



What's new for MIAMSI at the Council of Europe?

The autumn session of the Council of Europe Parliament was held in Strasbourg on 8 - 11 October 2018; this was an opportunity for some of the INGO Conference working groups.

As decided last June, the INGO Conference where we have participatory status will continue to hold two plenary sessions, but they will be split up differently:

- One at the same time as the Parliament session (8 - 12 April 2019)
- The other at the same time as the Local and Regional Authorities Congress (28 - 31 October 2019)

This will not stop the working groups, the migration watchdog and the Christian INGO group from meeting outside of these dates.

Strasbourg team members were able to attend several meetings In October:

As part of the INGO Conference

Human Rights Commission:

Poverty, Discrimination and Exclusion Group :

The **October 17** day on eradicating poverty with this year's topic:

Access to accommodation: *the right to decent housing for all.*

Many of the speeches made it possible to take stock of the issues encountered, in particular the testimony from "Médecins du Monde" and "Caritas Europe".

A presentation of the European Social Charter articles concerned was made to show how NGOs in each country can refer to it in order to enable the poorest people to access decent housing.

It should also be noted that information on child poverty in Europe has been given.

<http://fra.europa.eu/fr/press-release/2018/contribuer-mettre-fin-la-pauvrete-infantile-qui-ronge-leurope>

Migration watchdog:

The Migration monitoring unit met with the aim of raising awareness among all the Conference INGOs and initiating a monitoring process so as not to neglect this situation which affects not only Europe but also the whole world. The MIAMSI makes its presence felt as a lively force in reflection and networking.

A questionnaire will shortly be sent to each INGO (the Strasbourg team will inform it).

An **updated inventory of some migratory flows** is attached to the e-mail sent to Conference members. You will find it in the appendix.

The Christian INGO Group :

The various Christian INGOs accredited to the Council of Europe met with Msgr. Rudelli, the Holy See's Permanent Representative in Strasbourg. They discussed:

1. The symposium organized by the Holy See's Permanent Mission and BICE, a Conference INGO (International Bureau for Children): "The universality of rights".

After presenting the concept of the Universality of Rights and how they are implemented and respected today, three particular challenges have been identified:

- The promotion of social rights,
- Respect for religious freedom in the face of diverging anthropologies,
- Ecological issues and major human rights violations.

The texts of the [speeches](#) are available on the COMECE website

<http://www.comece.eu/70me-anniversaire-de-la-dclaration-universelle-des-droits-de-lhomme>

2. The European elections:

General exchanges of views took place between those attending.

They mentioned a list of challenges facing the European Union members, which could be one of the key elements to preparing the elections and provide some elements of discernment. When they are made public they will be widely distributed.

For now, we can take advantage of the COMECE press release about the elections:

The Bishops brought the Assembly to a close by calling on Christians and people of good will to discern, be responsible and take a full part in political life, working together for the common good, building bridges of dialogue and promoting an inclusive Europe, able to fully develop people, families and communities. (24 – 26 October COMECE session)

3. The World Forum of Catholic inspired INGOs:

A first echo of the experts' meeting was given on the 7 topics: Family, Education, Migration, Health, Human Rights, Development / Environment and Youth.

It was a matter of seeing how our Catholic inspired INGOs take part in building an inclusive society. In view: developing practical tools to promote a more human world, in its entirety, in tune with the Church's Social Teaching.

Two themes emerged in almost all topics: **peace and intergenerational relations!**

The next Forum bringing together all INGOs will be held in Rome on 6 - 7 December 2019

Strasbourg local team members
attending the October session
Jean-Pierre Demange
Daniel Guéry
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P. Jean-Michel Strub