

Council of Europe

CoE autumn session of the Conference of INGOs
(October 3rd to 6th October 2008)

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(A reminder .The works of the INGO conference during the autumn session make sense only if we understand the on going process started in june ,the questions raised, and the decisions made between june and october regarding the restructuration)

During the Summer session (23 to 26 june), the Conference of INGOs fourth pillar of the Council of Europe approved a major restructuration in order to be in line with the other pillars of CoE It approved also new Rules of procedures

The old structure with the Liaison Commission and ten thematic groupings was condensed in a new structure implying: six Committee and two transversal groups

Standing Committee (the ex liaison commission)
Human rights Committee
Culture and education Committee
Civil Society and democracy Committee
Social Cohesion and eradication of poverty Committee
Sustainable territorial development Committee

And a Gender equality transversal group and a Global challenges transversal group

*The members of the Conference challenged that the transversal groups should have a different status, that their presidents should be nominated not elected, that their recommendations were not binding .During the summer a working group to which I belong prepared a report to amend the rules of procedures in order to give the transversal groups equal status with the Committees; to submit their presidents to elections Consequently , as an interim measure, **in July**, two presidents ad interim have been nominated for the two transversal groups pending final decision by the General Assembly*

Autumn session

Following the above discussions, the Conference of INGO elected the chair and vice chair of the six Committee .The list of candidates was impressive.

The new structure presents six committees and six presidents and vice presidents

The result of elections was the following:

- *Standing Committee* is presided by the president of the Conference, Annelise Oeschger .Nowadays it will not admit observers.
- *Human rights Committee*, Gabriel NISSIM and Brigitte KAHN were elected .They are the old team of the Human rights grouping and their election give credit to the excellent work they had done.
- *Culture , Science and Education*, Edouard JAGODNIK was elected and the term **Science** is added showing a new dimension
- *Sustainable territorial development* , Anne CHAVANON

- *Social cohesion and eradication of poverty* Irène DONADIO president with an ukrainian vice president Antonina NIKOLAEVNA DASHKINA
- *Civil Society and democracy* Antonella VALMORBIDA
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The presidents of the two transversal groups **nominated ad interim** by the president of the Conference of INGOs , for the peiod extending to January will be in that position until the Conference vote the amended rules of procedures .

Karin NORMEYER was nominated ad interim for *Gender equality* and Michel JULIEN nominated for what is now *Europe and global challenges* .

Beside the elections other events included

Presentation of the first report of the expert Council on NGO law

A round table on the project for a new convention to combat violence against women

A communication on the new mechanism GRETA to monitor the new European Convention on the trafficking of human beings (2005) ratified now by 17 Member states so that it can be implemented

A communication by the director of he North South Center (Lisbonne) confirming that thanks to new financial assistance from different bodies(including the European Commission) the future of the Center is ensured.

The next session will be at the end of January 26 to 29th January 2009