

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Synopsis No. 2007/03  
1 March 2007

**The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men**, meeting in Paris on 26 February with Ms Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Improving selection procedures for CPT members* (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Wurm, Austria, SOC) : considered and adopted the opinion of the Committee, including three amendments;
- *State of human rights and democracy in Europe* (Rapporteur: Ms Curdova, Czech Republic, SOC): considered a draft opinion in accordance with the committee's terms of reference, amended it and approved it;
- *The feminisation of poverty* (Rapporteur: Ms Naghdalyan, Armenia, ALDE):
  - ✓ in the absence of the Rapporteur, postponed the consideration of the draft report,
  - ✓ given the deadline, instructed its Chair to ask the Rapporteur to present the report for adoption at one of the Committee meetings during the April part-session, failing which the Committee would appoint a new Rapporteur;
- *Council of Europe Campaign on "Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women"*:
  - ✓ was informed of the upcoming activities of the Assembly and the national parliaments concerning the implementation of the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign;
  - ✓ heard a statement by the Chair on possible co-operation with the European Parliament and invited the Chair to write a letter to Ms Záborská, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, on the subject;
- *Abortion and its impact on women and girls in Europe* (Rapporteur: Ms Wurm, Austria, SOC):
  - ✓ held an exchange of views on the hearing foreseen to take place in Paris on 27 February 2007 ;
  - ✓ decided to change the title of the report to : "Access to safe and legal abortion in Europe"
- *Appointment of rapporteurs*: appointed:
  - a) *for report*
    - Ms Pehlivan (Belgium, SOC) new Rapporteur on *The image of women in advertising*;

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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

b) *for opinion*

- Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) on *Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights*;
- Ms Hägg (Sweden, SOC) new Rapporteur on *Women in Prison*;
- Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC) on *The incorporation of equality principles in the internal work and decision-making mechanisms of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*;

c) *for information*

- Ms Stantcheva (Bulgaria, ALDE) on *Double discrimination of Romani women and girls*

- *Appointment of representatives to meetings organised by other bodies*: appointed Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC) to attend the next session of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on the “*Forum for the Future of Democracy*”, organised by the Council of Europe, which will take place in Stockholm on 13-15 June 2007;

- *Statements by representatives at meetings organised by other bodies*: heard statements by:

- ✓ Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD) on 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 co-operation with the Ministry of Interior of Cyprus, Nicosia, 15-16 February 2007;
- ✓ Ms Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) on the Symposium on “*Arab and Euro-Mediterranean women: Partnership and development in a changing world*”, organised by the Ministry of Women, Family, Childhood and the Elderly of Tunisia and the Maltese Ministry of Family and Social Solidarity, Malta, 20-21 February 2007;
- ✓ Ms Hägg (Sweden, SOC) on the *Regional Seminar on Legal measures to combat violence against women, including domestic violence*, organised by the Equality Division of the Directorate General of Human Rights of the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands, The Hague, 21-22 February 2007;

- *Replies by the Committee of Ministers to PACE recommendations* : took note of the reply on Recommendation 1759 (2006) on *parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women* ;

- *Sub-Committee on violence against women*: appointed Ms Wurm (Austria, SOC) as titular member and Ms Muttonen (Austria, SOC) as alternate member,

- *The situation of women in the South Caucasus* (Rapporteur: Ms Oskina, Russia, EDG): was informed that the report was on the draft agenda of the Standing Committee meeting on 16 March 2007 in Paris ;

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

- ✓ **Strasbourg**, during the 2007 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session of the Assembly (16-20 April);
- ✓ **Paris** (Council of Europe Office), Friday 11 May 2007 ;
- ✓ **Strasbourg**, during the 2007 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session of the Assembly (25-29 June);
- ✓ **Turkey**, September 2007; (subject to the Bureau’s authorisation – date to be determined)
- ✓ **Strasbourg**, during the 2007 4<sup>th</sup> part-session of the Assembly (1-5 October);
- ✓ **Paris** (Council of Europe Office), Friday 7 December 2007.

**resuming** its meeting on 27 February 2007 with Ms Bilgehan in the Chair:

- “*Abortion and its impact on women and girls in Europe*” (Rapporteur, Ms Gisela Wurm, Austria, SOC): held a hearing on this matter with the participation of the following experts:

- Ms Vicky Claeys, Regional Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) European Network, Brussels, Belgium
- Mr Neil Datta, Secretary, European Parliamentary Forum, Brussels, Belgium
- Mr Christian Fiala, President of the International Federation of Professional Abortion and Contraception Associates, Vienna, Austria

- Ms Hanne-Sophie Greve, Former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Bergen, Norway
- Ms Claudia Kaminski, President of “Aktion Lebensrecht für Alle“, Köln, Germany
- Ms Katarina Lindahl, Secretary General of RFSU “Riksförbundet För Sexuell Upplysning”, The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, Stockholm, Sweden
- Ms Anne Quesney, Director of Abortion Rights, London, UK

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**The Sub-Committee on violence against women** meeting in Paris on 26 February 2007 from 9.30 to 9.40 am with first Ms Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC), senior member present, and then Ms Hägg (Sweden, SOC), in the Chair:

- elected Ms Hägg (Sweden, SOC), Chairperson by acclamation;
- elected Ms Fautrier (Monaco, EPP/CD) Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.

**The Sub-Committee on trafficking in human beings** meeting in Paris on 26 February 2007 from 9.40 to 9.50 am with first Ms Stanoiu (Romania, SOC), senior member present, and then Ms Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC), in the Chair:

- elected Ms Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC) Chairperson by acclamation;
- elected Mr Austin (United Kingdom, SOC) Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.

**The Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making** meeting in Paris on 26 February 2007 from 9.50 to 10.00 am with first Ms Stanoiu (Romania, SOC), senior member present, and then Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD), in the Chair:

- elected Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD) Chairperson by acclamation;
- elected Mr Gadzinowski (Poland, SOC) Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.

Sylvie Affholder / Jannick Devaux