



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

*Access to fundamental rights for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.
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CINGO Committee Report - Common Format GA version Spring 2023

Committee Name: [Rights of persons who are migrants](#)

Report date: March 22, 2023

Name and contact details of the author of the report: Daniel GUERY (MIAMSI) & Communication Unit

In order to encourage members to read all committee reports and to share information effectively, please keep your free text sections short and focused on priority activities and actions.

1. Name and email address of committee chair:

- Daniel GUERY guery.daniel@sfr.fr MIAMSI

Vice-President/Assistant and Contact Email: Coordination Team

- Marc van den Reeck (in charge of axis 2: access of migrants to their rights)
mvdreeck@gmail.com
- Anna Rurka (responsible for axis 1: access of INGOs to migrants)
anrurka@gmail.com
- Salomé Brun and Elena Bortolin (Communication Officers)
salome_brun@orange.fr - elena.bortolin@hotmail.fr

2. Which NGOs are represented on the committee? 26

Association Volontaire Europe – ACISJF – Bnai Brith International – Boat Refugees - Caritas Europa – Choose Love – Danish Refugees Council – ESAN – EUROCEF – EUROGEO – EUROPEAN DOCTORS – EYBA – FIACAT – Justice et Paix Europe – Médecins du Monde – Mental Health Europa – MIAMSI – Observatoire Européen Non-Discrimination et Droits Fondamentaux - Pax Romana MIIC – PICUM – QCEA – RENATE – EU Eglises / Liberté Network – Réseau Européen des Apatrides – The Smile of the Child – SOS Méditerranée – UNAEC Europe

3. In which committees and other Council of Europe activities is this committee mainly involved? *See attached list.*

4. How has this committee been linked to other CINGO committees over the past year?

Permanent link with several Committees through ad hoc INGOs (**Education** – UNAEC / **Social Rights** – Caritas Europa / **Interreligious and interconvictional** – Eglise en liberté – **Committee on the Rights of the Child** – with the presidency). *See list attached to point 3.*

5. How can new members join the committee (please provide an email address to express your interest)?

Sending a request to the President: guery.daniel@sfr.fr and other contact emails (see point number 1)

6. What more could the Permanent Committee and the CINGO Secretariat do to support the work of the Committee and communications between your Committee, other CINGO members and other CoE parties?

Facilitate the smoothness of exchanges and shorten response times.

Send the reports of the PC's meetings directly to the Presidents so that they can spread the information to their members... It would make the work so much more efficient.

7. If your committee comes to the end of its two-year term during 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 the mandate for an additional year is requested and describe the objectives that this committee will pursue over the next 12 months until spring 2024 (no more than 250 words). (Please also send a work plan for 2023/24 with this form if available).

The extension of the Migration Committee was requested by its members mainly for four reasons. Actions were identified for these 4 reasons:

- **Assume the follow-up of the activities carried out in recent months** and which will only be validated during the next General Assembly (in particular the recommendation which requests to be disseminated and presented to the various bodies of the Council of Europe)
- **Carry out Webinar projects already well underway** with others:
 - + The Interreligious / Interfaith Committee
 - + Children's Rights Committee
 - + the Education to Democracy Committee
- **Ensure the monitoring on migration** regarding current events in Europe or Member INGOs
- **Anticipate the end of the mandate of the Committee "Rights of Migrants"** by designing and proposing ways to make the concerns of the Conference of INGOs in the field of migration and human rights sustainable.

c. **Has the committee decided to keep the same chair or appoint a new one? If a new Chair is proposed, please indicate the name.**

At its meeting on 2023 March, 8th and 9th, the Committee decided to **keep the same Chair, Mr. Daniel Guéry.**

The idea of a female and male co-chair was raised for all Committees in the coming legislatures as well as encouragement for the creation of "internal" working groups delegated to one of the members of the committee.

Activity and Results Report - please choose up to 6 main topics/areas of activity.

Key topic/activity	Summary of progress/impacts over the past 6 months	Current key issues	Projects for the next 6 /12 months
<p>1</p> <p>Visit-mission to Greece</p> <p>(November 2022)</p>	<p>Visit of 5 members of the Committee led on site by The Smile of the Child</p> <p>Confirmation and reinforcement of the approaches of the last 2 years</p>	<p>Disseminate conclusions of the visit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * all INGOs of the Conference * the different pillars of the CoE * all services concerned 	<p>- Exploit the conclusions with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PACE * Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
<p>2</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Drafted by an ad hoc working group and supported by the entire Committee</p>	<p>- Produce a reference document on issues of NGOs access to migrant populations, ...</p> <p>- ... and rights in terms of security, education, health of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.</p>	<p>- Anchor the reflections raised by the Committee's plan of action on a political basis on which the Council's bodies and Member States can rely if they wish so</p> <p>Holistic view on the migration topic</p>	<p>Follow-up and dissemination of the recommendation to:</p> <p>SRSRG Congress MIG PACE Committee Office of the Commissioner of Human Rights Etc...</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Link with the Special Representation of the Secretary General for Migration</p>	<p>- Regular contacts and collaboration on the basis of the Council of Europe Action Plan on the protection of vulnerable persons in the context of migration and asylum in Europe (2021-2025)</p>	<p>- Themes of the Action Plan in common with the Committee's reflections and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * mental health * the reception of migrants from Ukraine * country visits by the SRSRG: proposal of contacts 	<p>- Continue a collaboration on the basis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the mission in Greece * the recommendation presented in April 2023 to the General Assembly of the Conference
<p>4</p> <p>Webinars Completed and to come</p>	<p>Made:</p> <p>Pushbacks (carried by EYBA)</p> <p>Human trafficking / Ukraine (carried by RENATE)</p> <p>Planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Migration / Religions and Beliefs (with IRC Committee) * Migrant children / Rights and protection (with Children's Rights Committee) * Migration – right to education (with Education to Democracy Committee) 	<p>Raising awareness among INGOs/NGOs and civil society actors on the various aspects of migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * in terms of respect for rights * in relation to various vulnerable audiences * in the context of the right of NGOs to access migrants. 	<p>- Continue the involvement of the Committee on these issues.</p> <p>- Continue and share an enlightened reflection on the themes addressed</p>

