



North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



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19 August 2011

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIVE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(24 June 2011, Strasbourg)

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the draft agenda

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, opened the meeting and chaired it until the election of the Chair of the Executive Committee had taken place (his opening statement appears in appendix 1). The Executive Committee adopted the draft agenda as it appears in document NSC/EC (2011) 6. The Representative of Greece took this opportunity to stress that the new Committee, which comprises 36 members, could no longer hold its meetings in room 13. He requested that, in future, the meetings of the Executive Committee should take place in a more suitable room.

1. Constitution of the Executive Committee

Under this item, the Executive Committee was formally constituted as foreseen in articles 4 and 5 of CM Resolution (2011) 6 (see appendix 2). The Secretary General recalled that, on 13 May, he had issued the convocation for the constitutive meeting of the Executive Committee and, in addition to the member States, had invited the other stakeholders of the North-South Centre (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, European Parliament, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, the relevant structures of the Council of Europe responsible for civil society and youth and the European Union/Commission) to name their representatives who would sit on the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee took note of the nominations made by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, the Joint Council for Youth and the European Union (see appendix 2).

The Executive Director recalled that article 4.2.d of the new statute foresees that there are four members representing organised civil society on the Executive Committee. In addition to the two designated by the relevant structures of the Council of Europe responsible for civil society and youth, the other two should be designated by the Executive Committee following proposals by the Bureau. The Executive Director proposed that one of these seats be already designated to the European NGO confederation for relief and development (CONCORD) on the basis of the already existing important partnership and fruitful co-operation enjoyed between CONCORD and the North-South Centre. He recalled that CONCORD has been an active member of the former Executive Council since 2008 and obviously meets the criteria stipulated in CM Resolution (2011) 6 as “a non-governmental organisation active in priority activity areas of the Centre and ready to engage in a concrete co-operation with the Centre to serve common objectives”. Finally, he referred to the letter received from the President of CONCORD, dated 10 June, containing a formal request from CONCORD to sit on the new Executive Committee (see appendix 3).

While the Committee acknowledged the existing positive co-operation between CONCORD and the North-South Centre, some members stressed the importance of strictly adhering to the provisions of the new statute. Consequently, the Executive Committee entrusted its new Bureau to consider possibilities for the two vacant civil society seats and make proposals to the Executive Committee at its next meeting on 2 November.

In reply to a question from the representative of Greece, the Executive Director confirmed that CONCORD did currently not enjoy participatory status with the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, as the field of global/development education is an issue in which the European Union is more active. The President of the Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe

confirmed his support and interest in having CONCORD as one of the civil society representatives on the Executive Committee.

2.1 Election of the Chair

Article 5.1 of CM Resolution (2011) 6 foresees that “the Executive Committee shall elect, from among its members, a Bureau composed of a Chair and eight other members.” On this basis, the Secretary General launched a call for candidates for the Chair in his convocation letter of 13 May sent to the Executive Committee members, with a deadline of 10 June. The Secretary General informed the Executive Committee that, on the closing date of the call for candidatures, only one had been received, that of Ms Deborah Bergamini of Italy, presented by Ambassador Busetto, Permanent Representative of Italy to the Council of Europe. The Executive Committee unanimously elected Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy) as its Chair for a two year period, expiring at its meeting of spring 2013.

The Secretary General congratulated Ms Bergamini on her election and wished her every success with her mandate.

The members of the Executive Committee welcomed the election of Ms Bergamini and offered their congratulations, in particular the representatives of Italy, Portugal, Sweden, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the European Union. The Representative of Germany thanked Ms Bergamini for her commitment over the last two years and commented that her election was a recognition of her achievements as the Chair of the former Executive Council.

The newly elected Chair thanked the members of the Executive Committee and the Secretary General for their support and said she was honoured to lead the North-South Centre and the values it represents. She expressed her appreciation for the support she had received from the Secretariat over the last two years and looked forward to further developing the potential of the Centre during the next two years.

