



Strasbourg

Autumn Session

October 2017



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

The Council of Europe Parliament held its autumn session in Strasbourg on 10 - 14 October 2017.

Having renewed its leaders last June, the INGO Conference did not meet in full and only the Board met to determine the new working groups and prepare for the January 2018 session, where priorities for the next three years will be voted on.

The Strasbourg team took the opportunity to meet and attend some of the side meetings and events held at the same time as the Parliamentary Assembly.

Death Penalty Round Table: *October 10, World Day Against the Death Penalty.*

On the occasion of this World Day Against Torture and the 20th « anniversary » of no death penalty carried out in Europe, the Council of Europe INGO Conference and FIACAT (International Federation of Christian Action Movements against Torture) organized a round table with representatives of the Committee of Ministers, parliamentarians and INGO officials directly involved.

The Council of Europe Secretary General, Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, honoured this meeting with his presence and read the European Union and the Council of Europe joint statement recalling the urgent need to maintain rejection of the death penalty, as the conventions stipulate. For him, what is at stake is " Europe's soul and identity".

Several INGOs recalled the various reasons on which abolition of the death penalty is based, asking that everything be done to ensure that Belarus joins other abolitionist countries. A delegation of Belarussian civil society and several MPs from that country had a vehement exchange of views during the meeting.

These times of growing radicalism and populism can also call into question the abolition of the death penalty. We must be vigilant at all levels. Our INGOs are directly concerned by this issue!

It was also shown during this round table that poverty and the death penalty are very closely linked in countries that still use this sanction.

This small downloadable booklet gives excellent analyses and reasons to abolish the death penalty!

http://www.worldcoalition.org/media/resourcecenter/FR_2017WorldDayLeaflet.pdf

http://www.worldcoalition.org/media/resourcecenter/EN_2017WorldDayLeaflet.pdf

October 17th Day:

As every year, the INGO Conference and its extreme poverty working group took advantage of the October 17 day (poverty eradication) to get closer to the other pillars of the Council of Europe and ATD Quart Monde.

A conference and demonstration took place in Strasbourg and the MIAMSI team members attended as they do every year.

The Christian INGO group (CINGO)

The various Christian INGOs accredited to the Council of Europe met for talks on Wednesday 12 October.

Several topics:

- ✓ Convergence with the other pillars of the Council of Europe:
 - Attention to topical issues: radicalism, populism and migration
 - Reflection on Education for All and Freedom of Education,
- ✓ An overview of the main concerns of the Christian INGOs represented:
 - Populism / nationalism / combating hate speech
 - Migration
 - Intercultural, interfaith, Muslim-Christian dialogue
 - European Social Charter
 - Combating poverty / human trafficking
 - Europe, its values and future, ... the place of religions in the European public space, ...
- ✓ The working themes for the next meetings:
 - Education in Europe
 - The future of Europe and our share in it.

Migrations :

The Council of Europe INGO Conference decided to continue raising the migration issue as a priority. It wondered about the best way to do this.

MIAMSI was invited to attend a strategy meeting to determine how to address this priority issue. The Pozzallo experience and ongoing reflections/actions of the MIAMSI European movements are taken seriously by the conference ...

The idea of a watch cell was mentioned. In any event MIAMSI will be part of this working group / watch cell ...

For information: Linguistic assistance to adult refugees - the Council of Europe toolbox. Documents online from the end of November 2017

<https://rm.coe.int/accompagnement-linguistique-des-refugies-adultes-la-boite-a-outils-du-/1680737a30>

<https://rm.coe.int/language-support-for-adult-refugees-the-council-of-europe-toolkit/1680737a2f>

Parliament :

During this session, parliamentarians voted on a recommendation on corruption and the importance of connecting with civil society to combat this scourge more effectively.

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-FR.asp?fileid=23931&lang=FR>

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-EN.asp?fileid=23931&lang=en>

The local Strasbourg team attending this session
 Minette de Romémont
 P. Jean-Michel Strub
 Roland Fenocchio
 Jean-Pierre Demange
 Daniel Guéry