

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
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15 September 2006

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Paris on 12 September 2006 with Ms Cliveti (Romania, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *The need to reconcile work and family life* (Rapporteur: Mrs Pericleous-Papadopoulos, Cyprus, ALDE): considered a draft report, amended and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft recommendation with a view to presenting the report for debate at the October 2006 part-session of the Assembly;
- *Abduction and "re-education" of Muslim women and children who have become too "Western-minded"* (Rapporteur: Ms Bousakla, Belgium, SOC): debated the title of the report, invited the Rapporteur to organise a hearing on the issue, authorised the Rapporteur to go on a fact-finding visit to Turkey, and asked the Chairperson to seek the Bureau's authorisation for the Rapporteur to go on a fact-finding visit to the Maghreb countries;
- *Sub-Committee on violence against women* :
 - was informed of the outcome of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 29 June 2006;
 - held an exchange of views on the state of preparation of the Council of Europe Campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, in particular its parliamentary dimension;
- *Co-ordination meeting of the contact parliamentarians involved in the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence (2006-2008)*: prepared the co-ordination meeting to be held in Strasbourg on Thursday, 19 October 2006;
- *Parliamentary seminar on upholding the principle of equality between women and men in civil law, including in family codes*: prepared the seminar to be held in Strasbourg on Friday, 20 October 2006, with the participation of parliamentary representatives of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia;
- *Appointment of Rapporteurs*: appointed the following Rapporteurs for opinion:
 - Ms Ahlqvist (Sweden, SOC) on women in prison
 - Ms Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) on the code of good practices of the political parties
 - Ms Stantcheva (Bulgaria, ALDE) on mechanisms to ensure women's participation in decision-making

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 representatives at meetings organised by other bodies:* appointed:
 - Ms Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC) to the *Regional Seminar on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: Prevention, Protection and Prosecution* organised by the Equality Division of the Directorate General of Human Rights of the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of Latvia, Riga, 21-22 September 2006;
 - Ms Cliveti (Romania, SOC) to the Congress on “*Women generating peace*” organised by Emakunde (Basque Women’s Institute), San Sebastian (Spain), 23-24 October 2006 (*with no cost to the Assembly*);

- *Statement by representatives at meetings organised by other bodies:* heard a statement by Ms Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) on the Conference “*Women’s rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region: women as agents of change*”, organised by the North South Centre of the Council of Europe, Lisbon, 30 June – 1 July 2006;

- *Respect for the principle of equality in civil law* (Rapporteur: Ms Smirnova, Russia, EDG): decided to ask the Bureau for an extension of the deadline for the preparation of the report until 26 January 2007;

resuming its meeting on 13 September 2006, with Ms Zapfl-Helbling (Switzerland, EPP/CD), First Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- *Sexual assaults linked to “date-rape drugs”* (Rapporteur: Ms Damanaki, Greece, SOC): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft recommendation with a view to presenting the report at the next Standing Committee ;

- *Prostitution – which stance to take?* (Rapporteur: Mr Platvoet, Netherlands, UEL): held a hearing on this matter with the participation of the following experts:

- Ms Sophie Jekeler, lawyer, Chairperson of the NGO “The Nest” (Belgium), member of the network ENATW-Aretusa
- Ms Terry van der Zijden, De rode Draad, trade union of prostitutes (Netherlands)
- Chris, European Network of Male Prostitutes (United Kingdom)
- Dr Gundo Weiler, STI/HIV team leader in Ukraine, World Health Organisation
- Dr Linda Cusick, University of Paisley (United Kingdom)

- *its next meetings:* decided to meet in:

- **Strasbourg**, during the 2006 4th part-session of the Assembly (2-6 October);
- **Strasbourg**, Thursday 19 October 2006: co-ordination meeting of the contact parliamentarians involved in the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence (2006-2008);
- **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 civil law, including in family codes*;
- **Madrid**, Friday 24 November 2006: Participation in the launching conference of the Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence - *subject to the Bureau’s authorisation* -
- **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Wednesday, 13 December 2006.

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