2.2 Bureau

Under this item, the Executive Committee was invited to elect its eight other Bureau members ensuring, as foreseen in Article 5.1 of CM Resolution (2011) 6 “that five of the Bureau members are governmental representatives, on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, and that parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society are each represented in the Bureau, as well as the European Commission/Union”.

With regard to the governmental representatives, the Executive Committee was invited to consider a proposal for the member States’ geographical distribution prepared by the Secretariat as presented in document NSC/EC (2011) 9 and use it as appropriate for the selection of the governmental representatives within the Bureau.

With regard to the civil society representative on the Bureau, the Executive Director suggested that the Executive Committee follow past practice and designate the President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe in order to avoid the seat being empty and instead of waiting for the Executive Committee to designate its other civil society representatives.

Following a discussion, the Executive Committee agreed the composition of its Bureau as follows:

- **Member States:** Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway and Serbia
- **Parliamentary member:** Seat shared by Mr Kimmo Sasi (PACE) and Mr Miguel Angel Martinez (European Parliament)
- **Local and regional authorities member:** Seat shared by Dr Herwig Van Staa (Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe) and Mr Christophe Rouillon (Committee of the Regions of the European Union)
- **Civil society member:** Mr Jean-Marie Heydt, Chair of the Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe
- **European Union:** Ambassador Luisella Pavan-Woolfe, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

for a period of two years, expiring at the spring meeting of the Executive Committee in 2013.

With regard to the member States, it was agreed that membership in the Bureau would, in principle, be non-renewable, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

2.3 Draft rules of procedure

Under this item, the Executive Committee was invited to examine its draft internal rules of procedure as presented in document NSC/EC (2011) 10 prov. The Executive Director recalled that these rules of procedure were prepared by the Secretariat following a request from the former Executive Council which took note of a preliminary draft at its meeting of 3 November 2010. This latest version was revised taking into account the new statutory resolution. The Executive Director proposed that, in order to give the Executive Committee sufficient time to examine this matter, it could entrust the Bureau to finalise this document at its meeting in September 2011, with a view to its adoption by the Executive Committee at its next meeting on 2 November. This proposal was welcomed by the members of the Executive Committee, in particular the representative of Greece, who underlined that some modifications to the document were necessary.

As a result, the Executive Committee took note of the draft internal rules of procedure as presented in document NSC/EC (2011) 10 prov and asked all members to submit possible modifications to the document in writing to the Secretariat by 31 August 2011. It also entrusted the Bureau to finalise the document at its meeting in September 2011, for subsequent adoption by the Executive Committee at its next meeting on 2 November.

3. North-South Centre strategy for the period 2011-2013

Under this item, the Executive Committee was invited to examine a new strategic document for the period 2011-2013, prepared by the Executive Director of the North-South Centre. The Executive Director recalled that, at its 43rd meeting on 17 May 2010, the Executive Council “took note with satisfaction of the implementation of the strategic document on the future of the North-South Centre during the period April 2008 – May 2010 and entrusted the Executive Director to prepare a new strategic document in early 2011, following the expected adoption by the Committee of Ministers of a new statutory resolution, for consideration by the new Executive Council.”

Following the adoption of the new statutory resolution by the Committee of Ministers on 5 May 2011, the Executive Director prepared a new strategic document for the period 2011-2013. He explained that, as a basis for the preparation of this new strategy, the Secretariat, on its own initiative, had carried out an evaluation of the Centre’s work over the past three years, which was presented in document NSC/Inf (2011) 4.

The Executive Director also recalled that at its last meeting of 28 March 2011, the Executive Council took note with appreciation of the report of the Chair of the North-South Centre Think-Tank (document NSC/Inf (2011) 3) and requested that it be transmitted to the new statutory body for consideration during the discussion on the new strategic priorities for the Centre for the period 2011-2013.

