



SECRETARIAT

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Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Minutes¹ of the hearing on Combating rising hate against LGBTI people in Europe held by videoconference on 18 May 2021

¹ The minutes of the hearing were approved by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination at its meeting of 17 June 2021 and declassified at its meeting on 21 June 2021.

In the framework of the preparation of the report on “Combating rising hate against LGBTI people in Europe”, rapporteur: Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC), the committee held a hearing with the participation of

- Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe;
- Emina Bosnjak, Executive Director, Sarajevo Open Centre, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Marsel Tuğkan, Consultant, ILGA-Europe, Turkey ;
- Lui Asquith, Legal, Policy and Operations Director, Mermaids, United Kingdom.

Mr Ben Chikha welcomed the speakers and directed specific questions to each of them concerning their work on combating rising hate against LGBTI people in Europe.

Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe, said that these issues had been very high on her agenda since the beginning of her term of office as they were worrying and urgent. A notable downturn in the acceptance of LGBTI people and respect for their rights throughout Europe had occurred over recent years. The significant advances achieved in recent years were under threat and it was important to react quickly to backsliding. In recent country reports she had raised concerns about hate speech against LGBTI people, including by politicians during electoral campaigns, in Armenia and Republic of Moldova; about the negative impact on LGBTI people of national debates about the Istanbul Convention and the use of the word “gender” in Bulgaria; and about the widespread stigmatisation of LGBTI people in Poland. The Hungarian authorities showed signs of following a similar path, with a striking increase in anti-LGBTI rhetoric and the adoption of laws and constitutional amendments with negative consequences for trans people and same-sex couples. The Russian Federation, Romania, Turkey could also be cited, amongst others. Several phenomena appeared to be at stake. First, there was a clear manipulation of anti-LGBTI prejudice for short-term political gain, notably in electoral contexts. Political leaders were failing in their responsibility to educate, combat stereotypes and work for acceptance. Second, “anti-gender” movements, sharing common patterns, strategies and language, pointed to the growing influence of a well organised movement that worked against not only LGBTI people’s rights but also those of women and children, evidenced for example by resistance to the Istanbul Convention and to comprehensive sexuality education. Third, efforts to enact laws to promote equality faced increasing challenges. There were still significant gaps in legal protection, whether as concerned hate speech laws, aggravating circumstances for criminal offences, the recognition of same-sex partnerships or marriage or legal gender recognition. Yet a strong legislative framework was even more important when the political and societal climate was hostile. Finally, the situation of LGBTI human rights defenders across Europe was worsening, and here a pattern was emerging of insufficient funding, verbal and physical attacks, restrictions on free expression, judicial harassment and leaks of personal data. Her report on these issues would be published in coming months. It was not enough to raise awareness: real change was needed.

Emina Bosnjak, Executive Director, Sarajevo Open Centre, Bosnia and Herzegovina, welcomed progress in her country such as the adoption of an LGBTI action plan and work on same-sex partnerships. The EU integration process and the strong presence of international communities helped to prevent radical right-wing action. However, she feared that in the post-pandemic context, public opinion might turn to scapegoating and politicians take more conservative positions. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, anti-gender forces acted sporadically, mostly in response to high-profile LGBTI events, and the Istanbul Convention had not been instrumentalised against LGBTI people. Politicians should act to prevent spill-over of negative trends from other countries. and progress made elsewhere. Clear campaigning on what the Istanbul Convention is could prevent space being taken by those that misrepresent it. Radical and conservative movements that opposed human rights, as well as organised neo-Nazi, football hooligans and war veterans’ groups such as those that had organised counter protests the day before 2019 Pride march in Sarajevo, should be mapped and their work monitored. Campaigning and public statements against the narratives of such groups, and against online anti-LGBTI hate speech, were needed, and such cases should be prosecuted. In the Republika Srpska, the criminal code needed to be strengthened. Action was also needed to help garner more support for legislation recognising same-sex partnerships, on which work was under way, as well as legal gender recognition: both required paradigm shifts in social and cultural understandings of gender equality, combating gender-based violence, and promoting the rights and freedoms of LGBTI people. No room should be left for public opinion to be swayed towards more sexism, misogyny and anti-LGBTI hate. Finally, there was limited space for civil society organisations, including those working on LGBTI human rights. Recent attempts to introduce VAT on such organisations were not in line with any fiscal policy in any country. Other regulations could also lead to exploitation of the vulnerabilities of CSOs perceived as not being in line with public policy. Laws on public assembly, which had been used against protests that were not in line with government policy, and which had affected LGBTIQ activists, should also be reviewed.

