



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

SUMMER SESSION

Committee on Democracy, Social cohesion and Global Challenges CONF/DEM(2017)SYN1

DRAFT SYNOPSIS

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL COHESION AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES COMMITTEE

The Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee met at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 25 January 2017, from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm with Anne-Marie CHAVANON in the chair

The committee

1. **adopted** the agenda as it stood.
2. **adopted** the synopsis of the previous meeting held on 22 June 2016 [CONF/DEM(2016)SYN2].
3. **adopted** the 2016 Activity report
4. **Actions and events linked to the side-event « Ageing and health » held on 23 June 2016**

heard Lord Georges FOULKES, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (United Kingdom), Rapporteur on « *A European social commitment guaranteeing the rights of older people and their comprehensive care* », and President of the Charity AGE Scotland, in the context of the work undertaken by both players. The Rapporteur called for a "human rights approach" to the health and social care of the older people. He invited delegates to share their experience and expertise in that area. He called on the Council of Europe to promote the elaboration of a Charter for the older people ([link to the website](#))

=>> **committed to respond to** the Parliamentary Assembly rapporteur's call for experience and expertise

was informed by Laurence LWOFF, Secretary to the Bioethics Committee of the Council of Europe (DH-BIO) that the Conference of INGOs recommendation had been disseminated to all Member States. She announced openings made available by the Oviedo Convention twentieth anniversary in relation with the Committee commitment ([link to website](#))

heard Thierry MATHIEU, Vice-president of the Committee, MD, General inspector of Public Health, President of AIRHH, on the work undertaken by the working group with several European, national, regional and local entities

5. Democracy: transparency and sustainable partnership through Open Government Partnership (OGP)

had an exchange of views with

Alexandra-Luminita PETRESCU, Former Secretary of State in the Romanian Ministry for Public Consultation and Civil Dialogue. Ms PETRESCU presented the experience of Romania as a signatory member of the Open Government Partnership Platform. She highlighted the five priorities of the government:

- increasing the public administration transparency
- opening an effective dialogue with civil society through various actions including a campaign entitled "Your right to know!"
- Improving the competences of NGOs for a sustainable partnership
- Organising innovative citizenship campaigns

[\(Link to website\)](#)

Paul MAASSEN, Director of the OGP International Platform, responsible for the Civil society commitment. Mr. MAASSEN gave the keys to a successful Open Government Partnership.

According to him, the OGP works on the condition of respecting four rules:

- adoption of eligibility criteria at the highest level
- the need for an open, inclusive and, as soon as possible, permanent dialogue
- A concrete and biennial commitment plan based on total freedom of elaboration
- an independent monitoring and evaluation process

[\(Link to website\)](#)

6. The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe:

heard **Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS**, Head of Division, Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe, presenting fifty-two examples of territorial sharing, actions in favor of people's rights, democracy and Peace, building the alliance of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

[\(Link to website\)](#)

7. The outputs of the COP22 held in Morocco

was informed by **Karl DONERT** (Eurogeo), Vice-President of the Committee, President of EUROGEO, Coordinator of the Working Group on Climate and Human Rights of the conclusions of COP22, the follow-up of the Paris Agreement and the work of the Committee on climate. On the positive side, Mr. DONERT highlighted the political will of the signatory states of the Paris Treaty and, on the negative side, the rise in temperatures for the third year in a row, including the oceans one as well as the increase in climate migrations

8. Working groups activities

was informed by

Jean-Claude GONON (AEDE) coordinator of the GT Europe Mediterranean group on the migrations projects [Page web](#) and

Anje WIERSINGA, Coordinator of the Gender perspectives in political and democratic processes, particularly dealing with conflicts on the ongoing work [Page web](#)