



## **What's new for MIAMSI the Council of Europe?**

The Council of Europe Parliament's spring session was held in Strasbourg on 20-24 April 2015. It addressed a number of topics including the situation in Ukraine, preventing terrorism, discrimination against transgender people in Europe and included emergency debates on "the human tragedy in the Mediterranean."

The INGO Conference did not meet in plenary session or in committees, but several working groups met (see below).

The CINGO (Christian International Non Governmental Organizations) came together to study Pope Francis's speech in Strasbourg last November and discuss other topics (see also below).

Moreover contacts have been made with the secretariat of the Human Rights Directorate General and the Parliament's Migration Commission for the Sicily meeting (November 2015).

### **Parliament Assembly:**

After much discussion of an emergency report from the services of the Parliament's migration commission, the members passed a resolution for the attention of the European Union's Member States. This text emphasizes rescue, combating people smugglers and traffickers, reviewing the Dublin Treaty, intensifying humanitarian aid, extending all cooperation with the countries of origin and transit, respecting the right of asylum. The text can be found in French and English below.

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewPDF.asp?FileID=21743&lang=fr>

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewPDF.asp?FileID=21743&lang=en>

### **Anti-poverty Working Group:**

Two avenues were explored at the meeting:

- The eradication of poverty day on October 16, 2015 with the topic: "Child poverty".
- An exchange of views on the report published by ATD Quart Monde: "For sustainable development that leaves no one behind."

### **"Human Rights, Co-development and Migration" Working Group:**

The group benefited from a detailed presentation by a French Catholic NGO (CCFD Terre Solidaire), which presented in a relevant way the concept of advocacy and its interest in helping businesses to be more "ethical". Several types of action were presented.

A report was made on producing a resolution by the Committee of Ministers in order to implement United Nations principles on "Human Rights and Business".

### **Council of Europe Event**

A meeting took place on the subject of surrogate motherhood, as the Parliament Assembly had the issue on its agenda. MIAMSI - Europe attended. The following report is attached in French and English.

### **The group of Christian INGOs (CINGO)**

1. Much of the meeting was devoted to a specific topic in the Holy Father's speech:

➤ **The transcendent dignity of the human person,**

This means respecting the intrinsic value of the person as defined in the first part of the Vatican Council document "Gaudium et Spes". The Dignity of Man is different from Human Rights and this aspect is binding on us in our daily commitments and relations with various authorities (administrative, political, social, educational, ...).

2. A report was given on a letter received from the Secretariat of State in response to a letter sent to the Holy See stating the CINGO group's support for the Holy Father.
3. The other major topic of the meeting was observing the Revised European Social Charter that we invite you to communicate to the officials and leaders of each movement.
4. Finally, the issue of Middle Eastern Christians was discussed: how to be consistent in our actions. What actual support is there? What connections do we have with them? This concern will be taken into account for the next meeting.

**Upcoming meeting of the European Board in Sicily**

As part of preparing the symposium on "The Mediterranean: Migration of Peoples, Cultures and Religions", to be held in Pozzallo, Sicily on 20-22 November 2015, contact was made with the secretariats of the Human Rights Directorate General and the Human Migration Parliamentary Commission. Concretely this has enabled:

- The Portuguese ACI to attend and speak at a special "Migration" parliamentary session in Lagos, southern Portugal;
- A promise from the "Senior migration advisor" of the Council of Europe's Human Rights Directorate General to attend and speak at the November symposium.