

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN**

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
Synopsis No. 2003/072
3 June 2003

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Bucharest on 26-27 May 2003 with Mrs Err (Luxembourg, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Impact of the reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy by President Bush of the United States of America* (Rapporteur: Mrs Zwerver, Netherlands, SOC) : considered and declassified an expert paper prepared by Mrs Dilys Cossey (United Kingdom), decided to invite her to one of the next meetings of the Committee to present a revised version of the paper, and asked the Rapporteur to present a draft report to it at one of its next meetings;
- *Equal opportunities and nationality rights* (Rapporteur: Mrs Aguiar, Portugal, EPP): considered an outline report and approved a draft questionnaire to be sent to national delegations of Council of Europe member states and to offices of Council of Europe observer states (with copies to the members of the Committee);
- *EU Convention for the future of Europe*: considered, amended and approved a non-paper presented by the Chairperson, instructed her to send a letter transmitting the non-paper to the Chairperson of the European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities, a letter to the President of the Assembly, asking him to transmit the non-paper to the members of the Bureau's competent *ad hoc* Committee, as well as a letter to the Chairpersons of national delegations (with copies to the members of the Committee), asking them to transmit the non-paper to their colleagues who are members of the Convention; the Committee also indicated its wish to be seized for opinion in the event of a debate on the subject being held during the up-coming part-session of the Assembly;
- *Statement by representatives at meetings organised by other bodies* : heard a statement by Mrs Cliveti (Romania, SOC) on the seminar on "*Participation of women in public and economic life*" organised by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw, 13-15 May 2003;
- *Appointment of representatives to meetings organised by other bodies* :
 - Mr Mooney (Ireland, LDR) on the Hearing on "*Elections 2004 - How to ensure balanced representation of women and men*" organised by the European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities, Brussels, 11 June 2003 (morning);

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cc Secretary General of the Assembly
Directors of the Assembly
All staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly

Director Generals
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General
Director of Communication and Research
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- Mrs Cliveti (Romania, SOC) on the 28th meeting of the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG), Strasbourg, 16-18 June 2003;
 - Mrs Err (Luxembourg, SOC) on the Seminar on *the future EU Convention and women* organised by the Europäische Bewegung Deutschland, Berlin, 20 June 2003
- *Appointment of rapporteurs:*
- Mrs Damanaki (Greece, UEL), for report, *on discrimination of women in the workforce and the workplace*;
- *Situation of women in Romania:* held an exchange of views with Romanian parliamentarians, government and NGO representatives;
- *other business:* decided to send a letter to the Chairperson of the Portuguese delegation regarding the fate of a young woman from Kenya risking deportation from Portugal, her application for asylum on the basis of risking being subjected to genital mutilation having been rejected;
- held a hearing on *the role played by women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation* with the participation of the following participants:
- Ms Petra BLÄSS, Former Vice-President of the German Bundestag, Germany
The necessity of the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 – strategic proposals from a German NGO perspective
 - Ms Florence TERCIER, Policy Advisor, Women and War Project, ICRC, Switzerland
The work done by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the area of women and war
 - Representatives of the Romanian Defense Ministry, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and the Office of the President of Romania
- held a hearing on *discrimination of women in the workforce and the workplace* with the following participants:
- Mrs Maria Josefina LEITAO, Chair of the Committee for Equality in the workplace and in employment, Portugal
 - Mr Alexandru ATHANASIU, Vice-President of the Romanian Senate
 - Mrs Smaranda DOBRESCU, Chairwoman of the Committee for Labour and Social Protection, Chamber of Deputies of Romania
 - Mrs Silvia CIORNEI, Minister for Small and Medium Enterprises of Romania
 - Mrs Maria CRIVINEANU, Secretary of State, Ministry for European Integration of Romania
 - Mrs Mariana DIACONESCU, President of Eximbank (Romania)
- *Next meetings:* decided to meet in:
- Strasbourg, during the 2003 3rd part-session (23-27 June)
 - Paris, Council of Europe Office, Friday 5 September 2003 ;
 - Strasbourg, during the 2003 4th part-session (Thursday, 25 September – Thursday, 2 October)
 - Paris, Council of Europe office, October/November (*to be determined*).

Tanja Kleinsorge / Olga Kostenko