

## **Information Documents**

**SG/Inf(2025)42**

18 December 2025

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**Implementation of Committee of Ministers' Resolution (2016)3 on participatory status for international non-governmental organisations with the Council of Europe**

**Granting of participatory status (applications 2025)**

**Communication to the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities**

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1. In accordance with the rules as set out in the [Committee of Ministers' Resolution \(2016\)3](#) (Article 8 of its appendix), on participatory status for international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) with the Council of Europe, the Secretary General has the honour to communicate to the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, for their tacit approval, the names of the INGOs to which she has decided to grant or refuse participatory status.
2. Further information on these INGOs and the reasons for the decisions are contained in the appendices to this document:

Appendix 1: Granting of status<sup>2</sup>: INGOs which applied for participatory status and which meet all the conditions set out in Article 2 of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3;

Appendix 2: Refusal of status: INGOs which applied for participatory status and which do not meet all the conditions set out in Article 2 of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3.

3. In conformity with Article 6 of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3, the Secretariat communicated the names of the INGOs concerned to the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs, which expressed its opinion within the required 30 calendar days.
4. In the absence of any objection raised by the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly or the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, founded on the conditions set out in Article 9 of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3, the decision of the Secretary General will enter into force 60 calendar days from the date of this document.

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<sup>2</sup> Two applications submitted in 2024 have also been examined under the present procedure.

## Appendix 1

### **INGOs which applied for participatory status and to which the Secretary General intends to grant participatory status**

The following INGOs which applied for participatory status fulfil the conditions set out in Article 2 of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3 and are recommended for participatory status. Further information on each INGO is presented in this document.

- European Muslim Leaders' Majlis (EULEMA)
- International Justice Mission (IJM)
- People in Need (PIN)

Conditions set out in Article 2 of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3:

*“2. Participatory status may be granted by the Council of Europe to INGOs:*

- a. which respect and defend the values and principles of the Council of Europe;*
- b. which are able, through their work, to support the achievement of that closer unity mentioned in Article 1 of the Council of Europe's Statute;*
- c. which are created on the basis of a constitutive act adopted according to democratic principles;*
- d. which have a democratic structure and governance;*
- e. which are particularly representative in the field(s) of their competence, fields of action shared by the Council of Europe;*
- f. which are represented at European level, that is to say which have members in at least five member States of the Council of Europe;*
- g. which were created and have implemented activities at least two years before the moment of applying for participatory status;*
- h. which already have working relations with the Council of Europe;*
- i. which are capable of contributing to and participating actively in Council of Europe deliberations and activities;*
- j. which are able to make known the work of the Council of Europe to society.”*

**European Muslim Leaders' Majlis (EULEMA)**

Founded: 2022

Type of NGO: Association

Headquarters:

Rue Abbé Cuypers

1040 Etterbeek

Belgium

Internet site: [www.eulema.org](http://www.eulema.org)

**Aims:** engage in Europe-wide interfaith dialogue and encourages understanding and solidarity between faith groups; foster a productive and respectful exchange between the religious and secular sectors of modern European society.

**Activities:** trainings, conferences, seminars, public events.

**Geographical representation in Europe:** Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom.

**Funding:** membership fees, private donations.

**Reasons why the European Muslim Leaders' Majlis (EULEMA) should be considered for participatory status**

EULEMA cooperates actively with the Council of Europe in the field of interreligious dialogue, particularly with the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of religious intolerance. For instance, the Special Representative participated in EULEMA's conference on "*The contribution of Muslim leaders to combatting hate speech*" (Brussels, 20 June 2024), while EULEMA's Chairman spoke at the international conference on "*How can interreligious engagement help to re-invigorate the European democracies?*" (Berlin, 14 May 2024) organised by the Council of Europe under the Liechtenstein's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

EULEMA is in a position to promote the work of the Council of Europe through public events at European levels in a number of European countries.

**International Justice Mission (IJM)**

Founded: 1997

Type of NGO: Association

Headquarters:  
PO Box 2227  
Arlington  
VA 22202  
USA

Internet site: <https://www.ijm.org>

**Aims:** protect vulnerable persons from violence by identifying victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors to safety and strength, and helping local law enforcement.

**Activities:** capacity development, casework, survivor empowerment, community engagement, political advocacy, and data-based research.

