



CONFERENCE OF INGOs  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## Terms of reference of a Committee – proposal form

**INGOs wishing to propose the creation of a committee to the Conference of INGOs are invited to transmit the following information, together with the requested documents, no later than 21 March to [NGO-Unit@coe.int](mailto:NGO-Unit@coe.int)**

### **1. Proposed Title**

Environment, Climate Change, Heritage & Health

ECCH&H

### **2. Background and links with the priorities of the Conference of INGOs and the Council of Europe** (please indicate also the specific documents / legal / institutional instruments you wish to refer to) (500 words max)

The climate change emergency, the perilous state of biodiversity, the ongoing land consumption through infrastructure and agriculture in Europe and even more the recent COVID-19 pandemic, have highlighted the intrinsic need and link between human health, heritage and nature. Therefore, we call upon the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs to allow for establishing of a Thematic Committee on the theme of Environment and Climate Change, Heritage & Health.

All of these critical topics – environment, climate change heritage and health have inequalities in terms of access and effects embedded in them, and moreover, their governance needs to be founded in sound participatory democratic principles. Democracy, human rights and the rule of law are deeply applicable and need to be ensured across these important themes in our societies.

A new Thematic Committee dedicated to bridge the perceived nature-culture divide, improve mutual understanding, gather and disseminate good practice, ensure a check and balance for public institutions, and provide a cross sectoral platform is – we believe – urgent now.

This committee will seek an integrated approach, bringing together INGO's from a range of different sectors, addressing the human rights aspect of environment, in context with climate change and health needs a collective overview. Fundamentally the committee seek to overcome the nature/culture divide that hinders collaboration and progress towards a shared vision, that protect human rights, upholds democracy and the rule of law and promote awareness and encourage the development of Europe's cultural identity and shared values.

The supporting organisations listed below, are committed to ensuring we highlight and emphasise, the interconnections and holistic approach between our areas of interest. Further we realise that all aspects of civil society and indeed the Council of Europe Conventions are touched by Environment, by Climate Change, by Heritage and by Health. Further the inclusion of a strong youth element (ECYC) in the make-up of the committee, reflects the importance of the voice of young people to be central to these discussions.

The importance of conventions will only be strengthened through their referencing where relevant, how the conventions themselves are vehicle to deliver not only the purposes of the conventions themselves but address these wider issues crucial for European society. The Bern, Florence, Aarhus and Faro Conventions in particular are a latent collective “toolbox”, which, with some new insight this committee can bring, be utilized to deliver a more just, sustainable and healthier Europe, which values and respects our shared natural and cultural heritage.

In addition, the committee will ensure the findings of the Ad Hoc Committee of Artificial Intelligence will be considered and applied, it impacts on environment, climate change, heritage and health

The Committee proposes also to liaise with the new created Drafting Group on Human Rights and Environment (CDDH-ENVà in charge to address the environmental protection challenges : [Environment and Human Rights \(coe.int\)](#)

The [European Heritage Alliance Manifesto](#) demonstrates the role culture and heritage play in healing, being, digitally transforming, greening, regenerating and experiencing Europe while embracing the World:

An [EAA Taskforce](#) is working on the EAA 2021 Kiel Statement on Archaeology and Climate Change which will be presented to members in September. Here is also the EAA Community on Climate Change and Heritage. Furthermore, EAA and EAC (European Archaeological Council) have formed a [Working Group on Farming, Forestry and Rural Land Management](#)

### **3. Committee's purpose(s)**

To collate and contribute to the work achieved under the auspices of all relevant Council of Europe conventions\* and committees with respect to Environment and Human Rights, referencing the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change commitments and the need for greater connectivity (as exposed through COVID-19) between people and nature and the need to ensure understanding of and to value our shared European heritage.

The following conventions, and their relevance, would be the priority areas of work for the committee

- Bern Convention – to address issues around human rights, justice and transparency of information around climate change, nature and health under whilst considering the conservation of flora and fauna and their natural habitats, and the promotion of international co-operation in this field;
- Landscape (Florence) Convention – to address issues around human rights, justice and transparency of information whilst promoting the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organise European co-operation on landscape issues;
- Aarhus Convention to ensure access to information, public participation and access to justice, in governmental decision-making processes in particular in relations to environment, climate change, heritage and health issues;
- Faro Convention – to ensure the important aspects of heritage as they relate to human rights and democracy are promoted and strengthen the understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and society.

Other conventions such as Valetta and Granada will also be referenced.