Marsel Tuğkan, Consultant, ILGA-Europe, Turkey, said that the pandemic was creating extraordinary circumstances. There was shrinking space for civil society in a tense political climate, and a deterioration of democratic institutions. The climate of repression had become more tangible in the state of emergency

introduced following the failed coup attempt in 2016. This affected LGBTI organisations and activists, who were facing new challenges. Statements by the President and media constantly and cruelly targeted LGBTI people and had resulted in actions by state and local authorities to restrict LGBTI events. Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention would take effect on 1 July 2021 and LGBTI people would become more vulnerable to hate attacks. Turkey should respect its own constitution and international commitments and protect the rights of LGBTI people. Their rights had initially improved dramatically under the current government during the EU integration process. After 2006, dozens of LGBTI movements had become active – this was unique in the region. The current ruling party had opened that door, and it was still not too late to build a better future together. Currently, however, human rights were losing traction in international discourse while populism rose, and the more the international community failed to respond effectively to human rights violations, the more they would spread. Hate was contagious just as courage was. The so-called “gay-propaganda” ban in the Russian Federation had encouraged LGBTI-free zones in Poland, which had encouraged the ban on gender studies and restriction in legal gender recognition laws in Hungary, and these would encourage Turkey. What the Turkish community was facing was also a threat for rest of Europe – it was not a local detail but a global trend. The circle had to be stopped through international solidarity, and common respect for human rights and freedoms.

Melike Balkan, METU lgbt+ solidarity, Turkey, added that she had seen a dramatic change in perceptions of LGBTI people in Turkey and in the challenges they faced since she had become an activist. The blanket ban imposed on all LGBTI events in Ankara in 2016, after the failed coup attempt, had restricted LGBTI people's lives enormously. Although Pride events had been held for many years previously, they had been unable to hold any events at all until a court lifted the ban in February 2019. In May 2019 a Pride event was organised on METU grounds but violently dispersed by the police. 22 people had been arrested, including herself though it was a peaceful event; they were currently facing charges in court. Peaceful *Boğaziçi* University student protests had also been violently dispersed. Government officials were increasingly using hate speech against LGBTI people and targeting their organisations. They could not go out freely on streets, come together, organise marches, or even gather for a film screening. This created enormous pressure and had to change. LGBTI people had no place in the government's recent human rights action plan. Turkey should be working to create a safer environment for LGBTI people and prevent hate speech and hate crimes against them – starting with the human rights action plan.

Lui Asquith, Legal, Policy and Operations Director, Mermaids, United Kingdom, explained that she used the term “trans” or “transgender” as an umbrella term covering people who were trans, non-binary, genderqueer, genderfluid, agender or of a non-Western gender identity and those who had a trans history. Trans rights in the UK were in peril and growing anti-trans (gender-critical, anti-gender) rhetoric was gaining erroneous and worrying credibility, at the expense not only of trans people's civil liberties but also of women's and children's rights. At its simplest, such rhetoric argued that sex was immutable and gender identities were not valid. Yet a trans person's gender identity was by its nature different from the sex assigned to them at birth. Gender-critical rhetoric thus suggested that gender identities were meaningless or that they could not prevail over the sex assigned to a person at birth, and that they were not worthy of recognition in wider society. Her organisation strongly opposed this position. Gender-critical rhetoric was being used as tool to roll back and inhibit the rights of trans and non-binary people in the UK, and unless there was a European and global response, the situation would worsen. Since 2007, conservative US Christian groups had spent \$90M funding anti-LGBT organisations in Europe – more than anywhere else in the world. Gender-critical rhetoric was contributing to growing human rights problems domestically and internationally. In the UK, hate crime statistics, which included data on gender identity, showed a huge increase in crimes with this motivation: since 2015, the figures had tripled in Northern Ireland, England and Wales. This could in part be due to increased reporting but many trans people did not feel safe to report such crimes, especially trans people of colour who were significantly more vulnerable to ethnic profiling and police brutality. The UK anti-LGBT+ violence charity Galop had found in 2020 that only 1 in 7 victims of transphobic hate crimes had reported them to the authorities. Trans people faced such high rates of physical, sexual and verbal attack that more than half felt less safe to leave their house. Online abuse was also rising and added complexity because it was even more difficult to regulate and could be anonymous. The UK government had recently published a paper aiming to tackle harmful online content while respecting media freedoms. This was welcome in principle but when it came to trans people and their rights, what constituted harmful content had been the subject of intense and ongoing social, political and legal argument. The need to ensure freedom of expression must not be used to justify harmful, transphobic rhetoric. Two recent court cases were of particular concern: in one, an ex-police officer's transphobic tweets had been found lawful, and in the second, in which judgment was still pending, the Equality and Human Rights Commission had intervened, advising that gender-critical beliefs should be protected political beliefs under UK equality legislation. Trans people were subjected to extremely high levels of legal and political argument globally. The question of the extent to which freedom of expression contributed to healthy democracy or violated the rights of and duties towards trans people must be answered from the perspective of protecting this marginalised population. The protection of free expression must not be used to further penalise and harm trans