The Executive Director briefly presented the evaluation and strategic documents. With regard to the evaluation document, he highlighted the main achievements during recent years, including the renewed co-operation with the European Union, the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of a recommendation on education for global interdependence and solidarity (the first European legal standard on global education), the internal sound budgetary management of the Centre reflected in the global increase of resources and individual decrease of member States' contributions and of course, the 20th Anniversary of the Centre and the adoption of a new statutory resolution which was prepared in this context.

With regard to the new strategy for 2011-2013, the current focus on education and youth work would be continued and strengthened, in particular through a new Joint Management Agreement with the European Commission. The current permanent processes such as the North-South Prize and the Lisbon Forum would also be maintained. A new priority would be the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe's neighbourhood region and the role the Centre would play in bilateral programmes being set up by the Council of Europe with countries in those regions, with the political and financial support of the European Union.

The Chair of the Think-Tank gave a brief presentation on the work and discussions of the Think-Tank since its official launch in May 2010 and on the prospects for its future work, as it appears in document NSC/Inf (2011) 3. He welcomed in particular the opportunity currently being offered to the North-South Centre to help countries going through democratic transition in Europe's neighbouring regions. With regard to the financing of the Think-Tank, the Executive Director suggested that the Al Jaber Foundation should be formally notified that it had failed in its commitment to the Council of Europe. He also informed the Executive Committee that alternative sources of funding were currently being explored.

The members of the Executive Committee held a detailed discussion on the three documents presented and a synopsis of the main comments can be found below:

- Strategic document for 2011-2013

The Representative of **Cyprus** welcomed the strategic document (in particular its user friendly format) and agreed with the comment of the Chair of the Think-Tank regarding the revival of the role of the Centre during these important times of change.

The Representative of the **European Union** welcomed the strategic document and the continued co-operation and partnership with the European Union foreseen therein. She confirmed that the North-South Centre was a sound partner of the European Commission in a number of areas and she invited the Centre to also explore co-operation prospects in other areas, for example the development of a culture of citizenship. She also confirmed that the Commission was ready to explore the possibility of co-operation in the Balkans in the framework of the new Joint Management Agreement. Finally, she welcomed the Executive Director's suggestion to explore co-operation prospects with the OECD.

The Representative of the **European Parliament** praised the strategic document which he viewed as a source of inspiration and a starting point for the Centre's future work. He welcomed the fruitful partnership enjoyed by the North-South Centre and the European Union and hoped this could be further developed in the larger framework of the Council of Europe. He also informed the Executive Committee that he would explore the possibilities of additional funding for the North-South Centre from the European Union and suggested that such events as the Lisbon Forum could be used as visibility moments to attract additional funding.

The Representative of **Germany** welcomed the strategic document which he viewed as an important instrument for the Centre's future work. He felt it was necessary to have thorough reflection on this document (and the evaluation document) and that the Secretariat should ask for comments from both the Executive Committee and Think-Tank members. A collective reflection would give the document stronger strategic orientations. He underlined the importance of clarifying the Centre's role as an interface without adding to its programmes.

The Representative of **Greece** agreed with the suggestion of the Representative of Germany that the Executive Committee members should have the opportunity to give their input to this document (and the evaluation document) and added that the Centre should highlight its work in the field of youth and civil society and there should be a stronger focus on working at grassroots level.

The Representative of **Serbia** gave a positive assessment of the strategic document and suggested that the next step should be action-orientated. She underlined the usefulness of the North-South Centre as a tool in the implementation of the neighbourhood policy and suggested that this be included in its future work.

The Representative of the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe** welcomed the strategic document which he felt was a good basis for the future work of the Centre. With regard to the recent developments in North Africa and the Middle East, he confirmed the Congress' willingness to support the North-South Centre's work in this field by supporting democratic change at local and regional level.

The Representative of **Sweden** stressed that it was important for the Centre to focus on its areas of expertise where it could bring a real added value and urged caution with regard to broadening to areas where it has less expertise. The Representative of **Norway** agreed that the Centre should focus on its added value and have a realistic vision of what it can achieve. In contrast, the Representative of **Luxembourg** considered that the North-South Centre should promote the work of the Council of Europe to the largest extent possible.

