



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
Synopsis No. 2008/03
18 April 2008

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Strasbourg, on 14, 15 and 16 April 2008, with Mr Sigfússon (Iceland, UEL) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *European Muslim communities confronted with extremism* (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Wurm, Austria, SOC): adopted the Committee's opinion, including three amendments;
- *Abduction and illegal confinement of women and girls in the name of practices contrary to human rights* (Rapporteur: Ms Papadopoulos, Cyprus, ALDE): considered and approved a questionnaire to be sent to the national delegations for reply by 30 May 2008;
- *The role of women in modern societies including in intercultural and interreligious dialogue* (Rapporteur: Ms Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views and decided to change the title to: "*Empowering women in a modern, multicultural society*";
- *Access to safe and legal abortion in Europe* (Rapporteur: Ms Wurm, Austria, SOC): considered and took position on the amendments tabled and approved two oral amendments on behalf of the Committee;
- *Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Committee (June 2008 part-session)*:
 - decided to ask the Bureau to include the report on "*Empowering women in a modern, multicultural society*" (Rapporteur: Ms Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD) on the agenda and the draft order of business of the June 2008 part-session and to invite the new Director of UNIFEM, Ms Inés Alberdi, to take part in this debate;
 - decided to organise the fourth meeting of women members of the Assembly during the June 2008 part-session to mark the occasion, and to invite a guest speaker to that event;

resuming its meeting on 17 April 2008, with Mrs Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD), Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Appointment of representatives to meetings organised by other bodies*: appointed Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD), Ms Čurdová (Czech Republic, SOC), Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC), Mr Leyden (Ireland, ALDE) and Mr Olsson (Sweden, EPP/CD) 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, Madrid, 15-17 October 2008;

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 rapporteurs*: appointed
 - ✓ Mrs Err (Luxembourg, SOC) on *Impact of electoral systems on women's representation in politics*;
 - ✓ Ms Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) on *"Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women": review of the Council of Europe Campaign and prospects*;
- *Council of Europe Campaign "Stop domestic violence against women"*:
 - ✓ Held an exchange of views on the possibility of an International Treaty on Domestic Violence with the participation of:
 - Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
 - Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
 - Mr Jan Kleijssen, Director of Standard-Setting, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs
 - ✓ prepared the final conference of the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence (Vienna, 30 April 2008);
 - ✓ prepared the parliamentary colloquy on domestic violence organised jointly by the Sub-Committee on Violence against Women and the PACE French Delegation (Paris, 15 May 2008);
- *Its Sub-committees*: appointed the following new members in its sub-committees:
 - *Sub-Committee on violence against women*
Portugal
 Mr Mendes Bota (titular member)

United Kingdom
 Ms McCafferty (titular member) - Mr Austin (alternate member)

Ukraine
 Ms Herasymyuk (titular member)- Ms Bondarenko (alternate member)
 - *Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making*:
Belgium
 Ms Smet (titular member) - Mr Jambon (alternate member)
 - *Sub-Committee on trafficking in human beings*
Ukraine
 Ms Bondarenko (titular member)- Ms Herasymyuk (alternate member)
- *its next meetings*: decided to meet in:
 - **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** (Assemblée Nationale), Thursday 15 May 2008 (9 am – 12.30 pm): parliamentary colloquy on domestic violence organised jointly by the Sub-Committee on Violence against Women and the PACE French Delegation;
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe Office), Friday, 6 June 2008, Plenary Committee meeting;
 - **Strasbourg**, Tuesday, 10 June 2008 and Wednesday, 11 June 2008: meeting of the Sub-Committee on Violence against Women on the occasion of the Closing Conference of the Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence;
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 2008 3rd part-session of the Assembly (23-27 June).