

**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 11 March 2008, with Mr Sigfússon (Iceland, UEL) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Access to safe and legal abortion in Europe* (Rapporteur: Ms Wurm, Austria, SOC): considered a draft report and adopted a preliminary draft resolution with a view to presenting the report for debate at the Assembly April 2008 part-session;
- *Abduction and illegal confinement of women and girls in the name of practices contrary to human rights* (Rapporteur: Ms Papadopoulou, Cyprus, ALDE):
 - considered an introductory memorandum;
 - held an exchange of views with the participation of the following experts:
 - ✓ Ms Hannana Siddiqui, Joint Co-ordinator at "Southall Black Sisters", United Kingdom,
 - ✓ Mr Sverre Joar Bjerkem, Counsellor, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Section for Consular Services and Security,
 - ✓ Ms Christine Jama, Director of the Association "Voix de Femmes", France,
 - ✓ Ms Gül Ayşe Basari, Advisor to the Women organization "Orientexpress", Austria.
- *Trafficking in human beings*
 - held a preliminary exchange of views on the main guidelines of the draft handbook for parliamentarians on trafficking in human beings on a world scale, drafted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the IPU;
 - heard a statement by the Chairperson on the revised preliminary draft Resolution on « migrant workers, people trafficking, xenophobia and human rights » by the IPU Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and appointed Mr Austin (United Kingdom, SOC) to present amendments with the aim of promoting the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings;
 - took note of the updated web page on combating trafficking on PACE's internet site.
- *Council of Europe Campaign "Stop domestic violence against women"*:
 - heard a statement by the Chairperson on current and future activities;
 - held an exchange of views on the preparation of the closing conference of the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe Campaign and decided to change the title of this Conference to "Final Conference".

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

- *Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights: Recent developments:* held an exchange of views on the Advisory Opinion of the Court of 12 February 2008;
- *Appointment of rapporteurs:* appointed Mr Ayva (Turkey, EPP/CD) Rapporteur for Opinion on *Realising the full potential of e-learning for education and training*;
- *Appointment of representatives to meetings organised by other bodies:* appointed Mr Sigfússon (Iceland UEL) to the International Conference on “the public image of women” organised by the Andalusian Institute of Women, Malaga, 26-28 March 2008;
- *Statements by representatives to meetings organised by other bodies:* heard statements by:
 - Ms Stantcheva (Bulgaria, ALDE) on the Parliamentary Forum on the occasion of the Vienna Forum to fight human trafficking, organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Austrian Parliament, Vienna, 12 February 2008, and on the Vienna Forum to fight human trafficking, organised under the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), Vienna, 13-15 February 2008;
 - Ms Hägg (Sweden, SOC) and Ms McCafferty (United Kingdom, SOC) on the Event on “*the role of parliaments in financing for gender equality*”, organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, on the occasion of the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New-York, 27 February 2008;
 - Ms Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) on the debate at the Madariaga European Foundation of the College of Europe, focusing on “Men Get Involved to Combat Domestic Violence”, Brussels, 4 March 2008;
- *The image of women in advertising :* took note of the reply by the Committee of Ministers;
- *its next meetings:* decided to meet in:
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 2008 2nd part-session of the Assembly (14-18 April);
 - **Vienna**, Tuesday, 29 April 2008: Plenary Committee and Wednesday, 30 April 2008: Final Conference of the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence ;
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe Office), Friday, 6 June 2008

Sylvie Affholder / Jannick Devaux / Guillaume Parent