

CONFERENCE OF INGOs CONF/AG(2022)SYN3

MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY Report Wednesday 5 October 2022 09.30 - 12:00 14:00 – 16:30 Hybrid meeting (Palais Room 2 & Room 3 + Kudo)

Morning Session open (09.30 – 12.00)

- 09:30** - Opening of the meeting by Gerhard Ermischer, President of the Conference
- Nomination of the Rapporteurs of the meeting
 - Morning: Geneviève Laloy
 - Afternoon: Olga Sadovskaya
 - Draft agenda *adopted*
 - Report of the General Assembly of 5-6 April 2022 *adopted*

09:45 Committees' reports and discussion - questions and answers:

Brief reports from the CINGO Committees and discussion with members, inspired by the networking event on Tuesday 4 October afternoon.

Cfr online documents sent as short reports requested by the Standing Committee.

- [Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence](#), Gilbert Flam, International League against Racism and Antisemitism (LICRA)
 - Online report (see [Committee website](#) for more information).
 - Regular meetings
 - Webinars :
 - 1st webinar on Institutions
 - Next webinars :

- IA & Education: either on 15 or 22/11. Organised by the FEDE INGO in connection with the Education SC (one SC member will be present).
 - IA & Media
 - IA & Security
 - 18 INGOs represented. Different competences.
 - Links needed with other international organisations. It is important to ensure a better visibility of the INGO.
- [Interreligious and interconvictional dialogue](#), Gabriela Frey, European Buddhist Union **OR** Sören Lenz, Conference of European Churches (CEC)
 - Power Point presentation & online report (see [Committee website](#) for more information).
 - Current events: We know that religion can be a threat. Cfr for example the case of Iran. The committee is aware of this.
 - Importance of using the term interconvictional beyond interreligious.
 - Desire to create a platform for interfaith dialogue
 - Collection of various tools & good practices. Examples: Emouna, Academy of World Religions, GERFEC, Amounah/Malmö, etc.
 - Results presented in webinars.
 - See various info in online report.
 - Inter-religious dialogue cannot be avoided given the existence of religions.
 - **Questions & reactions :**
 - This committee has a role in education but also in prevention
 - Intercultural & interfaith education has a long history
 - Importance of non-formal education: through music, art in general, etc.
 - Wish to organize
 - In spring: a webinar in schools on interfaith relations & a safe environment.
 - In autumn: a webinar on gender issues.
 - Will there be a reflection on the phenomena of radicalisation in all religions? This is the concern of this committee.
- [Action for Social Rights](#), Anna Rurka, European Committee for Home-based Priority Action for the Child and the Family (EUROCEF)
 - Online report (see [Committee website](#) for more information)
 - Committee composed of 16 INGOs.
 - 17 October: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: ceremony & webinar
 - Project to create a collaborative platform with
 - Information & good practices
 - Alert system on the situation in the different countries / collection from INGOs of the CINGO: form to be sent online
 - Hosting of trainees
 - Thanks to the INGO Service for the financial support.
 - Social Charter reform: JB Marie

- Follow-up of the charter reform by the committee
 - Committee associated with the working group to the Committee of Ministers for this reform. CINGO's position reaffirmed at the Tuesday pm WG meeting. Implementation in May 2023.
- **Questions & reactions**
 - Great pride in the work of the Committee and the INGO.
 - Key issue of equal pay for women and men: case law and funding. Important aspects to be pointed out.
 - Importance of collective claims but also of contributions via reports.
- Environment, Climate Change, Heritage and Health, Carol Ritchie, Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe (EUROPARC)
 - Power Point presentation. No report online.
 - Carol Ritchie absent as she is attending another meeting.
 - Committee meetings once a month.
 - Broad theme.
 - Landscape Day organised on 20 October by the CoE. Round table organised by the committee from 10am to 12pm on that day.
- [Environmental and health crisis: governance and solidarity issues](#), Anne-Marie Chavanon, International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP)
 - Power Point presentation & online report (see [Committee website](#) for more information)
 - Echoes of the committee meetings.
 - Hearings of experts from different European countries.
 - Hearings of policy makers on governance in times of crisis.
 - Participation in events organised by the CoE.
 - Development of partnerships through international networking events.
 - In the framework of the SGDs, contribution to the CoE's engagement.
 - Participation in Stockholm+50.
 - Alert system also on the Committee's website (English & French) in addition to the information on the conference website.
- [Civil Society Committee on the Rights of the Child](#), Michel Grangeat, European Committee for home-based priority action for the child and the family (EUROCEF) presentation by Bénédicte Colin
 - Online report (see [Committee website](#) for more information)
 - Different events organised: webinars
 - Childcare: wish to work with more and more members.
 - Different tools, videos, published on internet.
 - Wish to have technical assistance from CoE.
 - Complement provided by Ruth Allen
 - Wish to have more members
 - Focus on divorce issues as this is a CoE topic