<p>5</p> <p>Link with PACE's Migration Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening the link - Exchange of views Participation in the Committee's activities (interventions on integration) - Presentation of the recommendation 	<p>The question of integration,</p> <p>Current issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intensify links. - Addressee of the Committee's recommendation carried by the Conference. - Continue the exchange of views on present or future topics.
<p>6</p> <p>Make the concern of the Conference on migration issues sustainable</p> <p>Ensure the watch on migration topics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Anticipate the end of the mandate of the Committee "Rights of Migrants" by designing and proposing ways to make the concerns of the Conference of INGOs in the field of migration and human rights sustainable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide the Conference of INGOs with a relevant instrument allowing a watch "on migration issues" - perpetuate active participation in the actions of the SRSB for migration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure the watch itself in the field in connection with the local sections of the Committee's INGOs. - Imagine and propose to the Conference tools, means to ensure this monitoring.

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

Wish that the CINGO website provide more information on the various Conference Committees.

Annex / involvement of the Committee

3. In which committees and other Council of Europe activities is this committee mainly involved?

See attached list.

The Committee on the Rights of Migrants has regular contacts with the "Permanent Commission" of the Conference of INGOs, its President and G enevi ve Laloy, its representative for the Committee.

3.1 Since its creation, its validation by the General Assembly on April 2021, the Committee on the Rights of Migrant Persons has contacted the **Special Representation of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on Migration, Refugees and Asylum Seekers**.

In concrete terms, this means:

- ✓ An initial contact with presentation of the objectives,
- ✓ A comparative presentation between the "Council of Europe Action Plan" and the Committee's Action Plan "Rights of Migrant Persons"; the identification of commonalities with the aim of working collaboratively,
- ✓ Participation in coordination meetings between the various departments and services of the Council of Europe (quarterly meetings) in order to inform each other and enrich specific approaches and actions.
At the last meeting, the Committee was able to express its views on the question of the "mental health" of migrants in relation to the situations they are likely to experience.
- ✓ A special meeting was organised to present the Committee's visit-mission to Greece with a comparative analysis between the Council of Europe Action Plan for Migrants, the project of the Migration Committee of the Conference of INGOs and the conclusions of the visit to Greece. Several points were retained by the SRSO such as the major importance of access to safe accommodation that respects the dignity of each person, the importance of pooling local, regional and national skills, etc.

3.2 **The issues dealt with by the Committee on the Rights of Migrants are naturally linked to other Committees** created in April 2021 or at the last General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe. Indeed, the Committee is particularly committed to address the **holistic dimension of migration** and not just one aspect. At least one representative of the following Committees are thus present as a "structural link":

- ✓ **The Committee of "Civil Society for the Rights of the Child"**
- ✓ **The Committee "Action for Social Rights"**
- ✓ **The Interreligious and Interfaith Committee**
- ✓ **The Committee: "Education for Democracy"**

Concretely, this means that the drafting of the foundation texts on the right to health, safety and education have been carried out taking into account the reflections of the other Committees, but above all that we are committed to specific "inter-committee" activities such as ad hoc webinars (see table of activities of the report).

3.3 Links with other Council of Europe bodies

- ✓ **The Committee of Ministers**
Presence of a representative of the Netherlands delegation at the Side Event "*Shadow games*"
- ✓ **The "Migration Commission" of the Parliamentary Assembly**
 - Participation in the side event "*Shadow games*"
 - Participation in a meeting of the Commission with an exchange of views and future joint work, including a statement on the theme:
Integration of migrants and refugees: benefits for all stakeholders

✓ **The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights**

- Contact has been made with the Office
- Sending information on the situation at the Spanish-Moroccan border
- Meeting with a delegate to present the report of the visit-mission to Greece

✓ **The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities**

- Meeting members of the Congress during coordination meetings organized by the SRSG for migration.
- Meeting to come in 2023-2024

The recommendation, once voted by the Conference of INGOs, will be an opportunity to strengthen or even create even closer links with the various actors of the Council of Europe.