people and communities. It was also becoming increasingly difficult for individuals and organisations to publicly affirm young trans people without being subjected to hostility and disproportionate questioning from wider society. Teachers and primary carers were increasingly being questioned and even investigated by the State for affirming trans people. The gender-critical movement had played a significant part in reaching this point. In 2018, the public consultation on the Gender Recognition Act 2004 for England and Wales had created a political moment in which dangerous debates had flourished, portraying trans rights as a threat to cisgender women and girls. Since then, there had been an unprecedented campaign of vitriol by large swathes of the media, with charities supportive of trans rights being targeted. The campaigns were not based on any evidence; trans women were vilified and misrepresented. In the UK, legally competent trans people with clinically diagnosed gender dysphoria still required a court order to access life-saving health care, and there were worrying accounts of parents who (due to difficulties in accessing timely public health care) had pursued private health care on behalf of their child, being investigated by State authorities. Trans healthcare was also being erroneously portrayed as a form of LGB conversion therapy. Legal gender recognition processes were dehumanising and moreover inaccessible to non-binary people and anyone under 18. The gender-critical campaign had again been instrumental here and it was gaining momentum, power and financial support. She was fearful for the future. Only collective action could overcome this situation.

Mr Ben Chikha thanked the speakers and observed that LGBTI people were not only being used as scapegoats, but also being instrumentalised by some religious leaders and far right politicians to force a racist agenda. Every LGBTI policy decision had to be backed by an intersectional approach. **Ms Honkaskalo** regretted that in the Finnish parliament, very few 10 MPs were actively promoting human rights at the moment. She asked what could be done to increase MPs' knowledge and understanding of the anti-gender movement in Europe as it presently stood. **Ms Stienen** expressed concern about homonationalism, in which extreme right parties used LGBTI rights to stigmatise minority groups and single out Muslims as homophobic, as if all white, western Christians were LGBTI-friendly. She wondered how to prevent pinkwashing and ensure that companies, ministries and other bodies that publicly supported Pride events actively protected LGBTI people within their own structures. More pressure must also be placed on social media companies to take action to combat anti-LGBTI hatred. Referring to the broader fabric of the anti-gender movement, which was increasingly affecting women's rights, **the Chairperson** asked where politicians should place their priority for action and whether any good practices could be shared.

Ms Mijatović replied that it was crucial for parliamentarians to engage with civil society, the LGBTI community and its representatives, read their reports and invite them to parliaments to listen to what they had to say. Human rights defenders should reach out to MPs to hold such discussions. It was important to pay attention to the patterns reproduced by the anti-gender movement, to their strategies and the language used to target LGBTI people across various member States. Homonationalism was indeed an issue. Many initiatives looked good on paper and in campaigns but to avoid pinkwashing, it was crucial to ask how to actually help those who need support, especially in the pandemic context. International organisations and human rights defenders must continue their work, but ultimately the responsibility for respecting human rights lay with governments, which were often good at ticking boxes and signing and ratifying conventions, but less so at implementation. More courageous, forward-looking leaders were needed, to look beyond the next election results and to achieve lasting change for the future. Tremendous progress had been achieved for LGBTI and women's rights, but efforts were now urgently needed to prevent backsliding. Governments must also be held to account to do more for the rights of those who had been very exposed during pandemic. Social media companies must accept their responsibilities, but these must not all be shifted from the State. The judiciary must also play its role in combating online hate speech and incitement to hate.