- Importance of online and face-to-face networking.
 - Michel Grangeat is in Dublin at the conference on children's rights.
- [Rights of persons who are migrants](#), Daniel Guery, International Movement of Apostolate in Middle and Upper Classes (MIAMSI)
 - Power Point presentation & online report (see [Committee website](#) for more information)
 - General public document sent & published before the summer to everyone.
 - DG draws attention to certain aspects:
 - Two major objectives:
 - Working with INGOs on migrants' rights
 - Access of migrants to their fundamental rights. Choice of 3 rights: security, health & education
 - Holistic recommendation in preparation
 - Presentation & sharing of Shadow Games film - <https://shadowgame.eu/en/homepage/>
 - Webinar on Pushbacks - 25 October 2022 at 1pm
 - 18 October: Anti-Trafficking Day. Info to be communicated
 - Search for local NGOs in Romania that Ms Kayacik can meet during her next visit to Romania.
 - Committee visit to Greece
- [NGOs as advocates for gender equality and women's rights](#), Bettina Hahne, Soroptimist International of Europe **OR** Anita Schnetzer-Spranger, Zonta International
 - This committee is different as it tries to promote the CoE conventions on women's rights and gender equality.
 - Focus on the Istanbul Convention & the Race Charter
 - Objective to explain what INGOs can do to implement these conventions.
 - Example of a project in Portugal
 - Hermínio Corrêa
 - sharing a video "Always
 - info on this project to raise children's awareness on gender equality: PP presentation (Media Smart)
- [Education for Democracy](#), Arja Krauchenberg, Lifelong Learning Platform / European Parents Association
 - Common platform for document collection: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17ZRwhensTjARcJmRy4ATLx6T9n3lawF9jrgHrg-0ALY/edit?pli=1>
 - First meeting in May 2022
 - Start collecting good practices. Platform on Google drive. 6 good practices so far.

- Importance of aiming at lifelong education for democracy in formal and non-formal education (family environment for example).

Time for questions & further information:

- Gerhard Ermischer stressed the interest of the informal meeting time organised on Tuesday afternoon for the first time between the committees and the different INGOs.
- Same organisation next April. Call to INGOs to actively participate.
- Are we aware of the situation for migrants in the Netherlands?
- Question of the instrumentalisation of the green line for migrants in Cyprus.

Afternoon Session (14.00-16:30)

- **INGO Service:** Davide Cappecci - News (including finances for committees & resignation)

The aims of the OING service – enable NGOs to intervene

OING Service provides an amount of 1000€ for each committee per year and committee are welcome to apply.

Mr. Cappecci is leaving the post of the president

14:00 Update on CINGO activities

- **Oral reports by Gerhard Ermischer, President of the Conference,**

Message from Gerhard Ermischer that CINGO needs to participate in the discussion about reformation of COE work because of Russia. Summit on that will be likely in May 2023.

Group of eminent people drafted a report on several important issues and the report was distributed among the members via email.

Questions:

- Concerns about monopolizing gambling by the state
- Tribunal on Ukraine should be built with participation with the people affected

i. on the CINGO country visits to Finland and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Report from Gerhard Ermischer on country visits in brief (to be presented in full in spring)

1. Finland

The visit was organized in full cooperation with the local NGOs and authorities.

Topics covered during the visit:

- Lottery fund with money to NGOs and need to decrease NGO dependence on state money.

- Issue with police abuse during breaking the protests and need to improvement.
- Encouragement of Finnish parliament to create a path for cooperation of civil society of Finland with the CoE more intensively.

2. **Bosnia and Hertsegovina**

G. Ermisher mentioned extremely strong civil society of the country.

Topics covered during the visit:

- Women rights NGOs
- Recommendations of GRAVIO and Istanbul convention are not fulfilled by the governments, on the contrary the government reacts on recommendations under GRETA

ii. ***on his visit to Andorra by the special invitation of the Government of Andorra***

GE reported on his visit to Andorra and on possibilities to strengthen civil society in Andorra with support of CINGO.

The cooperation will be continued with the next visit in November 2022 to meet with civil society.

During the visit GE also had a meeting with a member of eminent persons group to discuss the letter mentioned above.

iii. ***on other developments***

Intervention on Poland from Celine Parisot representing Europe association of magistrates.

Topics covered:

- Strong pressure on judges at Constitutional court that ruins their independence.
- Protests from the judges
- Reforms aimed at increase control over legal system in the country.
- Modification of the Supreme court when 23 out of 25 members were appointed through new procedure that lacks independency.
- Obstacles to fulfill the ECHR judgments directly.
- Repeated violations of EU law by Poland

- Oral report by Jeremy McBride, President of the Expert Council on NGO Law

<https://rm.coe.int/expert-council-moneyval-study-17-05-2022-en/1680a68923>

Two reports presented:

1. *Upcoming report on Belarus includes the following topics:*

- Law on citizenship
- Law of demonstrations
- Notion on extremist activity

- Responsibility for the senior management of the NGOs acting in personal capacity
2. *CoE Financial Action Task Force (against money laundering and financing terrorists). Report on impact FATS has on NGOs.*
- NGOs are seen as risk for funding terrorism and problem its disclosure of the founders and owners.
 - Insufficient dissention between non-profit organizations.
 - Report shows the nature of the problem and the working methods that were used
 - FATS is used to impose stricter restrictions on NGO
 - Need for FATS become critical om how it is implemented by the state

Intervention by Ludviga Maria Contes on women in Ukraine that included the following data:

- 7 mln of women and children on occupied territories
- 7 mln women and kids left Ukraine,
- 1 mln of women live in occupied villages and need psychological support and treatment,
- 1 100 women died since the beginning of the war.

Interventions by Gerhard Ermisher:

- Recognition of the CINGO from the side of the ambassadors that gives additional opportunities.
- Participation in Ministerial Conference in Torino.
- Issues with non-appointment of Olga Sadovskaya as a representative of CINGO at GR-H, on the topic of “Addressing disinformation and propaganda within a human rights framework” because of the citizenship issue.

Intervention by Anna Rurka:

- Call for all INGOs to participate in preparation for the Summit in Iceland in May 2023.

16:30 End of meeting of the first day of the General Assembly