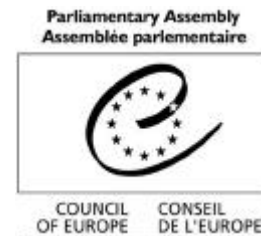


Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
Synopsis No. 2005/112
7 October 2005

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Strasbourg on 3, 4 and 5 October 2005 with Vice-Chairpersons Ms Zapfl-Helbling (Switzerland, EPP/CD), Ms Curdová (Czech Republic, SOC) and Ms Smirnova (Russia, EDG), in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on items of common interest*: held an exchange of views with Ms Luisa Laurelli, Chairperson of the Committee on Social Cohesion of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- *Women and religion in Europe* (Rapporteur: Ms Zapfl-Helbling, Switzerland, EPP/CD): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
- *Forced marriages and child marriages* (Rapporteur: Ms Zapfl-Helbling, Switzerland, EPP/CD): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution and to the draft recommendation;
- *Second meeting of women members of the Parliamentary Assembly*: was informed about the second meeting of women members of the Assembly, which took place in Strasbourg on Tuesday, 4 October 2005, with first Ms Zapfl-Helbling (Switzerland, EPP/CD) and then Ms Curdová (Czech Republic, SOC) in the Chair, during which was held an exchange of views with Ms Asma Jahangir, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, on the interface between freedom of religion and the status of women; and which decided to meet again in Strasbourg during the October 2006 Parliamentary Assembly part-session;
- *Meeting of the Committee in Georgia*: held an exchange of views on the final preparation of the regional parliamentary seminar and public hearing on gender equality in the South Caucasus to be held in Tbilisi on 13 and 14 October 2005;
- *Task Force to combat violence against women*: proposed to the Bureau that Ms Hilary Fisher, Director of Amnesty International's "Stop Violence against Women" campaign, be put forward in a personal capacity as the international expert to take part in the Task Force to combat violence against women;
- *Co-operation with the Committee of Ministers*: held an exchange of views with Ambassador Peteris Karlis Elferts (Latvia), Rapporteur on Equality between Women and Men of the Committee of Ministers, and with Ms de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Europe;

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

- *Appointment of rapporteurs*: appointed the following rapporteurs for opinion:
 - Ms Westerlund Panke (Sweden, SOC) on the need of a greater transparency in the arms trade;
 - Ms Damanaki (Greece, SOC) on the incorporation of equality principles in the internal work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe ;

- *Appointment of representatives to meetings organised by other bodies*: left it to its Chairperson to appoint a representative to attend the 2nd meeting of the *Group of Specialists on the role of women and men in conflict prevention and resolution and in peace-building (EG-S-CP)*, Strasbourg, 2-4 November 2005;

- *its next meetings*: decided to meet in:
 - **Tbilisi (Georgia)**, Regional parliamentary seminar and public hearing on gender equality in the South Caucasus, Thursday 13 and Friday 14 October 2005 ;
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Friday 2 December 2005;
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 2006 1st part-session of the Assembly (23-27 January);
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Thursday 9 and Friday 10 March 2006: plenary meeting and hearing on "Women and poverty";
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 2006 2nd part-session of the Assembly (10-13 April).

Tanja Kleinsorge / Sylvie Affholder / Jannick Devaux