



AEH

Action Européenne des Handicapés – European Action of the Disabled – Europäische Behindertenaktion

Secrétariat Général
General Secretariat
Generalsekretariat

Wurzerstraße 4a
D-53175 Bonn
www.aeh-europe.de
info@aeH-europe.de

Newsletter October 2010

Content

Democracy in danger

AEH members should ask their governments and their representatives at the Parliamentary Assembly to sign up the written declaration of many of its members for supporting the **DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY** at the Council of Europe.

As reported in the previous Newsletters, AEH is active in this representation and contributes to the work of several committees in different domains among which the Council of Europe Action Plan for people with disabilities.

MENACE TO DEMOCRACY WITHIN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Recommandation

adopted

by the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe on October 6, 2010.

☒ The Conference of INGOs shares the opinion of the Parliamentary Assembly “which is convinced that the success of the reforms proposed by the Secretary General must be based on genuine, substantial and ongoing dialogue not only between the two Statutory Organs but equally with the other bodies of the Organization.” (Parliamentary Assembly, Opinion 276(2010)§5).

☒ The Conference of INGOs deplors that the Secretary General did not present to it his reform proposals, as he did to the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, in the framework of the “Quadrilogue” but also in implementing Committee of Ministers/Res(2003)8, which foresees consulting the Conference of INGOs (at the time called Liaison Committee) on matters of mutual interest.

☒ The Conference of INGOs recognizes that the Secretary General’s reform proposals come in a period of economic and financial instability which requires governments to consider reducing budgets.

In this difficult situation the Conference of INGOs could envisage a reduction in its own budget of the same order as those accepted by the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. This despite its deep conviction that its indispensable role within the Council of Europe would justify a considerable increase in its means, given their very modest level.

☒ The Conference of INGOs recalls that for 2010 its allocated global budget is only 0.52% of the total budget of the Council of Europe. The reform budget proposed for 2011 foresees a substantial reduction up to 80 % according to statements, solely for the Conference of INGOs: this would not save the Council of Europe, but on the other hand could sacrifice one of the members of the Quadrilogue : The Conference of INGOs.

In consequence the Conference of INGOs requests :

1. The Committee of Ministers :

- to reconfirm the statutory recognition of the Conference of INGOs
- to take note of its wish to be fully involved in the Council of Europe reform process and to contribute to it thanks to its expertise and its network covering the Europe of citizens.
- to make equitable reductions in the 2011 budget of the institutions of the Council of Europe
- to strengthen cooperation and dialogue among the pillars of the “Quadrilogue” so that the Council of Europe may continue, by its diversity and pluralism, to promote the interests of all European citizens better than any other organization.

2. The Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress :

- To support the proposals and wishes herein expressed to the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General in order to preserve the unique role of the “Quadrilogue” which represents full European diversity and richness within the one Organization, the Council of Europe.

The 2011 budget will be adopted by the Committee of Ministers in the week of November 22, 2010.

Extract of the **address by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu**, at the INGO Conference plenary of 6 October:

« I wish to underline that you can count on the Assembly’s support to ensure that our Organisation fully exploit the potential of the Conference of the INGOs, with a view to reaching the goals of the Council of Europe. »



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Parliamentary Assembly
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Doc. 12418

18 October 2010

Council of Europe reform: participation of civil society in danger

Written Declaration No 462

This written declaration commits only the members who have signed it

The undersigned members of the Parliamentary Assembly :

- honor the Council of Europe institutional structure, the "quadrilogue" guaranteeing the synergy between the highest levels of decision-making, citizens and the grass-roots of the society;
- underline the role of the International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO) Conference in this structure as a voice of people in Europe of all political outlooks and all social and cultural origins;
- are concerned about the Council of Europe planned financial reform, proposed within the framework of 2011 budget, foreseeing over a 50 % reduction in the INGOs Conference budget (which represented 0,52 % of the 2010 global budget);
- underline that such budgetary cuts would sacrifice the Conference of INGOs activities and means of subsistence;
- urge the Committee of Ministers to consider other means of rationalisation and saving and to review the draft budget for 2011 accordingly.

Signed: ¹

WILLE Paul, Belgium, ALDE

ABURTO BASELGA Fátima, Spain, SOC

AGHAJANYAN Artsruni, Armenia, NR

BATET LAMAÑA Meritxell, Spain, SOC

CORREIA Telmo, Portugal, EDG

DORIĆ Miljenko, Croatia, ALDE

ERR Lydie, Luxembourg, SOC

ETHERINGTON Bill, United Kingdom, SOC

FALZON Joseph, Malta, EPP/CD

FEDOROV Valeriy, Russian Federation, EDG

GAUDI NAGY Tamás, Hungary, NR

GEORGIU Aristophanes, Cyprus, UEL

GORYACHEVA Svetlana, Russian Federation, SOC

GREENWAY John, United Kingdom, EDG

GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL

HANCOCK Michael, United Kingdom, ALDE

HAUPERT Norbert, Luxembourg, EPP/CD

HERASYM'YUK Olha, Ukraine, EPP/CD

HOSTALIER Françoise, France, EPP/CD

HUSEYNOV Rafael, Azerbaijan, ALDE

HUSS Jean, Luxembourg, SOC

JOHN-CALAME Francine, Switzerland, SOC

KAUFER Virág, Hungary, SOC

KOÇ Haluk, Turkey, SOC

KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL

LAAKSO Jaakko, Finland, UEL

LAMBERT Geert, Belgium, SOC

LOTMAN Aleksei, Estonia, UEL

Van der MAELEN Dirk, Belgium, SOC

MARIN Christine, France, EPP/CD

MARQUET Bernard, Monaco, ALDE

McCAFFERTY Christine, United Kingdom, SOC

MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC

MENDES BOTA José, Portugal, EPP/CD

MOTA AMARAL João Bosco, Portugal, EPP/CD
NAGHDALYAN Hermine, Armenia, ALDE
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
PAPADIMITRIOU Elsa, Greece, EPP/CD
PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios, Greece, UEL
PARFENOV Valery, Russian Federation, EDG
POPESCU Ivan, Ukraine, SOC
POURGOURIDES Christos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
PUCHE RODRÍGUEZ-ACOSTA Gabino, Spain, EPP/CD
de PUIG i OLIVE Lluís Maria, Spain, SOC
ROUQUET René, France, SOC
RUPPRECHT Marlene, Germany, SOC
RUSSO Giacinto, Italy, ALDE
RUSTAMYAN Armen, Armenia, SOC
SPAUTZ Marc, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
STRENZ Karin, Germany, EPP/CD
SUDARENKOV Valeriy, Russian Federation, SOC
TINDEMANS Elke, Belgium, EPP/CD
TOSHEV Latchezar, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
ÜNAL Mustafa, Turkey, EPP/CD
WILLIAMS Betty, United Kingdom, SOC
WOHLWEND Renate, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC
XUCLÀ i COSTA Jordi, Spain, ALDE
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, ALDE

Total = 60

¹ EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party

SOC: Socialist Group

ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

EDG: European Democratic Group

UEL: Group of the Unified European Left

NR: not registered in a group

People with disabilities in the 47 member states of the Council of Europe – in the present societal and economic crisis more than ever - need the democratic representation through the Conference of the NGOs for having their voice heard at the European Court of Human Rights, for a good implementation of the European Social Charter and of the Council of Europe Action Plan for people with disabilities 2006-2015.