation  
European Association of Archaeologists EAA  
CivilScape  
EURODOC European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers  
European Confederation of Youth Club Organisations ECYC  
International Diabetes Federation IDF - Europe  
Friends of the Earth/ProNatura  
European Environment Bureau EEB

**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.**

The Committee participated in the drafting process for a recommendation on human rights and the protection of the environment by the Drafting Group on Human Rights and Environment (CDDH-ENV) under the title *Promotion and protection of human rights by ensuring a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. (see point 8 for more details)*

Sophie Hüglin (European Association of Archaeologists, EAA) is representing the CINGO at the Conference of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention.

Jesper Hubertus de Raad (European Association of Archaeologists, EAA) is Youth Delegate at the CINGOs.

Sophie Hüglin and Jesper Hubertus de Raad attend the meetings of the EAA Heritage Advisory Committee; they have the task to update the EAA website with informations on the CoE and relevant CoE Conventions [https://www.e-a-a.org/About/About\\_EAA/Council\\_of\\_Europe/EAA/Navigation\\_About/Recognition\\_by\\_the\\_CoE.aspx](https://www.e-a-a.org/About/About_EAA/Council_of_Europe/EAA/Navigation_About/Recognition_by_the_CoE.aspx)

The Committee supported Sophie Hüglin (EAA) who launched a petition towards Germany and Austria asking them to sign the Landscape Convention; the request was handed in formally by CINGO President Gerhard Ermischer on 20th October 2022 the International Landscape Day (*see point 8 for more details*)

In 2022 IDF Europe worked to integrate the messages of the Aarhus convention into its communications through newsletter and for the World Environment Day 2022. (*see point 8 for more details*)

Stefania Petrosillo (EUROPARC) has recently been appointed as member of the Work Group on green public administration on behalf of the Conference of INGOs.

EUROPARC created informal connections between the Committee and EU NGOs platforms, in particular EHF-European Habitat Forum.

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

See above for the collaborations.

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

Normally that would be the chair of the committee, and it just needs an expression of interest - but the Committee does not ask for prolongation.

**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?**

Not relevant. The Committee decided not to ask for an extension.

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? NO

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).

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.

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
1. Human rights and the protection of the environment	In this the committee linked up with other members of the Conference and other NGOs participating in the process to give a consolidated and strong opinion of Civil Society to the draft recommendation. In this context were also discussed the possibilities of a Convention on environment and human rights or a possible addendum to the Convention of Human Rights itself. These issues were also intensively debated in the vicinity of the Civil Society Forum in The	This topic is part of the discussion on possible priorities of the CoE.	////

	<p>Hague and are part of the discussion on possible priorities of the CoE for the Reykjavik Summit which will take place 16-17 May 2023.</p>		
<p><b>2.</b> Landscape Convention</p>	<p>The Committee supported Sophie Hüglin (EAA) who launched a petition towards Germany and Austria asking them to sign the Landscape Convention; the request was handed in formally by CINGO President Gerhard Ermischer on 20th October 2022 the International Landscape Day; Germany and Austria refused to take up the recommendation. Sophie Hüglin and Gerhard Ermischer have been invited by Ellen Fetzer, the organiser of this year's conference, to participate in the International Landscape Forum in Nürtingen on 27th June 2023; there will be the opportunity to discuss future strategies and cooperations regarding the Landscape Convention.</p>	<p>Germany and Austria refused to take up the recommendation. More actions will follow.</p>	<p>////</p>

<p><b>3.</b> Bern Convention</p>	<p>The Committee supported and signed the letter “<i>NGO concerns regarding the financing of the Bern Convention</i>” addressed to the Delegates of the Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention. EUROPARC worked to increase awareness among protected areas and national management authorities about the importance of the Bern Convention and the concerns regarding the financing and the future of its Secretariat.</p>	<p>The financial issues are not solved</p>	<p>////</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Aarhus convention</p>	<p>In 2022 IDF Europe worked to integrate the messages of the Aarhus convention into its communications through newsletter (800 subscribers) and social media (Twitter, Facebook). For example, on World Environment Day 2022, IDF Europe published an article promoting the Aarhus convention that establishes a number</p>	<p>////</p>	<p>////</p>

	<p>of rights of the public with regard to the environment, such as the state of human health and safety where this can be affected by the state of the environment. The article is available here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.idf.org/our-network/regions-members/europe/europe-news/530-world-environment-day-2022.html">https://www.idf.org/our-network/regions-members/europe/europe-news/530-world-environment-day-2022.html</a></p>		
<p><b>5</b> Connections among topics and members</p>	<p>The Committee has been very useful for members in better understanding and be aware about the connections among the different areas of work of their NGOs and created contacts for future development of common actions</p>	<p>/////</p>	<p>/////</p>
<p><b>6</b> Conventions' Communication and coordination</p>	<p>The Committee started to analyse the communication's needs on the Conventions of Bern Convention, Landscape (Florence) Convention, Aarhus Convention; and Faro Convention</p>	<p>Even if a specific final and official recommendation document has not been produced, the Committee considers still that it is necessary to create a better coordination and mutual connection among these Conventions, for example including addendum or new glossaries to the Conventions, and implementing wider</p>	<p>/////</p>

		and more integrated communication's campaigns.	
--	--	--	--

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

The Committee decided to not ask for a prolongation. Nevertheless its members remain convinced that the need of a specific attention to the coordination and mutual connection among the Conventions on environment, landscape, health and culture, is crucial for the future work of the Council of Europe. The recent declaration of the healthy environment as human right reinforces still more this necessity. Therefore, the members of the Committee will look for new and different ways to collaborate with the CINGO Standing Committee and Secretariat, as well as other Committees, to impulse the CoE's future actions in this direction.