

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
Synopsis No. 2007/011
14 December 2007

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Istanbul on 6-7 December 2007, with Ms Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC), in the Chair:

On 6 December 2007:

- held a hearing on “*Domestic violence : Changing mentalities: challenges and opportunities*” with the participation of:

- Ms Nimet Cubukcu, State Minister on the issues of Women and Family Affairs of Turkey
- Ms Ayse Feride Acar, Head of the Political Science and Public Administration Department of the Middle East Technical University, Ankara; Member of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence
- Ms Vuslat Doğan Sabancı, Editor of the Hürriyet newspaper
- Mr Zülfü Livaneli, Author and journalist, Writer of the film “Mutluluk” (*Bliss*), former member of the Turkish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador
- Ms Meltem Agduk, Co-ordinator for the Gender Programmes, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- held a hearing on “*the role of women in modern societies, including in intercultural and inter-religious dialogue*” (*Rapporteur: Ms Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD*) with the participation of:

- Ms Aysun Sayın, Board Member of Turkey, European Women’s Lobby
- Ms Mominat Omarova, Vice-Chairperson of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG), Chairperson of the Group of Specialists on the role of women and men in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building
- Mr Azis Pollozhani, member of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Culture, Science and Education

Resuming its meeting on 7 December 2007:

as regards:

- *Femicides* (Rapporteur: Ms Vermot-Mangold, Switzerland, SOC):

- ✓ heard a statement of the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views on the follow-up to be given;
- ✓ decided to proceed with the preparation of an information report focusing on the follow-up of the progress made in Mexico on the issue of femicides;
- ✓ appointed Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC) as the new Rapporteur ;

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

- ✓ in the light of this discussion, decided to ask the Bureau for the reference to be extended until 27 June 2008 ;
- *Abduction and illegal confinement of women and girls in the name of practices contrary to human rights* (Rapporteur: Ms Papadopoulou, Cyprus, ALDE):
 - ✓ in the absence of the Rapporteur, considered an outline report;
 - ✓ further to the suggestion made by the Rapporteur, decided to ask the Bureau for the reference to be extended until 27 June 2008 ;
 - ✓ asked the Chairperson to seek the Bureau's authorisation for the Rapporteur to go on a fact-finding visit to one Maghreb country (Marocco for example);
 - ✓ agreed to organise an exchange of views on this subject at one of its next meetings;
- *"Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women": follow-up to Resolution 1582 (2007)*:
 - ✓ heard a statement by the Chairperson on the current activities carried out in the framework of the Council of Europe Campaign "Stop domestic violence against women", in particular the five parliamentary seminars held in Strasbourg, Vienna, Helsinki, Paris and Sofia;
 - ✓ agreed to invite the five regional co-ordinators of the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign to report back at one of its next meetings;
 - ✓ authorised the Chairperson to make contact with the Madariaga Foundation with a view to organising a visibility event in Brussels in Spring 2008;
 - ✓ approved a questionnaire designed to evaluate the impact of the campaign to be sent to the national delegations for reply by 15 March 2008;
- *Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making*: heard a statement by Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, on the meeting which was held on 9 November 2007 in Riga;
- *Sub-Committee on Trafficking in Human Beings*:
 - ✓ heard a statement by Ms Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC), Chairperson, on the joint meeting with the FEMM Committee of the European Parliament, held on 20 November 2007, in Brussels;
 - ✓ agreed to update the Handbook for parliamentarians on the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, following the entry into force of the Convention (1 February 2008);
 - ✓ instructed the Chairperson to write to the Bureau, asking the Bureau to reconsider the referral of the motion for a Resolution on *"The role of parliamentarians in promoting the rapid entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its ratification by as many states as possible"* (sent to the Committee for opinion only) ;
- *Appointment of rapporteurs*: appointed Ms Stantcheva (Bulgaria, ALDE), for opinion, on the situation of Roma in Europe and relevant activities of the Council of Europe;
- *Appointment of representatives to meetings organised by other bodies*: appointed Ms Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC) for the *Regional Seminar on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: measures to protect and promote the rights of victims* organised by the Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking Division of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Home Office, United Kingdom, London, 10-11 December 2007.
- *Statement by representatives on meetings organised by other bodies*: heard statements by:
 - ✓ Ms Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC) on the *Regional Seminar on support and protection for victims of domestic violence: services needed* organised by the Council of Europe's Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking Division of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, Espoo (Finland), 8-9 October 2007;

- ✓ Ms Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) on the Regional Parliamentary Seminar of Group E in the framework of the Campaign “*Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women*” organised by the Austrian Parliament with the support of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Vienna, 16 October 2007;
 - ✓ Mr Austin (United Kingdom, SOC) on the *High-level Conference on The Monitoring Mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human beings (GRETA)*, Strasbourg (Council of Europe), 8-9 November 2007;
 - ✓ Ms Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) on the Regional Parliamentary Seminar of Group D in the framework of the Campaign “*Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women*” organised by the Bulgarian Parliament with the support of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Sofia, 29 November 2007.
- *Access to a safe and legal abortion in Europe* (Rapporteur Ms Wurm, Austria, SOC) : further to the request of the Rapporteur, decided to ask the Bureau for the reference to be extended until 25 April 2008;
- took note of the co-operation agreement signed by the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament on 28 November 2007;
- took note of the main changes in the Assembly Rules of Procedures which will enter into force on 22 January 2008, following the adoption of Resolution 1583 (2007) on Improving the participation of members in Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings, Resolution 1584 (2007) on the Application and amendment of various provisions of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure and Resolution 1585 (2007) on Gender equality principles in the Parliamentary Assembly;
- *Future meetings* : decided to meet in:
- **Strasbourg**, during the 2008 1st part-session of the Assembly (21-25 January) ;
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe Office), Monday, 10 March 2008 (Plenary Committee) and Tuesday, 11 March 2008 (hearing on a subject to be determined) – to be confirmed ;
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 2008 2nd part-session of the Assembly (14-18 April);
 - **Vienna**, Monday, 28 April 2008: Plenary Committee and Tuesday, 29 April 2008: Third 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 (dates to be confirmed and subject to authorisation by the Bureau).

Sylvie Affholder, Jannick Devaux, Guillaume Parent, Juliette Araujo