

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
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3 July 2006

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Strasbourg on 26 June 2006 with Ms Cliveti (Romania, SOC) in the Chair:

- held an exchange of views with Ms Isabel Romao, Chairperson of the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG) on current activities and opportunities for co-operation;

as regards:

- *Respect for the principle of equality in civil law* (Rapporteur: Ms Smirnova, Russia, EDG): approved a questionnaire prepared by Ms Svetlana Polenina (Russia), consultant expert, to be sent to the national delegations of the Council of Europe member states for reply before 15 September 2006;
- *The situation of women in the South Caucasus* (Rapporteur: Ms Oskina, Russia, EDG): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her fact-finding mission to the region (16-22 April 2006);

resuming its meeting on 28 June 2006 with Mrs Cliveti (Romania, SOC) in the Chair:

- was informed by Ambassador Peteris Karlis Elferts (Latvia), Thematic Coordinator on Equality between Women and Men of the Committee of Ministers, of the approval by the Committee of Ministers of the guidelines for the Council of Europe pan-European campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence;
- heard a statement by Ms Yakin Ertürk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women;

as regards:

- *Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women* (Rapporteur: Ms Cliveti, Romania, SOC): took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution and to the draft recommendation;
- *Third meeting of women members of the Assembly* : was informed about the third meeting of women members of the Assembly, which took place in Strasbourg on Tuesday, 27 June 2006, with Mrs Cliveti (Romania, SOC) in the Chair, during which an exchange of views was held with Ms Yakin Ertürk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women;
- *Sexual assaults linked to "date-rape drugs"* (Rapporteur: Ms Damanaki, Greece, 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

- *Appointment of Rapporteurs: appointed :*
 - a) *for report*
 - Mrs Naghdalyan (Armenia, ALDE), new rapporteur on *the feminisation of poverty*;
 - Mr Platvoet (Netherlands, UEL), on *prostitution – which stance to take?*
 - b) *for information*
 - Mrs Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC) on *combating trafficking in human beings: promoting the rapid entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention*;
 - Mrs Zapfl-Helbling (Switzerland, EPP/DC) on *equality between girls and boys in Europe*
- *Appointment of representatives at meetings organised by other bodies:*
 - proposed Ms Ahlqvist (Sweden, SOC), Ms Bousakla (Belgium, SOC), Ms Fernández Soriano (Spain, SOC), Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) and Ms Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC) as members of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau to take part in the Joint Conference between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Union of the European Football Associations (UEFA), Strasbourg, 29 September 2006;
 - appointed Ms Cliveti (Romania, SOC) (substitute: Ms Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC)) to take part in the meeting of the Network of Parliamentary Committees for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union (NCEO), Helsinki, 31 October – 1 November 2006;
- *Statement by representatives at meetings organised by other bodies:* heard a statement by Ms Cliveti (Romania, SOC) on the 6th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men “*Human rights and economic challenges in Europe – gender equality*”, Stockholm, 8-9 June 2006;
- *its next meetings:*
 - **Paris**, (Council of Europe office), Tuesday 12 September 2006 : plenary meeting and Wednesday 13 September 2006: hearing on “*prostitution – which stance to take?*”
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 2006 4th part-session of the Assembly (2-6 October);
 - **Strasbourg**, Thursday 19 October 2006: Seminar for parliamentary contact persons for the Assembly action on “*Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women*”;
 - **Strasbourg**, Friday, 20 October 2006: parliamentary seminar with parliamentary representatives of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia on *upholding the principle of equality between women and men in family codes*;
 - **Madrid**, Friday 24 November 2006: launch of the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe campaign on *combating violence against women, including domestic violence*;
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Wednesday, 13 December 2006.

The Sub-Committee on trafficking in human beings, meeting in Strasbourg on 29 June 2006 with Ms Stanoiu (Romania, SOC) in the Chair:

As regards:

- *the presentation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human beings:*
 - heard a speech by Mrs De Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
 - watched a video projection of an Euronews Report on the subject;
 - heard a presentation of the provisions of the Convention by Mrs Marta Requena, Head of the Equality Division, Directorate General of Human Rights;
 - heard a statement by Ms Jill Heine, Legal Advisor, Amnesty International;
 - mandated a consultant expert to prepare a parliamentary handbook on the Convention;
- *its next meeting:* decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg, during the 2006 4th part-session of the Assembly (2-6 October).

The Sub-Committee on violence against women, meeting in Strasbourg on 29 June 2006 with Ms Hägg (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women*:

- was informed of the next steps in the preparation, launch and implementation of the Parliamentary Assembly's initiative with the national parliaments;
- held an exchange of views on the possible contribution of national parliaments to the Parliamentary Assembly's action;
- considered a preliminary draft programme for the "seminar for parliamentary contact persons" that will be held in Strasbourg, on 19 October 2006;

- *its next meetings*: decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

- Strasbourg, during the 2006 4th part-session of the Assembly (2-6 October);
- Strasbourg, Thursday 19 October 2006: Seminar for parliamentary contact persons for the Assembly action on "*Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women*".

Tanja Kleinsorge / Sylvie Affholder / Jannick Devaux