Melike Balkan said that LGBTI activists throughout Europe regularly discussed pinkwashing. The solution was to hold companies responsible throughout the year, not just during pride month, ask for clarifications on policies implemented and actions taken to combat hate speech within company. This helped to identify companies that were genuinely committed to LGBTI equality. She shared the view that those who engaged in online hate speech should be prosecuted. Homonationalism must be addressed without scapegoating migrants, as such arguments ultimately harmed the LGBTI community too. It was important to engage and understand the reasons for hate and prejudice against LGBTI people. The issue was not Islam or culture but pervasive propaganda against LGBTI people, no matter the country or culture. In her country people didn't inherently hate LGBTI people, and sloppy discourse coming from Europe could be very harmful. To raise parliamentarians' awareness of the anti-gender movement, it was crucial talk to activists from around the world, as this would provide insights which could help combat such movements at home.

Lui Asquith added that it was crucial to raise parliamentarians' awareness to the fact that the anti-gender movement directly impacted women's and children's rights, not just the rights of LGBTI people. This may raise their willingness to engage in this conversation. Leaving a vacuum regarding hate speech on social media meant hateful language and incitement to hate were condoned. The charity she worked for had been subjected

to it constantly. Social media companies responded to government culture; it was up to decision-makers to create and set the obligations that social media companies must meet.

Emina Bosnjak agreed that it was crucial to engage with local civil society organisations, but also more broadly, and notably with ILGA-Europe, which had contributed to creating knowledge about the anti-gender movement. Research published by the EPF in 2018 showed that this movement was centrally organised and well financed, and was deliberately targeting what LGBTI people had fought for in many countries, both EU and non-EU. When tackling pinkwashing or homonationalism, different contexts must be borne in mind. They were hot issues in some countries but not all. It was important to have the business sector as an ally, without using LGBTI people as tokens enabling companies to present a (false) image of diversity and inclusion.

Mr Ben Chikha thanked the speakers again for their inspiring but also worrying contributions. He invited members to read and share the statement he had issued the previous day for IDAHOBIT.

Appendix 1

Attendance list / Liste de présence

(The names of members present appear **in bold**. / Les noms des membres présents apparaissent **en gras**.)

