

REPORT SUMMER INGO, Strasbourg June 24-27

During the June session, the whole Conference of INGO met to discuss and **to vote** about the **restructuration** of the Conference in the process since two years

It was a difficult debate about important decisions.

I explained in my COE report the main changes at stake with a Bureau, a permanent Commission (replacing le Comité de liaison, less people more and more responsibilities given to the members ) and a drastic change of the groupings.

Their former structure was rather loose and now instead of ten groupings there will be **Five Committees**;

< Human Rights  
<< Culture Science and Education  
<<< Civil Society and Democracy  
<<<< Social Cohesion and Eradication of Poverty  
<<<<< Sustainable and Territorial Development

and **two Transversal groups** (Cross Issues):

Gender Equality  
Globalisation

Whose presidents would be named by the President of INGOs

Regarding **Gender Equality** we felt that not enough thinking had been done about their mandate, their way of operation, their structure, and a small group of us are working on it. We issued a note at the afternoon session, a hot discussion followed, and we are still working on it trying to come with a proposal for the october session

### **UWE participation in the NGO Conference**

The Conference of NGOs will meet 4 times a year as it has final decision (before it was once a year in January).

The different organs will involve less people than before the restructuration aiming at giving more strength to the INGO Conference as far as expertise and political weight are concerned  
Many of the NGOs have more than one representative two and even three. It would be advisable to do the same for UWE but it raises the question of expenses;

Best regards,  
Renée