**Geographical representation in Europe:** Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

**Funding:** membership fees, public funding, private donations, government grants.

**Reasons why the International Justice Mission (IJM) should be considered for participatory status**

IJM has developed active cooperation with the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). It is one of the organisations met in 2024 during GRETA's evaluation visits on the implementation of the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention in Bulgaria and Romania. IJM has also recently joined the Council of Europe network of specialised lawyers and NGOs assisting women victims of violence. IJM further demonstrated its engagement through the organisation of the conference "Human Trafficking: The Route of Labour Migration – Pitfalls and Opportunities for Third-Country Nationals" held in Sofia on 6 February 2025, in co-operation with the Bulgarian National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and with the participation of a Council of Europe representative.

IJM is in a position to promote the work of the Council of Europe through its work relationship with national governments and NGOs and its activities with relevant stakeholders.

**People in Need (PIN)**

Founded: 1992

Type of NGO: Association

Headquarters:  
Street Safarikova 24  
12000 Prague  
Czechia

Internet site: [www.peopleinneed.net](http://www.peopleinneed.net)

**Aims:** protection of human rights, provides development and humanitarian assistance in war zones and areas affected by natural disasters or places stricken by poverty.

**Activities:** capacity-building, psycho-social rehabilitation, protection and advocacy.

**Geographical representation in Europe:** Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

**Funding:** public funding, private donations.

**Reasons why People in Need (PIN) should be considered for participatory status**

People in Need has working relations with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Monitoring and Legal Affairs Committees.

Council of Europe Commissioners for Human Rights have drawn upon work by People in Need in relation to country monitoring, in particular in relation to its work in Roma communities.

PIN is in a position to promote the Council of Europe's work through its websites, social media, reports and publications.

## Appendix 2

### INGOs which applied for participatory status in 2025 which do not meet the required conditions

| Name of INGO                                                | Aims                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Headquarters | Reason for refusal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| European Federation of Christian Student Associations (EKV) | Develop, coordinate and promote joint work, networking, cultural, traditional and communication platforms in Europe; promote international understanding by helping to build a united and unified Europe, coordinate initiatives in the youth exchange and youth education sector.                                                  | Austria      | <p>The European Federation of Christian Student Associations (EKV) is reapplying for the participatory status after having lost it due to absence of working relations with the Council of Europe. The information provided in the new application refers to EKV's intention to reengage with the Organisation, but it does not contain any reference to concrete working relations with the Council of Europe. It therefore does not meet condition 2.h of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3:</p> <p><i>“2. Participatory status may be granted by the Council of Europe to INGOs: h. which already have working relations with the Council of Europe”.</i></p> <p>Moreover, the information collected on the EKV's means and activities do not demonstrate its ability to contribute to, and participate in a meaningful manner to the Council of Europe's work, as per condition 2.i:</p> <p><i>“2.i which are capable of contributing to and participating actively in Council of Europe deliberations and activities.”</i></p> |
| European Federation of Older Persons (EURAG)                | Promote the quality of life of elderly people in society, at all social and political levels; advocate the maintenance of an independent life, strengthen participation in decision-making and care support, the full development of their potential, the promotion of self-help activities; improve elderly people's situation and | Czechia      | <p>The European Federation of Older Persons (EURAG) is reapplying for the participatory status after having lost it due to absence of working relations with the Council of Europe. The information provided in the new application refers to EURAG's intention to reengage with the Organisation, but it does not contain any reference to concrete working relations with the Council of Europe. It therefore does not meet condition 2.h of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3:</p> <p><i>“2. Participatory status may be granted by the Council of Europe to INGOs: h. which already have working relations with the Council of Europe”.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|                                                  | integration in society, the safeguarding of financial security, the representation of their interests in society, the prevention of any kind of discrimination on grounds of age.                                                                                                                           |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| International Association of Free Thought (IAFT) | Coordinate the actions and principles of member associations at the international level, while strictly respecting their independence and autonomy of management; undertake any initiative necessary, in accordance with its principles and by decision of the International Council.                       | France         | <p>The International Association of Free Thought (IAFT) has no working relations with the Council of Europe. It therefore does not meet condition 2.h of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3:</p> <p><i>“2. Participatory status may be granted by the Council of Europe to INGOs: h. which already have working relations with the Council of Europe”.</i></p> <p>Moreover, the information collected on the IAFT's means and activities do not demonstrate its ability to participate in, and contribute in a meaningful manner to the Council of Europe's work, as per condition 2.i:</p> <p><i>“2.i which are capable of contributing to and participating actively in Council of Europe deliberations and activities.”</i></p> |
| International Police Association (IPA)           | Create and strengthen bonds of friendship between members of the police service; promote international cooperation in social, cultural and professional fields; encourage peaceful co-existence between peoples and preservation of world peace; improve the public image of the police service and enhance | United Kingdom | <p>The International Police Association (IPA) is reapplying for the participatory status after having lost it due to absence of working relations with the Council of Europe. The information provided in the new application refers to IPA's intention to reengage with the Organisation, but it does not contain any reference to concrete working relations with the Council of Europe. It therefore does not meet condition 2.h of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3:</p> <p><i>“2. Participatory status may be granted by the Council of Europe to INGOs: h. which already have working relations with the Council of Europe”.</i></p>                                                                                       |