	Chairperson / Présidente		
	Ms Petra BAYR	Austria / Autriche	
	Vice-Chairpersons / Vice-Présidentes		
1 st	Ms Petra STIENEN	Netherlands / Pays-Bas	
1 ^{er}			
2 nd	Mme Françoise HETTO-GAASCH	Luxembourg / Luxembourg	
2 ^{ème}			
3 rd	Ms Feleknas UCA	Turkey / Turquie	
3 ^{ème}			
	Members / Membres		Alternates / Remplaçant-e-s
1.	Ms Eglantina GJERMENI	Albania / Albanie	ZZ...
2.	M. Pere LÓPEZ	Andorra / Andorre	Ms Eva LÓPEZ
3.	Mr Edmon MARUKYAN	Armenia / Arménie	Mr Vladimir VARDANYAN
4.	Ms Petra BAYR	Austria / Autriche	Ms Stephanie KRISPER
5.	Ms Andrea		
	EDER-GITSCHTHALER	Austria / Autriche	Mr Franz Leonhard ESSL
6.	Mr Rafael HUSEYNOV	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	Ms Parvin KARIMZADA
7.	Ms Konul NURULLAYEVA	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	MS Sevinj FATALIYEVA
8.	Mr Fourat BEN CHIKHA	Belgium / Belgique	Ms Els van HOOFF
9.	M. Christophe LACROIX	Belgium / Belgique	Ms Darya SAFAI
10.	Mr Saša MAGAZINOVIĆ	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine	Mr Mladen BOSIĆ
11.	Ms Elena ANGELININA	Bulgaria / Bulgarie	ZZ...
12.	Mr Plamen HRISTOV	Bulgaria / Bulgarie	Mme Milena DAMYANOVA
13.	Ms Sabina GLASOVAC	Croatia / Croatie	Ms Marijana PETIR
14.	Ms Christiana EROTKRITOU	Cyprus / Chypre	Mr Constantinos EFSTATHIOU
15.	Ms Alena GAJDŮŠKOVÁ	Czech Republic / République tchèque	ZZ...
16.	Mr František KOPŘIVA	Czech Republic / République tchèque	ZZ...
17.	Ms Victoria VELASQUEZ	Denmark / Danemark	Ms Kathrine OLLDAG
18.	Ms Vilja TOOMAST	Estonia / Estonie	ZZ...
19.	Ms Tarja FILATOV	Finland / Finlande	Ms Veronika HONKASALO
20.	M. Bruno FUCHS	France / France	Mme Laurence TRASTOUR-ISNART
21.	M. Didier MARIE	France / France	M. François CALVET
22.	Mme Isabelle RAUCH	France / France	M. Dimitri HOUBRON
23.	Mme Liliana TANGUY	France / France	M. Jérôme LAMBERT
24.	Ms Tamar TALIASHVILI	Georgia / Géorgie	Ms Mariam KVRIVISHVILI
25.	Mr Frank HEINRICH	Germany / Allemagne	Ms Elisabeth MOTSCHMANN
26.	Ms Gabriela HEINRICH	Germany / Allemagne	Ms Cornelia MÖHRING
27.	Ms Gyde JENSEN	Germany / Allemagne	ZZ...
28.	Ms Daniela WAGNER	Germany / Allemagne	Ms Josephine ORTLEB
29.	Mr Anastasios		
	CHATZIVASILEIOU	Greece / Grèce	Ms Nina KASIMATI
30.	Mr George PAPANDEOU	Greece / Grèce	Mr Dimitrios KAIRIDIS
31.	Ms Zita GURMAI	Hungary / Hongrie	Mr László KERESZTES
32.	Ms Hajnalka JUHÁSZ	Hungary / Hongrie	Mr Barna Pál ZSIGMOND
33.	Ms Thorhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR	Iceland / Islande	Ms Halldóra MOGENSEN
34.	Ms Róisín GARVEY	Ireland / Irlande	Mr Joseph O'REILLY
35.	Mr Simone BILLI	Italy / Italie	Ms Simona SURIANO
36.	Ms Maria Elena BOSCHI	Italy / Italie	Ms Marina BERLINGHIERI
37.	Mr Gianni MARILOTTI	Italy / Italie	Mr Gianluca FERRARA

