
100th Anniversary of the Congress of European Nationalities

09.10.26

GENEVA



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SQN

Sine Qua Non
Building Capacities
for Peace & Human Rights

100th anniversary of the Congress of European Nationalities

Geneva

University of Geneva, Salle 1, 66 Boulevard Carl-Vogt

This experts' meeting will commemorate the centenary of one of the early meetings of the Congress of European Nationalities that brought together representatives of national minorities and peoples without states to advance collective rights, dialogue, and conflict prevention.

A century later, while some legal protections exist, these have not provided the degree of legal protection expected. In addition, a significant gap between legal safeguards and political representation also remains. This event will revisit the legacy of the 1926 Congress and open a discussion on collective rights and self-determination in today's multilateral landscape.

PROGRAM

Friday, 9 October 2026

09:15

Registration

09:30

Welcome words

Sébastien Farré

Executive Director of Maison de l'Histoire,
University of Geneva

Alfonso Gómez

Member of the City Council of Geneva,
Mayor 2023 - 2024 and 2025-2026 (TBC)

Antonia Luciani

President of Coppieters Foundation

10:00

Keynote Speech

Nicolas Levrat

UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

10:30

Roundtable 1

History of the Congress of European Nationalities
and National recognition in a historical perspective

Xosé M. Núñez Seixas

Professor of Modern History, University of Santiago
de Compostela

Kas Swerts

Lecturer at KU Leuven and researcher
at ADVN | Archive for National Movements

11:00

Presentations by representatives of diverse European Nationalities

12:00

Lunch break

14:00

Roundtable 2

The evolution of the right to self-determination of
peoples from a global governance perspective

Fernand de Varennes

Expert on human rights and international law

Anwen Elias

Reader in Politics at the Department of
International Politics, Aberystwyth University

Moderated by Sandrina Antunes

Research Centre in Political Science (CICP),
Universidade do Minho, Portugal

14:30

Presentations by representatives of diverse European Nationalities

16:45

Final Remarks

*Organisers: Coppieters Foundation, with the
collaboration of Sine Qua Non and Maison de l'histoire
of the University of Geneva*