Through this holistic approach the committee will be seeking the commonalities between these conventions and ongoing intergovernmental work in the Council of Europe that address the 4 pillars Environment, climate change heritage and health

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In addition, and underpinning all work of the committee will be the European Convention on Human Rights and the growing case law pertaining to the view that the environment is a human rights issue

**To fulfil its purpose the committee will:**

To prepare communications to raise awareness and engagement on the importance of the Council of Europe conventions with respect to Environment, Climate Change Heritage and Health to a wide European audience

To ensure that decisions taken at all governmental levels, with respects to environment, cultural heritage, climate change and biodiversity follow democratic principles and principles of good governance.

To gather evidence and best practice on implementation and integration of policy, to support and improve practice in public institutions and civil society

**4. Its specific objective(s)**

To ensure the human rights of European citizens are upheld with respects to the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and the connection between people and natural and cultural heritage.

**5. Planned activities, working methods and timetable**

EUROPARC will chair the committee, with secretarial support to arrange meetings and record minutes. Supporting organisations as founding members of the committee will commit to, with the support of the secretariat, utilising their networks as vehicles of delivery and dissemination of the outputs of the committee, providing the widest reach possible.

The committee will however not restrict itself to the founding members but through the use of online tools and platforms seek to engage with INGO's and other from a wider range of interest especially health, social and environmental justice to stimulate further cross sectorial engagement and input.

The committee would, especially seek to ensure there is youth representation and engagement which will be secured through the inclusion of ECYC.

The committee has a good mix of experience in INGO and Council of Europe work and new perspectives, which will bring a fresh outlook approach and drive to this important areas of work.

The majority of meetings will be online, to be more accessible and sustainable. If possible and when safe to do so one, one and half day F2F meeting annually in Strasbourg.

- May-August 2021: Convene committee, agree action plan;
- August-December 2021: Undertake situational analysis and produce report. Include contact with all relevant conventions and including liaison with ad hoc committee for Artificial Intelligence and links to all branches of the Council of Europe;
- June-December 2021: Create platform of interest across INGO conference; plan and deliver workshop (if agreed);
- January-March 2022: Based on report, agree a communication plan;

- March 2022-June 2022: Raise awareness of issues, to meet objectives of committee through social media/meeting/online events as agreed in plan;
- September-December 2022: Analysis of feedback from communications; plan actions accordingly.

## 6. Expected outputs and their indicators

2021: Review of current situation regarding environment and human right, assessment of success and opportunities, clarification of goals and road map to delivery. Situation analysis report produced.

2021: Creation of cross sectoral network from within the INGO conference, beyond the immediate members of the committee and identify find common agenda, challenges and solutions, in parallel with situational analysis.

EUROPARC offers to host an online conference/workshop to ignite interest and gather inputs in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2021.

2022: Utilising the networks of interest and committed INGOs; creation of social media “campaign”, and other communications, to raise awareness across the Council of Europe conventions and civil society to invite participation in these discussions in relation to the current convention, how they can take on issue in relation to climate change, biodiversity intern of human rights and democratic process, and their applicability to European society.

2022: Productions and recommendations arising from the work of 2021. Communication campaign to gather political momentum for higher recognition and implementation of Council of Europe convention.

## 7. Names, contact details, expertise and experiences of the Heads of the INGO delegations supporting the creation of the Committee (at least 5)

1. EUROPARC Federation: Carol Ritchie [carol.ritchie@europarc.org](mailto:carol.ritchie@europarc.org)
2. CivilScope:: Gerhard Ermischer [gerhard.ermischer@ingo-coe.org](mailto:gerhard.ermischer@ingo-coe.org)
3. European Association of Archaeologists: Sophie Hueglin [s.hueglin@web.de](mailto:s.hueglin@web.de)
4. EEB : Sergiy [Moroz.moroz@eeb.org](mailto:Moroz.moroz@eeb.org)
5. Friends of the Earth Europe : Fredrich Wulf [Friedrich.Wulf@pronatura.ch](mailto:Friedrich.Wulf@pronatura.ch)
6. European Confederation of Youth Club Organisations (ECYC) Rares Craiut [ecyc@fcjimp.be](mailto:ecyc@fcjimp.be)

Notes of experience of the above , are contained in the accompanying document and CV's.

## 8. Names, contact details, expertise and experiences of the delegates who will take part in the Committee (at least 7)

**Experiences of names individuals are listed in the attached CV's and accompanying document.**

Relationship of INGO to EUROPARC is described here.

1. EUROPARC Federation Carol Ritchie Executive Director

2. EUROPARC Federation Stefania Petrosillo Policy Officer

As a European networking organisation , working with partners and seeing cross sectorial cooperation is a principle by which we operate, so I have had some contact with most of the organisations listed and who support the formation of this committee , through meetings, conference and discussion of mutual interest for many years

3. CivilScape : Gerhard Ermisher

Civilscape EUROPARC has had had several years of contact with as we share an outlook on the landscape convention .