The Representative of **Spain** welcomed the progress made by the Centre in its presentation of documents and working methods and procedures. He gave a positive assessment of the strategic document and welcomed the continued focus on key areas such as education and youth and the partnership with the European Union. He suggested that some of the ideas of the Think-Tank report could be reflected more clearly in the strategic document. With regard to the Centre's involvement in activities outside its current areas of expertise, this should not be to the detriment of the Centre's main priorities.

The Representative of **Finland** thanked the Secretariat for the useful documents. She suggested, like the Representative of Spain, that some of the Think-Tank's ideas could be used in the strategic document and she felt that the document could be streamlined with more orientated objectives. She also felt that the Centre should concentrate geographically on the countries of the neighbourhood region and that a more thorough reflection on this should take place.

The Representative of **Liechtenstein** welcomed the personal strategic document prepared by the Executive Director. In reply to his question regarding the Centre's co-operation with the Venice Commission and the Development Bank, the Executive Director confirmed that an existing partnership already existed with the former, while to date, there was no co-operation with the latter. However this could be an interesting perspective for the Centre.

The Chair of the **Joint Council on Youth** welcomed the strategic document and asked that more emphasis be placed on promoting intercultural dialogue through youth, with more capacity building and training activities added. She also welcomed the suggestion of the Representative of Greece regarding the planning of more youth activities in Strasbourg, perhaps linked to training. The Executive Director confirmed that the possibility of having specific training courses in Strasbourg on intercultural education was currently being explored with the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe.

- Evaluation document 2008-2011

The Representative of **Sweden** commented that the evaluation document should include a more detailed assessment of the tangible results with conclusions and recommendations for the future. She suggested that the Directorate of Internal Oversight could play a role in this evaluation. This suggestion was supported by the Representative of **Norway** who also commented on the importance of the North-South Centre buying into the Council of Europe's new evaluation policy which emphasises the value and necessity of independent evaluations, in addition to internal evaluations.

The Representative of **Luxembourg** expressed his reservation about the involvement of the Internal Oversight Directorate in the evaluation of North-South Centre activities and, like other Executive members (including **Germany** and the **European Union**), suggested that the Think-Tank could be entrusted with such an evaluation. The Chair of the Think-Tank stated that its members did not have the expertise or possibility to carry out such a large exercise. Instead, he suggested that the Think-Tank could develop a matrix of criteria against which future activities could be measured.

The Director General of DGIV confirmed that, under its previous mandate, the Internal Department was only concerned with the respect of financial regulations and procedures, however its functions and responsibilities had been broadened in the new Council of Europe configuration. Nevertheless, it remained to be seen whether the new Directorate of Internal Oversight would be able to provide the kind of political and programmatic evaluation proposed by some delegations.

The Executive Director also recalled that, in recent years, the annual external budgetary audit carried out by the Council of Europe and the financial audit carried out by the European Commission in the context of the Joint Management Agreement had been very positive.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee would continue to reflect on the most suitable system of evaluation for the North-South Centre.

- Report of the North-South Centre Think-Tank

A large number of the Executive Committee members expressed their appreciation and thanks for the work of the Think-Tank, including **Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg,**

Norway, Serbia and the Representative of the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**.

In addition, the Representative of **Spain** stated that, while his authorities had some initial reservations about the creation of the Think-Tank, they were now convinced of its utility and welcomed its excellent work.

The Representative of **Finland** welcomed the work of the Think-Tank and praised its members for its virtual working methods. She suggested that the Executive Committee could follow this example in its own working methods.

The Representative of **Luxembourg** agreed that it would be appropriate to formally sever ties with the Al Jaber Foundation.

The Representative of **Italy** underlined the importance of looking for other sources of external funding for the North-South Centre Think-Tank.