38.	Mr Gianluca PERILLI	Italy / Italie	Ms Anna Maria BERNINI
39.	Mr Boriss CILEVIČS	Latvia / Lettonie	Ms Marija GOLUBEVA
40.	Ms Franziska HOOP	Liechtenstein / Liechtenstein	Mr Thomas HASLER
41.	Ms Aušrinė NORKIENĖ	Lithuania / Lituanie	Mr Arminas LYDEKA
42.	Mme Josée LORSCHÉ	Luxembourg / Luxembourg	Mme Françoise HETTO-GAASCH
43.	Ms Rosianne CUTAJAR	Malta / Malte	Mr Ian CASTALDI PARIS
44.	Ms Doina GHERMAN	Republic of Moldova / République de Moldova	Mr Gaik VARTANEAN
45.	Mme Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO	Monaco / Monaco	Mme Brigitte BOCCONE-PAGES
46.	ZZ...	Montenegro / Monténégro	ZZ...
47.	Ms Reina de BRUIJN-WEZEMAN	Netherlands / Pays-Bas	Ms Margreet De BOER
48.	Ms Petra STIENEN	Netherlands / Pays-Bas	Ms Ria OOMEN-RUIJTEN
49.	Ms Arta BILALLI ZENDELI	North Macedonia / Macédoine du Nord	Ms Artina QAZIMI
50.	Ms Jette CHRISTENSEN	Norway / Norvège	Mr Petter EIDE
51.	Mr Marek BOROWSKI	Poland / Pologne	Mr Killion MUNYAMA
52.	Mr Daniel MILEWSKI	Poland / Pologne	Ms Maria KOC
53.	Ms Barbara NOWACKA	Poland / Pologne	Mr Krzysztof ŚMISZEK
54.	Mme Edite ESTRELA	Portugal / Portugal	Mme Isabel RODRIGUES
55.	Ms Jamila MADEIRA	Portugal / Portugal	Mr António FILIPE
56.	M. Viorel Riceard BADEA	Romania / Roumanie	Mr Corneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC
57.	Mr Botond CSOMA	Romania / Roumanie	Mr Marius-Horia ȚUȚUIANU
58.	Ms Elena-Simona SPĂȚARU	Romania / Roumanie	Mr Iulian BULAI
59.	Mr Sergey FABRYCHNYY	Russian Federation / Fédération de Russie	Ms Olga KHOKHLOVA
60.	Mr Yury OLEINIKOV	Russian Federation / Fédération de Russie	Ms Alfiia KOGOGINA
61.	Ms Irina RODNINA	Russian Federation / Fédération de Russie	Mr Artur TAYMAZOV
62.	Ms Irina RUKAVISHNIKOVA	Russian Federation / Fédération de Russie	Ms Oksana PUSHKINA
63.	M. Giuseppe Maria MORGANTI	San Marino / Saint-Marin	Ms Mariella MULARONI
64.	Ms Elvira KOVÁCS	Serbia / Serbie	Ms Stanislava JANOŠEVIĆ
65.	Ms Biljana PANTIĆ PILJA	Serbia / Serbie	Mr Stefan KRKOBABIĆ
66.	Ms Anna ZÁBORSKÁ	Slovak Republic / République slovaque	Mr Eduard KOČIŠ
67.	Ms Violeta TOMIĆ	Slovenia / Slovénie	Ms Tadeja ŠUŠTAR
68.	Ms María Luisa BUSTINDUY	Spain / Espagne	Ms Susana SUMELZO
69.	Ms Laura CASTEL	Spain / Espagne	Ms Sara GIMÉNEZ
70.	Ms Sara VILA	Spain / Espagne	Ms Esther PEÑA
71.	Ms Ann-Britt ÅSEBOL	Sweden / Suède	Ms Carina OHLSSON
72.	Mr Momodou Malcolm JALLOW	Sweden / Suède	Mr Markus WIECHEL
73.	Mr Niklaus-Samuel GUGGER	Switzerland / Suisse	Mr Roland Rino BÜCHEL
74.	Mme Ada MARRA	Switzerland / Suisse	M. Jean-Pierre GRIN
75.	Ms Sena Nur ÇELİK	Turkey / Turquie	Mr Mehmet Mehdi EKER
76.	Ms Selin SAYEK BÖKE	Turkey / Turquie	Mr Yunus EMRE
77.	Ms Feleknas UCA	Turkey / Turquie	Mr Hişyar ÖZSOY
78.	Mme Serap YAŞAR	Turkey / Turquie	Mr Halil ÖZŞAVLI
79.	Ms Maryna BARDINA	Ukraine / Ukraine	Ms Mariia MEZENTSEVA
80.	Mr Yuriy KAMELCHUK	Ukraine / Ukraine	Ms Olena KHOMENKO
81.	Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK	Ukraine / Ukraine	Mr Andrii LOPUSHANSKYI
82.	Ms Ruth JONES	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr Virendra SHARMA
83.	Mr Gagan MOHINDRA	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr Saqib BHATTI
84.	Mr Ian PAISLEY	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Ms Felicity BUCHAN
85.	Mr Martin VICKERS	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Mr Steve DOUBLE

MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY / MEMBRE DE L'ASSEMBLÉE

Mr Ahmet YILDIZ Turkey / *Turquie*

INVITED SPEAKERS / INTERVENANT·E·S

Ms / *Mme* Dunja MIJATOVIĆ Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe /
..... *Commissaire aux droits de l'homme du Conseil de l'Europe*

Emina BOSNJAK Executive Director, Sarajevo Open Centre, Bosnia and Herzegovina /
..... *Directrice exécutive, Sarajevo Open Centre, Bosnie-Herzégovine*

Marsel TUĞKAN Consultant, ILGA-Europe, Turkey / *Consultant, ILGA-Europe, Turquie*

Melike BALKAN METU lgbti+ solidarity, Turkey / *METU lgbti+ solidarité, Turquie*

Lui ASQUITH Legal, Policy and Operations Director, Mermaids, United Kingdom /
..... *Responsable des questions juridiques, des politiques et des opérations*
..... *Mermaids, Royaume-Uni*