4. European Association of Archaeologists (EAA): Sophie Hueglin,  
EAA is known from within the INGO conference itself.

5. EEB Sergiy Moroz EUROPARC has a long standing connection with EEB though shared research and platforms.

EEB EUROPARC have worked with staff members in European research project and in other workshops and other events.

6. FEE CH Friedrich Wulf

FEE pro natura are a long standing member of our Federation and have been present in many of our activities across all topic areas .

7. European Confederation of Youth Club Organisations (ECYC) Jonas Posset

8. European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers  
Beata Zwierzynska

**9. Chairperson of the Committee proposed for election by the Conference of INGOs**

Carol Ritchie  
Executive Director  
EUROPARC Federation

**10. As an attachment, you are requested to present the expertise and experience of the candidate for the position of Chairperson of this committee, in relation to the subject matter of the committee, as well as the expertise and experience of the Heads of the delegations supporting the creation of this committee**

**Extract from the [Rules of Procedure of the Conference of INGOs](#))**

**Rules that apply for the creation and functioning of a Committee, the validation of its mandate and of reporting and the election of the Chairperson of the Committee by the Conference of INGOs**

«61. Committees shall be established by the General Assembly on a proposal from the Standing Committee or from 5 Heads of Delegation to: (a) provide a focus for discussion and research on a particular issue relevant to the work of Council of Europe bodies; and (b) prepare reports on their findings together with, where appropriate, draft declarations, recommendations and resolutions for its consideration.

62. *In deciding to establish a Committee, the General Assembly shall have regard to:*  
(a) *the relevance of the proposed issue to be examined for the threeyear Strategic Plan adopted by the General Assembly and for work being undertaken, or that ought to be undertaken, by Council of Europe bodies;*  
(b) *the availability of sufficient expertise, whether amongst Delegates or that can otherwise be called upon;*  
(c) *the need to avoid overlap with an issue that is being addressed by an existing Committee;*  
(d) *the willingness of at least 7 Delegates to participate in it; and*  
(e) *the possibility of accommodating meetings of the proposed Committee in the schedules of forthcoming Sessions of the Conference.*

63. *The General Assembly when establishing a Committee shall specify its terms of reference and the duration of its operation. It shall then invite applications/proposals for the Chair, who shall be elected on a show of voting cards where the Session is held in Strasbourg and/or through use of voting passwords for each Session held through videoconferencing. Only Articles 100, 120 and 122 shall apply to the election of Chairs of Committees.*

64. *The duration of a Committee shall normally be limited to two years but, where a real need has been demonstrated, may be extended by the General Assembly for a third year.*

65. *Committee meetings shall be open to all Delegates and to persons invited by the Chair or the Standing Committee to take part in them. Those attending shall provide the Rapporteur with their email address for distribution of notes of meetings and draft reports.*

66. *Each Committee shall choose its Rapporteur at its first meeting*

67. *In the event of a Chair not being able to continue in this role, a replacement shall be appointed by the Standing Committee. In the event of a Rapporteur not being able to continue in this role, a replacement shall be appointed by the Committee at the first opportunity to do so.*

68. *The Chair of a Committee shall be responsible for:*  
(a) *chairing its meetings;*  
(b) *preparing its agenda in consultation with the Rapporteur and ensuring that this is sent to INGOs in accordance with Article 6;*  
(c) *circulating notes of meetings and draft reports;*  
(d) *inviting persons other than Delegates to participate in its meetings;*  
(e) *liaising with any Delegate appointed by the Standing Committee to represent the Conference on a Steering Committee or other body within the Council of Europe whose remit is relevant to the issue being examined;*  
(f) *presenting its reports submitted to the General Assembly;*  
(g) *submitting a request for any extension of the Committee duration; and*  
(h) *submitting interim and final reports for consideration by the General Assembly.*

69. *The Rapporteur shall be responsible for:*  
(a) *suggesting points to be included in the agenda;*  
(b) *preparing briefings for discussion at meetings;*  
(c) *preparing notes of meetings;*  
(d) *preparing interim and final reports; and*  
(e) *deputising for the Chair in his or her absence*

70. *Outside of Conference Sessions, meetings of Committees may be held in Strasbourg or elsewhere and also through videoconferencing arrangements determined by the Standing Committee.*

71. *Each Committee shall submit: (a) an interim report on its activities for consideration at the General Assembly occurring a year after its creation; and (b) a final report on its findings, together with any draft recommendation or resolution considered appropriate, for consideration at the General Assembly held prior to the end of its mandate."*»