As a final word on these discussions, the Chair replied to a question from the Representative of the **Holy See**, regarding her vision on the present situation of the Centre and the challenges and opportunities it faces. She replied that, in her opinion, today's main novelties were the historical changes occurring within the Arab world and the social acceleration which is taking place everywhere, in particular the increasing participation of the younger generations, thanks to social media. She welcomed these collective changes and underlined the importance of the role of woman in this regard. She took this opportunity to provide information on the conference "Women as agents of democratic change in the Mediterranean" which the North-South Centre will organise, with the support of the Italian Parliament, in Rome on 24-25 October 2011.

As a conclusion to this agenda item, the Executive Committee took the following decisions. It:

- took note of the draft evaluation on the Centre's work for 2008-2010 as presented in document NSC/Inf (2011)4;
- took note of the draft strategic document for 2011-2013 presented by the Executive Director (document: NSC/EC (2011) 8);
- asked its members and the Think-Tank to send their comments on both documents in written form to the Secretariat by 31 August 2011;
- entrusted the Secretariat to prepare the draft programme and budget for 2012-2013 on the basis of these documents and in light of the discussion held at the meeting and the written comments received;
- expressed its appreciation for the work of the Think-Tank over the last year.

4. 2011 programme of activities

4.1 Interim report and calendar of activities

Under this item, the Executive Director provided information on the implementation of the 2011 programme of activities and on the preparation of forthcoming events. He also presented the new format of reporting proposed by the Secretariat following the request of the former statutory

bodies for the Secretariat to strengthen its efforts in providing more streamlined, concise, and result-oriented reporting.

The Executive Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the implementation of the 2011 programme of activities and the preparation of forthcoming events. It also took note of the new format of reporting through the interim report, as presented in document NSC/Inf (2011) 5 prov, and the NSC calendar of activities. Finally, it noted that the deadline for submitting candidatures for the 2011 North-South Prize would be extended until 15 July 2011.

4.2 2011 Lisbon Forum

Under this item, the Executive Director provided information on the state of play regarding the 2011 Lisbon Forum. He recalled the decisions taken in this regard by the former Executive Council at its meeting of 28 March when it:

- appointed Mr Jorge Sampaio as Chair of the Lisbon Forum for a renewed period of two years (2011-2012).
- decided that the 2011 Lisbon Forum would take place on 3-4 November 2011;
- agreed, on a provisional basis, that the 2011 Lisbon Forum should be dedicated to an analysis of recent developments in North Africa and the Middle East and that it should include a reflexion on the role of the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre, as well as the co-operation among international partners in this respect;
- requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft programme on this basis for the constitutive meeting of the new NSC statutory body in June 2011.

The Executive Director explained that, in accordance with these decisions, the Think-Tank had been working on this issue and the Secretariat had prepared a draft programme on this basis.

The Chair of the Think-Tank presented the non-paper prepared by its members and gave the Think Tank's feedback regarding the provisional outline prepared by the Secretariat. He underlined the importance of the choice of participants from the four focus countries, which must include a strong youth representation. He also emphasised the need for clear follow-up action which could ensure that a long-term dialogue is established.

The Representative of Germany welcomed the Lisbon Forum preparation documents, in particular the input of the Think-Tank. He expressed his appreciation with the mix of plenary sessions and working groups foreseen and suggested that some of the former North-South Prize winners from the target regions could be invited to participate and that other countries in the region could be added. He also underlined the importance of focusing the discussions on the future rather than the past.

The Representative of Luxembourg also welcomed the input of the Think-Tank to the Lisbon Forum preparations and agreed with the Representative of Germany's comments regarding a focus on the future. He welcomed the proposed thematic workshops and suggested that other countries be associated with this.

The Executive Director commented that the request for having an historical overview had come from the focus countries themselves and that, given the limitations of time and space, only four country

focused thematic workshops could take place and so other countries would be dealt with during the plenary sessions.

The Representative of Norway commented on the proposed title and it was agreed that it should be changed to “The Arab spring: a major step towards making universal rights real”.