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|                                                    | recognition of the IPA by international bodies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ICBH) | Preserve the authenticity of Islamic norms and assure their interpretation and application.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Bosnia and Herzegovina | In light of the information available, it is not demonstrated that the ICBH meets conditions 2.a, 2.c and 2.d of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3, notably as regards the criteria related to governance and structures.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Justice Pour Tous international (JPTi)             | Combat injustice and promote human rights abuses worldwide, promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular focus on protection of human rights defenders, political activists, bloggers and journalists and marginalized groups at risk of persecution; strengthen developing civil societies and democracies in the countries engaged. | Switzerland            | Justice Pour Tous international (JPTi) established in 2022, has no working relations with the Council of Europe. It therefore does not meet condition 2.h of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3:<br><br><i>“2. Participatory status may be granted by the Council of Europe to INGOs: h. which already have working relations with the Council of Europe”.</i>                                                        |
| New Humanity                                       | Contribute to the realisation of the unity of the human family while fully respecting the proper identity of each of its components; spread the idea and practice of a united world in the variety of languages, cultures, and religions, promote in all spheres of society and at every level the spirit of universal fraternity; build relationships between people | Italy                  | New Humanity had contacted the Conference of INGOs to explore cooperation opportunities, however working relations have not yet been established with the Organisation. It therefore does not meet condition 2.h of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3:<br><br><i>“2. Participatory status may be granted by the Council of Europe to INGOs: h. which already have working relations with the Council of Europe”.</i> |

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|                   | and institutions based on mutual respect, interreligious and intercultural dialogue, mutual knowledge and forms of active cooperation; contribute to political relations that express mutual esteem and respect among social groups, among cities, among institutions at all levels, among states, and among people ; enhance co-responsibility in local and international governance and in the management of common areas worldwide; contribute to transparent, plural and relational models of decision-making to substantiate the democracy of each people. |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| United Force (UF) | Represent the united Chechen diasporas, their interests, and their rights before state institutions in European countries and other countries worldwide; facilitate the integration of Chechen diasporas in the countries where they reside; protect the rights of Chechen citizens worldwide; interact with international institutions and establish working groups for collaboration; organise educational programmes to                                                                                                                                      | France | <p>UF was created and registered on 22 March 2023. It therefore submitted its application before having reached the two years of existence and activity, counted from its official date of creation/registration, and therefore does not meet condition 2.g of the appendix to Resolution (2016)3:</p> <p><i>“2. Participatory status may be granted by the Council of Europe to INGOs: g. which were created and have implemented activities at least two years before the moment of applying for participatory status”.</i></p> <p>Moreover, the specific focus and objectives relating to the diaspora from an entity of a country which is not a member State of the Organisation raise a question about UF’s ability to support the achievement of closer unity between member States (condition 2.b) as well as its capacity to</p> |

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|  | highlight Chechen ethnic culture and history to improve the international image of the Chechens; organise cultural events and demonstrations to commemorate historical dates; develop educational programs to support Chechen students worldwide and preserve the Chechen language. |  | <p>make meaningful contributions to Council of Europe deliberations and activities (condition 2.i):</p> <p><i>“Participatory status may be granted by the Council of Europe to INGOs:</i><br/><i>b. which are able, through their work, to support the achievement of that closer unity mentioned in Article 1 of the Council of Europe’s Statute; (...)</i><br/><i>i. which are capable of contributing to and participating actively in Council of Europe deliberations and activities”.</i></p> |
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