

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
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The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Paris on 9 March 2006 with first Ms Cliveti (Romania, SOC), Chairperson, and then Ms Zapfl-Helbling (Switzerland, EPP/CD), First Vice-Chairperson in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Co-operation with the European Parliament on topics of common interest:*
 - held an exchange of views with Ms Anna Záborská, Chairperson of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament;
 - decided to ask for a debate to be held during the April 2006 part-session of the Assembly under urgent procedure on: "Stop trafficking in women before the World Cup", suggested that two guest speakers be invited to the urgent debate (should the Assembly agree to holding it) - EU Commissioner Frattini and FIFA-President Blatter - and instructed the Chairperson to inform the Bureau of its proposals;
- *The need to reconcile work and family life* (Rapporteur: Ms Pericleous-Papadopoulos, Cyprus, ALDE): in the absence of the Rapporteur, postponed consideration of the report;
- *Assembly priorities for 2006/2007*: heard a statement by the Chairperson;
- *Respect for the principle of equality in civil law* (Rapporteur: Ms Smirnova, Russia, EDG): held an exchange of views with Ms Stéphanie Billaud (France) on the expert paper she had prepared;
- *Parliaments united combating domestic violence against women* (Rapporteuse : Ms Cliveti, Romania, SOC):
 - considered a revised introductory memorandum;
 - held an exchange of views on the preparation of the hearing to be held in Stockholm on Thursday 30 March 2006;
 - instructed the Chairperson to inform the Bureau of its wish that a debate on the subject be held during the June 2006 part-session of the Assembly, and that the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Ms Yakin Ertürk (Turkey), be invited as a guest speaker in the debate;
- *The feminisation of poverty* (Rapporteur: Ms Vermot-Mangold, Switzerland, SOC):
 - considered an introductory memorandum;

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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

- held an exchange of views on the preparation of the hearing to be held in Paris on Friday, 10 March 2006;
- *Follow-up to Resolution 1478 (2006) on integration of immigrant women in Europe*: upon the request of the Bureau, heard a statement by the former Rapporteur, Ms Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC), held an exchange of views on the follow-up to be given to Resolution 1478 (2006) – paragraph 9, and instructed the Chairperson to inform the Bureau of the result of the discussion;
- *Appointment of rapporteurs*: appointed :
 - Ms Bousakla (Belgium, SOC) on “In favour of a Parliamentary Assembly ‘Equality Prize’ “
 - Ms Wurm (Austria, SOC) on “Abortion and its impact on women and girls in Europe”
 - Ms Fautrier (Monaco, EPP/CD) on “The spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic to women and girls in Europe”
- *Appointment of representatives at meetings organised by other bodies*:
 - appointed Ms Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC) to take part in the OSCE High level Conference on “Combating trafficking in Human Beings, especially women and children: prevention – protection – prosecution”, Vienna, 17 March 2006;
 - regretted that no representative of the Committee would be able to take part in the 34th meeting of the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG), Strasbourg, 28-30 March 2006, as the Sub-Committee on Violence against Women was holding its hearing on domestic violence against women in Stockholm at the same time;
- *Replies from the Committee of Ministers*: took note of the replies on :
 - Discrimination against women in the workforce and the workplace
 - Discrimination against women and girls in sport

resuming its meeting on 10 March 2006, with Ms Cliveti (Romania, SOC) in the Chair:

- *The feminisation of poverty* (Rapporteur: Ms Vermot-Mangold, Switzerland, SOC, Rapporteur for opinion of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee: Ms Fautrier, Monaco, EPP/CD): held a hearing on this matter with the participation of the following experts:
 - Ms Torild Hammer, Senior Researcher, Norwegian Social Research (Norway)
 - Ms Virginia Ferreira, University of Coimbra (Portugal)
 - Ms Sian Jones, Policy Officer, European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN), (Belgium)
 - Ms Jay Ginn, Department of Sociology, University of Surrey (United Kingdom)
 - Ms Karine Henrotte-Forsberg (Belgium), Chairperson of the gender equality grouping of the INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe
 - Ms Anna Záborská, Chairperson of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament; Rapporteur on “Women and poverty in the European Union”
- *its next meetings*: decided to meet in:

Plenary Committee:

- **Strasbourg**, during the 2006 2nd part-session of the Assembly (10-13 April);
- **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Monday 15 May 2006 : plenary meeting and Tuesday 16 May 2006: hearing on “*the image of women in advertising*”;
- **Strasbourg**, during the 2006 3rd part-session of the Assembly (26-30 June);
- **Skopje**, (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”), 2nd half of 2006 (*date to be determined, subject to authorisation by the Bureau*);
- **Strasbourg**, during the 2006 4th part-session of the Assembly (2-6 October);
- **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Wednesday, 13 December 2006.

Sub-Committee on Violence against Women:

- **Stockholm (Sweden)**, Thursday 30 March 2006, hearing on the preparation of the campaign “Parliaments united combating domestic violence against women”.

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