As a conclusion to the discussions, the Executive Committee took note of the state of the preparations of the 2011 Lisbon Forum, on the basis of documents NSC/Inf (2011) 6 and addendum, and entrusted the Secretariat to continue with the preparatory work in collaboration with the NSC Think-Tank, and taking into account the discussions held at the meeting.

5. Any other business

- PACE Recommendation 1962 (2011) – “The religious dimension of intercultural dialogue”

The Executive Director recalled that, on 12 April 2011, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted Recommendation 1962 (2011) on “the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue” on the basis of the report prepared by Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg). At its 1113rd meeting on 4-5 May 2011, the Committee of Ministers decided to communicate it to the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre, for information and possible comments by 15 September 2011. The Executive Committee was therefore invited to take note of the Recommendation and make possible comments.

The Executive Committee took note of Recommendation 1962 (2011) on “the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue”.

6. Date and place of next meeting

The Executive Committee decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday 2 November in Lisbon, in conjunction with the 2011 Lisbon Forum which will take place on 3-4 November.



Thorbjørn Jagland
Secretary General of the Council of Europe

**Background information for the Constitutive meeting of the Executive Committee
of the North-South Centre (Strasbourg, 24 June 2011)**

Dear members,

I am glad to be present here today at the constitutive meeting of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the member States and stakeholders for their contribution to the process which has led to the adoption of this new statute.

The adoption of this resolution was a crucial step which positively concluded a process launched in November 2009 by the Parliamentary Assembly, in connection with the 20th Anniversary of the Centre.

Through this decision, the member States – and indeed all the stakeholders of the North-South Centre – have confirmed its relevance and importance, at a time when the Arab countries - our neighbours - are facing historical changes.

Allow me to recall the main lines of the Centre's new statute, which entered into force on 1 June 2011:

- the Centre keeps its present legal nature, and continues to function as an enlarged partial agreement of the Council of Europe;
- an invitation is made to all member States of the Council of Europe as well as to the European Union to join the Centre as soon as possible;
- the Centre will mainly act as an interface between the Council of Europe and countries in neighbouring regions which are interested in cooperating with the Organisation, by offering them a platform for structured cooperation at different levels (governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities, civil society);
- the two former statutory organs of the Centre have been merged into a new "Executive Committee", which is the single decision making body of the North-South Centre: through this important structural change, the "quadrilogue" functioning of the Centre is preserved, while full participation of all member states in the decision making process is ensured;
- the relationship with the European Union will be reinforced, through the introduction of the EU Committee of Regions as a new stake-holder of the North-South Centre;

- the priority areas of the Centre are confirmed (education, youth, intercultural dialogue), with an increased focus on the promotion of Council of Europe principles and values beyond the European continent.

Today, the new Executive Committee should elect its Chair, as foreseen under item 2 of the agenda. I therefore invite the Executive Committee to adopt the draft agenda and we can then proceed to the election of the Chair.

On the closing date of the call for candidatures, only one had been received, that of Ms Deborah Bergamini of Italy, presented by Ambassador Sergio Busetto, Permanent Representative of Italy to the Council of Europe. Ms Bergamini's curriculum vitae has been made available to you in today's documents. As Ms Bergamini is the only candidate, I invite you to express your support for her candidature as Chair of your Executive Committee.

I would like to hand over to Ms Bergamini and wish you every success with your work today.

COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Government representatives		Other stakeholders		
1.	Azerbaijan		Parliamentary representatives	
2.	Cape Verde	23.	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe ¹	Ms Ana Catarina Mendonca (Portugal)
3.	Cyprus	24.	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	Mr Kimmo Sasi (Finland)
4.	Finland	25.	European Parliament ²	Mr Miguel Angel Martínez (Spain)
5.	Germany	26.	European Parliament	Ms Michele Striffler (France)
6.	Greece			
7.	Holy See		Representatives of local and regional authorities	
8.	Iceland	27.	Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe ³	Mr Jean-Claude Frécon (France)
9.	Ireland	28.	Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe	Dr. Herwig Van Staa (Austria)
10.	Italy	29.	Committee of the Regions of the European Union	Mr Jesús Gamallo Aller (Spain)
11.	Liechtenstein	30.	Committee of the Regions of the European Union	Mr Christophe Rouillon (France)
12.	Luxembourg			
13.	Malta		Civil society representatives (4)	
14.	Montenegro			
15.	Morocco	31.	Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe	Mr Jean-Marie Heydt
16.	Norway	32.	Joint Council on Youth	Ms Antonia Wulff
17.	Portugal	33.	To be decided	
18.	San Marino	34.	To be decided	
19.	Serbia			
20.	Slovenia	35.	Secretary General of the Council of Europe (or his/her representative)	Mr Thorbjørn Jagland/ Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni
21.	Spain			
22.	Sweden	36.	European Union	Ambassador Luisella Pavan-Woolfe

¹ Substitute members: Mr Michael Connarty (U.K.) and Ms Maryvonne Blondin (France).

² Substitute members: Mr Charles Goerens (Luxembourg) and Ms Gabriele Zimmer (Germany).

³ Substitute members: Mrs Dubravka Suica (Croatia) and Mrs Ludmila Sfirloaga (Romania).



Confédération européenne des ONG
d'urgence et de développement

a.i.s.b.l.

NW **ActionAid International**
 NW **ADRA**
 NW **Aprodev**
 NP **Austria**
 NP **Belgium**
 NP **Bulgaria**
 NW **CARE**
 NW **Caritas Europa**
 NW **CBM International**
 NW **CIDSE**
 NP **Czech Republic : FoRS**
 NP **Cyprus: CYINDEP**
 NP **Denmark: EU-NGO**
 NP **Estonia: AKÜ**
 NW **EU-CORD**
 NW **Eurodad**
 NW **Eurostep**
 NP **Finland: Kehys ry**
 NP **France: Coordination SUD**
 NP **Germany: VENRO**
 NP **Greece**
 NP **Hungary: HAND**
 NW **IPPF European Network**
 NP **Ireland: Dóchas**
 NP **Italy: ONG italiane**
 NP **Latvia: Lapas**
 NP **Luxembourg : Cercle**
 NP **Malta: SKOP**
 NP **the Netherlands**
 NW **Oxfam International**
 NW **Plan Europe**
 NP **Poland: Grupa Zagranica**
 NP **Portugal**
 NW **Save the Children**
 NP **Slovakia: MVRO**
 NP **Slovenia: SLOGA**
 NW **Solidar**
 NP **Spain: CoNgDe**
 NP **Sweden: CONCORD**
 NW **Sverige**
 NP **Terre des Hommes F.I.**
 NW **UK: Bond**
 NW **World Vision Wide**
 NP **National platform**
 NW **Network**

June 10, 2011

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni
 Director-General
 Directorate General IV
 Council of Europe
 F-67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX

Dear Ms Battaini-Dragoni,

CONCORD has been a member of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre since March 2008 and the term of 2008-2010 was indeed very interesting and fruitful and has resulted in the establishment of a stable and mutually beneficial partnership and new cooperation schemes between the NSC and CONCORD. My colleague in CONCORD board Rilli Lappalainen has been our representative. This cooperation has been reflected in many ways, among others in the successful cooperation in the carrying out of global/development education activities throughout Europe and the work that is being conducted in the European multi-stakeholder group on development education.

We highly value the unique quadrilogue structure of the NSC and we would very much welcome the opportunity to continue this fruitful relation by continuing as a member of the new structure of the NSC, i.e. the Executive Committee. We attach great importance in taking part in such structures, based on co-management and transparency, in which civil society is given an equal voice in the decision-making process. The NSC will once again set a leading example by the establishment of this new inclusive decision-making body and CONCORD would thus be honoured to be one of the civil society representatives in this structure and to take part in and contribute to the important work of the NSC and the Council of Europe at large.

