



CONFERENCE OF INGOs  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## ***The President***

For the attention of members of the Conference

Strasbourg, 9 June 2015

Dear Members, dear friends

The Conference of INGOs would like to make its voice heard and the voice of its members by having a constructive dialogue with the organs of the Council of Europe. The online questionnaire which you kindly responded to last Spring made it possible to submit to the Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Group on Democracy (GR-DEM) clear, concrete feedback and respectful of each person's stance (see summary enclosed). I thank you for this.

I am pleased to inform you that during the plenary meeting of the Conference of INGOs on Thursday 25 June 2015, we will have the honour to receive a delegation of permanent representatives of the member states for an exchange of views. The delegation will be led by the President of the Rapporteur Group on Democracy (GR-DEM), Ambassador Astrid E. Helle, Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe.

This exchange of views falls within the scope of the series of debates of the Ministers' Deputies on the role of NGOs at the Council of Europe and more especially on the interaction between the Committee of Ministers and the INGOs. Jean-Marie Heydt, outgoing President of the Conference of INGOs, Annelise Oeschger, Honorary President, 3 INGOs as well as myself were invited to hearings and the ambassadors expressed the wish to personally meet with a larger number of INGOs in order to know their points of view, their experience of co-operation with the Council of Europe and their proposals for improving this interaction.

In order to ensure that the exchange of views on 25 June is rich and structured in the limited available time that we have to devote to it, I would like to propose that you send to the secretariat of the Conference (by email at : [NGO-unit@coe.int](mailto:NGO-unit@coe.int)) any questions that you would like to submit to the discussion. **Please note that only questions which are received by 19 June 2015 will be taken into account.**

As recommended by the Secretary General in his last report, I am certain that this meeting will encourage the different organs of the Council of Europe to conduct the same type of exchange with the Conference of INGOs and its members.

Kind regards,

Anna RURKA