



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

The Council of Europe Parliament's spring session was held in Strasbourg from 23 to 27 April 2018. There were no special meetings of working groups to which we belong.

The group leaders met to prepare for the June session where the theme-based and cross-cutting groups will meet and begin to put their specific policies together.

Nevertheless, the MIAMSI working group met and took part in several meetings:

1. An open meeting of the CoE Parliament's Migration Commission

The topic of this meeting was "Needs and Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in Europe"

This concern is very important, especially for Eastern European countries such as Georgia, Ukraine (including Crimea). Even if our Western European countries are not directly concerned, our belonging to Europe in its widest sense means that we have to act in solidarity.

During this meeting, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Displaced Persons, recalled that respect for human rights rests on the responsibility of states that must establish the required frameworks. But there is an additional responsibility invested in the international community on the one hand and civil society on the other.

In the HR framework, all displaced persons have the right to protection, anywhere and at any time.

Countries in Europe know this phenomenon, especially because of current conflicts, but old situations remain unresolved ... These are frameworks that must be created, developed ... not only enact laws but also ensure their application.

For example, one of the big issues for countries is bringing the competences of different ministries into line; registering people, paying pensions and social benefits. Often the proper connections are not made.

And what becomes of everyone's right to freedom of movement and choosing one's home? A central issue.

The Parliament passed a resolution on this topic.

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-EN.asp?fileid=24736&lang=en>

For the record, in connection with the choice to monitor the INGO Conference Anti-corruption working group:

The Parliament passed a resolution and recommendation on corruption allegations against it.

Resolution :

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-EN.asp?fileid=24751&lang=en>

Recommendation

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-EN.asp?fileid=24753&lang=en>

2. Migration Watch Unit:

It met to implement a procedure to collect and spread information related to non-observance of human rights and treaties in migration. A page will soon be dedicated to this issue on the Council of Europe Conference website.

MIAMSI is involved in this unit and is currently taking part in moderating it.

3. The Christian INGO Group

The various Christian INGOs accredited to the Council of Europe met to take stock of their commitments and plans.

For each commission, theme-based or cross-cutting working group, a list of Christian INGOs has been drawn up to promote exchanges and joint work. For the record, MIAMSI is already working with Pax Romana (MCC in France - Movement of Catholic Intellectuals in other countries).

Drawing up a list of topics, subjects, concerns that underlie participation in working groups:

We may note: focus on the human person, respect for life, humanizing situations or administrative acts, dialogue, peace ...

A summary will be made and handed out to everyone, so they have a series of references to help discernment and speaking.

Upcoming European elections:

It was decided to devote a relatively large amount of time next October to discussing the 2019 European elections and collecting some elements facilitating discernment.

4. Strasbourg team

The Strasbourg team representing MIAMSI at the Council of Europe met to prepare for its participation in the working groups that will be meeting next June and to start thinking about the theme of the next Seminar:

"What Man do we want to bring forth in Europe according to our Christian vision?"

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