We look forward to a prolongation of a fruitful partnership.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Kilcullen
 President of CONCORD

CONCORD is the European confederation of relief and development NGOs. Its national associations and international networks represent over 1 600 NGOs which are supported by millions of citizens across Europe. CONCORD leads reflection and political actions and regularly engages in dialogue with the European institutions and other civil society organisations. It is part of the [Global Call to Action against Poverty](#), [Open Forum for CSO Development effectiveness](#), and [Spring Alliance](#). Find out more about CONCORD on www.concordeurope.org.

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CAPE VERDE

Apologised

CYPRUS

Ambassador Euripides EVRIVIADES, Permanent Representative

FINLAND

Ms Tanja LEIKAS-BOTTÀ, Deputy to the Permanent Representative

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GREECE

Ambassador Athanassios DENDOULIS, Permanent Representative

Ms Vassiliki YIANNAKAKI, Deputy to the Permanent Representative

HOLY SEE

Monsignor Aldo GIORDANO, Special Envoy of the Holy See to the Council of Europe

Monsignor Siadan COSIC, Deputy Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Council of Europe

ICELAND

Apologised

IRELAND

Ambassador Margaret HENNESSY, Permanent Representative

Mr Shane LAWLOR, Deputy to the Permanent Representative

ITALY

Ms Deborah BERGAMINI, Secretary of the Italian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Ambassador Sergio BUSETTO, Permanent Representative of Italy to the Council of Europe

LIECHTNSTEIN

Ambassador Daniel OSPELT, Permanent Representative

LUXEMBOURG

Ambassador Ronald MAYER, Permanent Representative

MALTA

Apologised

MONTENEGRO

Ambassador Ana VUKADINOVIC, Permanent Representative

MOROCCO

Mr Mustpha SMAALI, Vice-Consul General of Morocco in Strasbourg

NORWAY

Ms Turid KONGSVIK, Deputy Permanent Representative

PORTUGAL

Ambassador Américo MADEIRA BÁRBARA, Permanent Representative

Mr Paulo NEVES POCINHO, Deputy Permanent Representative

SAN MARINO

Ambassador Barbara PARA, Permanent Representative

Ms Michela BOVI, Deputy Permanent Representative .

SERBIA

Ambassador Dragana FILIPOVIC, Permanent Representative

Mr Aleksandar TOMIC, Deputy to the Permanent Representative

SLOVENIA

Apologised

SPAIN

Ambassador Fernando ALVARGONZALEZ, Permanent Representative

Mr Pablo DESPORTES, Deputy to the Permanent Representative

SWEDEN

Ms Aurore LUNDKVIST, Deputy Permanent Representative

2. PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES**Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

Apologised

European Parliament

Mr Miguel Angel MARTINEZ, Vice-President of the European Parliament,

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3. REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

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Landhaus 1, Eduard-Wallnofer-Platz 3, 6020-INNSBRUCK, Austria

Ms Antonella CAGNOLATI, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

4. CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

Mr Jean-Marie HEYDT, President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe
Email: jean-marie.heydt@coe.int

Joint Council on Youth

Ms Antonia WULFF, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth
Organising Bureau of European School Students Unions (OBESSU)
Runebergsgatan 50 B22, 00260 Helsinki, FINLAND
antonia@obessu.org

5. EUROPEAN UNION

Ambassador Luisella PAVAN-WOOLFE, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

Mr Antonino LA PIANA, Deputy to the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

6. SPECIAL GUEST: CHAIR OF THE NSC THINK-TANK

Ambassador (ret.) Eberhard KÖLSCH
Berliner Ring 41, D - 53175 Bonn, Germany
e-mail ekoelsch@gmx.net tel. +49 - (0)228 - 55 00 93 16

7. COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARIAT

Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General

Directorate General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport

Ms Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Director General

Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General

Ms Louise BARTON, Advisor

North-South Centre

Mr Denis HUBER, Executive Director

Ms Paula SMITH, Secretary of the NSC statutory bodies