Mr / *M.* Rik DAEMS President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe /
..... *Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe*

Ms / *Mme* Nina NORDSTRÖM Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
..... Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe
..... President of the Committee of Parties to the Istanbul Convention /
..... *Ambassadrice extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire,*
..... *Représentante permanente de la Finlande auprès du Conseil de l'Europe,*
..... *Présidente du Comité des Parties à la Convention d'Istanbul*

**SECRETARIAT OF DELEGATION OR OF POLITICAL GROUP /
SECRETARIAT DE DELEGATION OU DE GROUPE POLITIQUE**

Ms / *Mme* Karine SHIMSHIRYAN Armenia / *Arménie*

Mr / *M.* Georg MAGERL Austria / *Autriche*

Ms / *Mme* Nadine DRAGAN Austria / *Autriche*

Ms / *Mme* Sonja LANGENHAECK Belgium / *Belgique*

Mr / *M.* Adnan BEŠIĆ Bosnia and Herzegovina / *Bosnie-Herzégovine*

Ms / *Mme* Elena PERSIANI Cyprus / *Chypre*

Ms / *Mme* Enel OSTAVEL Estonia / *Estonie*

Ms / *Mme* Panagiota MICHA Greece / *Grèce*

Ms / *Mme* Victoria CAMPANA Monaco / *Monaco*

Ms / *Mme* Dorthe BAKKE Norway / *Norvège*

Ms / *Mme* Anna TRĘBACZKIEWICZ Poland / *Pologne*

Mr / *M.* Rasvan TANASE Romania / *Roumanie*

Ms / *Mme* Alina ILIE Romania / *Roumanie*

Ms / *Mme* Carmen IONESCU Romania / *Roumanie*

Ms / *Mme* Elizaveta GROMOGLASOVA Russian Federation / *Fédération de Russie*

Ms / *Mme* Anna KUCHEREVSKAYA Russian Federation / *Fédération de Russie*

Ms / *Mme* Maria NIKULINA Russian Federation / *Fédération de Russie*

Ms / *Mme* Johanna INGVARSSON Sweden / *Suède*

Ms / *Mme* Ayşegül SAKA Turkey / *Turquie*

Ms / *Mme* Francesca ARBOGAST SOC / *SOC*

Ms / *Mme* Marianna NTALLA SOC / *SOC*

Ms / *Mme* Anna KOLOTOVA UEL / *GUE*

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Mr / M. Kirill BUTIVSCHENKO Russian Federation / *Fédération de Russie*

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS / ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES

Ms / Mme Bénédicte COLIN Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe /
..... *Fédération des Associations Familiales Catholiques en Europe (FAFCE)*

Mr / M. Cianán RUSSELL ILGA-Europe

SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / SECRETARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights / Bureau du Commissaire aux droits de l'homme**

Ms / Mme Claudia LAM Head of Division II / *Cheffe de Division II*

Ms / Mme Géraldine MATTIOLI-ZELTNER Adviser / *Conseillère*

Ms / Mme Erliha BICAKCIC Adviser / *Conseillère*

DG II: Directorate General of Democracy / DG II: Direction générale de la Démocratie

Ms / Mme Camille GOY Violence against Women (GREVIO) /
..... *Violence à l'égard des femmes (GREVIO)*

Mr / M. Ellsworth CAMILLERI Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Unit /
..... *Unité sur l'Orientation sexuelle et identité de genre*

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE /
SECRETARIAT DE L'ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE****Private Office of the President of the Assembly / Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée**

Ms / Mme Stefania KRUGER Deputy to the Head of the Private Office /
..... *Adjointe à la Cheffe du Cabinet*

Bureau of the Assembly / Bureau de l'Assemblée

Ms / Mme Isild HEURTIN Head of the Secretariat / *Cheffe du Secrétariat*

Communication Division / Division de la Communication

Mr / M. Angus MACDONALD Administrative Officer / *Administrateur*

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Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination / Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination

Ms / Mme Penelope DENU Head of the Secretariat / *Cheffe du Secrétariat*

Ms / Mme Sarah BURTON Secretary to the Committee / *Secrétaire de la commission*

Mr / M. Giorgio LODDO Secretary to the Committee / *Secrétaire de la commission*

Ms / Mme Elodie FISCHER Secretary to the Committee / *Secrétaire de la commission*

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