

# Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Synopsis No. 2005/065  
9 June 2005

**The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men**, meeting in Paris on 3 June 2005 with first Mrs Čurdova (Czech Republic, SOC), Second Vice-Chairperson, and then Mrs Zapfl-Helbling (Switzerland, EPP/CD), First Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Forced marriages and child marriages* (Rapporteuse: Mrs Zapfl-Helbling, Switzerland, EPP/CD): considered a draft report prepared by the Rapporteuse, and amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation with a view to a debate on the report during the October 2005 part-session of the Assembly;
- *Promoting a United Nations 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women* (Rapporteuse: Mrs Err, Luxembourg, SOC):
  - considered a draft report prepared by the Rapporteuse and decided to resume its consideration at one of its meetings during the June 2005 part-session;
  - proposed that the report be debated at the Standing Committee in Monaco on 1 September 2005, and that Ms Rachel Maganya, UN Assistant Secretary General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women be invited on that occasion to present the position of the UN on this issue;
- *Women and religion in Europe* (Rapporteuse: Mrs Zapfl-Helbling, Switzerland, EPP/CD):
  - held an exchange of views with Ms Lucienne Sallé, Representative of the Catholic Church, and Mr Larbi Kechat, Rector of the Mosque "Adda'wa", Paris;
  - considered a revised introductory memorandum and asked the Rapporteuse to present a draft report for adoption at the Committee's meeting in Reykjavik on 12-13 September 2005;
  - was informed that Ms Asma Jahangir, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, had accepted the invitation extended by the Committee to deliver a keynote speech at the second meeting of women members of the Assembly, on Tuesday, 4 October 2005 at the end of the sitting, and asked its Chairperson to inform the Bureau accordingly;

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cc Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director General and Director 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

- *Third Summit of the Council of Europe* :
  - heard a statement by the First Vice-Chairperson;
  - supported the request for an urgent debate on the follow-up to the Summit put forward by the Political Affairs Committee during the June-part-session and declared its readiness to contribute to the debate, in particular concerning the campaign on violence against women decided upon at the Third Summit;
  - instructed its Chairperson Mrs Cliveti to put a question to the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers on the timing of the campaign;
  
- *Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings* (Rapporteuse: Mrs Vermot-Mangold, Switzerland, SOC): in the absence of the Rapporteuse, heard a statement by the First Vice-Chairperson, and decided to take the appropriate measures to support and promote the signature and ratification of the Convention by member states and the European Community;
  
- *Sub-Committee on Violence against Women*: heard a statement by Mrs Hägg (Sweden, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, on the meeting held in the morning;
  
- *Cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe*: heard a statement by the First Vice-Chairperson, and decided to invite the Chairperson of the Committee on Social Cohesion of the Congress for an exchange of views at the earliest opportunity;
  
- *Appointment of rapporteurs*: appointed :
  - Mr Branger (France, EPP/CD) Rapporteur for opinion on *the creation of transit centres outside the European Union* ;
  - Ms Wurm (Austria, SOC) Rapporteuse for opinion on *improving CPT selection procedures* ;
  
- *Appointment of representatives at meetings organised by other bodies*: appointed:
  - Mrs Err (Luxembourg, SOC) to take part in the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG), Strasbourg, 8-10 June 2005;
  - Mrs Zapfl-Helbling (Switzerland, EPP/CD) to take part in the Colloquy on « *Europe and religion : the necessity of self-criticism* » organised by the Centre socio-culturel of rue de Tanger, Paris, 18 June 2005 ;
  
- *Statement by representatives at meetings organised by other bodies*: heard a statement by Mr Branger (France, EPP/CD) on the workshop on “*violence against women in the XXI<sup>st</sup> century*” organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the OSCE Slovenian Chairmanship and the Secretariat of the United Nations, Paris, 28-29 April 2005;
  
- *Committee meeting in Tbilissi (Georgia)* : was informed of the state of preparation of the regional parliamentary seminar and public hearing on gender equality in the Southern Caucasus to be held in Tbilissi on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 November 2005 - *subject to authorisation by the Bureau* –;
  
- *Next meetings*: decided to meet in:
  - **Strasbourg**, during the 2005 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session of the Assembly (20-24 June);
  - **Reykjavik (Iceland)**, Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 September 2005 ;
  - **Strasbourg**, during the 2005 4<sup>th</sup> part-session of the Assembly (3-7 October);
  - **Tbilisi (Georgia)**, Regional parliamentary seminar and public hearing on gender equality in the South Caucasus, Thursday 3 and Friday 4 November 2005 ;
  - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Friday 2 December 2005.

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**The Sub-Committee on violence against women**, meeting in Paris on 3 June 2005 from 9.30 am to 10 am with Mrs Hägg (Sweden, SOC), in the Chair :

As regards:

- *Preparation of the Paneuropean campaign proposed by the Parliamentary Assembly to combat domestic violence against women in Europe:*
  - heard a statement by the Chairperson, in particular on the decisions taken at the Third Summit regarding the organisation of a campaign on violence against women, including domestic violence;
  - held an exchange of views on the preparation of the Assembly's contribution to the campaign;
- *its next meeting:* during the June 2005 part-session (20-24 June).

Tanja Kleinsorge / Sylvie Affholder / Jannick Devaux