



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

The Council of Europe's spring session was held in Strasbourg from 7 to 11 April 2014. The INGO Conference did not meet in a plenary session but the working groups carried on their reflections. For their part, the CINGO (Christian International Non-government Organizations) met to discuss several topics.

Human Rights Commission:

1. The **"anti-extreme poverty"** group carried on with preparations for the 17 October day on **"No to extreme poverty"** in Turin concerning four challenges :
 - ✓ Affirming social rights in a period of economic crisis and getting out of crisis,
 - ✓ Development of the relationship between European Union law and the CoE Social Charter,
 - ✓ Promoting the system for controlling application of the Charter (collective claim),
 - ✓ Respecting migrants' basic rights.
2. The **"anti-hate speech"** group worked from the definition of hate speech : *"all forms of expression that spread, encourage, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance"* :
 - ✓ Using the questionnaire on the existence and treatment of hate speech,
 - ✓ Reflection from the "Hate Speech Handbook" by Ms Anne Weber :
http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/hrpolicy/publications/Hate_Speech_EN.pdf
 - ✓ Initiating a White Book on the topic, in particular for INGOs.
3. The **"human rights, co-development, migration"** group (a new group) revised its objectives in order to have them approved during the next session (June 2014).

Culture and Education Commission:

The working group on the topic **"Teaching in the XXI century: challenges and training"**, in connection with the commission, took an active part in two seminars :

- ✓ **"Children at the centre of education"** the draft conclusions of which are:
 - For teachers*
 - Place children at the centre of education,
 - Be a guide and facilitator,
 - Create a safe and positive environment,
 - For decision-makers*
 - Promote respect for human dignity through education,
 - Promote educational reforms in the child's interest,
 - Support educational practice that enables a school to develop as a community.
- ✓ **"Teachers' image and professional ethics" (extract from the report) :**
 - In order to know learners' needs, initiate their motivation and participation, so that they become responsible, active learners, to give meaning to what they do, one primary condition is being able to work in small groups (15).
 - Pupils must take charge of their learning process. This implies flexible curricula, adapted to each establishment.
 - Educators must become facilitators in order to "teach how to learn".

The **Christian INGO** group (CINGO) worked on two topics in particular:

1. The status of the individual, person, community,
2. The individual, person, community and the Church's social thinking.

And as usual, exchanges of view among the INGOs were mutually enriching.

Debates in the Parliament:

*** The situation in Ukraine:**

Debate according to emergency procedure: "Recent developments in Ukraine : threats to the functioning of democratic institutions".

At the end of the session, the Russian delegation had its Voting Rights in the Council of Europe suspended until the end of 2014.

* **Cyberspace** improvement and user security.

* **Informal education:** learning to be a good citizen

* Eliminating **child poverty** in Europe,

* **Refugees and the Right to work**

* **A decent job for all.**