

CONFERENCE OF INGOs OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
Report Winter Session ( 26 -30 January, 2009)

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Vice-president UWE

The main event of the winter session was the annual **Plenary Meeting of the Conference of INGOs on Wednesday, 28 January**, during which the elections for the post of **President of the Conference of INGOs** and the posts of **Vice-Presidents** and **Rapporteurs of the Bureau of the Conference** had been held. A large number of the 417 international non-governmental organisations, meanwhile enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe had sent their representatives to the Conference.

Prior to the elections the activity report of the Conference had been presented highlighting the work done in 2008, and a laudation had been held on behalf of the Past-President Anneliese OESCHGER.

### **Results of elections**

President of the Conference of INGOs : Jean-Marie HEYDT

Vice-Presidents : Gérard GRENERON  
Iamvi TODTSI  
Alain MOUCHOUX

Rapporteurs : Sophie DIMITROULIAS  
Taras POLJANEC  
Maritchu RALL  
Jenny SCHULER

The conference proceeded further along the agenda by discussing and adopting the following topics:

- Proposal for a „Council of Europe Convention to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence“.
- Recommendations in respect to the „First report of the Expert Council on NGO Law“
- Recommendation on instituting a „European Year of Voluntary Action“
- Recommendation on „ A budget to meet the mission of the conference of INGOs“. The new participatory status of the Conference of INGOs implying new expectations and a closer cooperation between the Conference and the other pillars of the Council of Europe.
- Additional rules of procedure concerning the two INGO transversal groups (Gender equality resp. Europe and global challenges)
- Recommendation on „Protection of Human Rights Defenders in the Russian Federation“
- Declaration on the Durban-Review-Conference.

## **Information on the Committees of the NGOs Conference and Transversal Groups**

During this session the chairs of the different committees and the transversal groups had been setting up thematic working-groups including the respective person(s) in charge.

**UWE** is taking part in **working groups** of the following committees and transversal group

- Culture, Science and Education Committee
- Human Rights Committee
- Civil Society and Democracy Committee
- Gender Equality Transversal Group

Among the topics dealt with in the working groups UWE is taking part in are the following

- Science, Education and Ethics
- The Right of Religion
- Education and Health
- Gender Balance in Decision-Making
- Universality of Human Rights
- Higher Education
- Education to Civil Democracy

Among the future topics on the agenda of the Gender Equality Transversal Group will be „The gender wage gap“ and „Involving men in achieving gender equality“.

The next session of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe will be taking place at Strasbourg, April 27-30, 2009.