

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Synopsis No. 2008/04  
6 May 2008

**The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men**, meeting in Vienna on 29 April 2008, with Mr Sigfússon (Iceland, UEL) in the Chair:

- *held an exchange of views on gender equality policy in Austria with:*

- Ms Gisela Wurm, Chairperson of the Austrian delegation to the PACE
- Ms Doris Bures, Minister for Equality
- Ms Maria Rösslhumer, Association of Women Shelters of Vienna
- Ms Maria Rauch-Kallat, Member of the Austrian parliament

as regards:

- *Empowering women in a modern, multicultural society* (Rapporteur: Ms Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD): considered a draft report, and amended and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation with a view to presenting the report for debate in the Assembly at the June 2008 part-session;

- *Realising the full potential of e-learning for education and training* (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Ayva, Turkey, EPP/CD): in the absence of the Rapporteur, prepared the opinion of the Committee, to be presented orally at the Standing Committee in Stockholm, on 29 May 2008;

- *Impact of electoral systems on women's representation in politics* (Rapporteur: Ms Err, Luxembourg, SOC): upon the Rapporteur's proposal, agreed to ask the Venice Commission for an opinion on this issue;

- *Trafficking in human beings*: held an exchange of views with Ms Riikka Puttonen of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and Mr Mattar (expert), on the draft handbook for parliamentarians on trafficking in human beings on a world scale;

- *The urgent need for action on so-called "honour crimes"* (Rapporteur: Mr Austin, United Kingdom, SOC): approved a preliminary draft programme of the hearing to be held in Paris on 6 June 2008;

- *Council of Europe Campaign "Stop domestic violence against women"*:

- ✓ 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);
- ✓ approved the draft Declaration of the Final Conference;

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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

- *Appointment of rapporteurs*: appointed:
  - ✓ Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) on “*Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women*”: *review of the Council of Europe Campaign and prospects*;
  - ✓ Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC) for opinion, on “*Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights*”;
- *4th meeting of women members of the Parliamentary Assembly* (June 2008 part-session): heard a statement by the Chairperson on the possible guest speakers who might be invited, and decided on the order in which they were to be contacted by the Secretariat;
- *Statement by representatives at meetings organised by other bodies*: heard a statement by Mr Sigfússon (Iceland, UEL) on the International Conference on “the public image of women” organised by the Andalusian Institute of Women, Malaga, 26-28 March 2008;
- *Abduction and illegal confinement of women and girls in the name of practices contrary to human rights* (Rapporteur: Ms Papadopoulos, Cyprus, ADLE): decided to ask the Bureau for an extension of the deadline of this report until 15 December 2008 – in order to give sufficient time for the Rapporteur to organise a fact-finding visit to Morocco (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau) and to analyse the replies to the questionnaire sent to national delegations;
- *its next meetings*: decided to meet in:
  - **Paris** (Assemblée Nationale), Thursday, 15 May 2008 (9 am – 1 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 and hearing on “the urgent need for action on so-called “honour crimes””;
  - **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 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session of the Assembly (23-27 June);

**resuming** its meeting on 30 April 2008:

- *Council of Europe Campaign “Stop domestic violence against women”*: held the final conference of the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, with the participation of national contact parliamentarians and:
  - Ms Barbara Prammer, Speaker of the Nationalrat, Austrian Parliament
  - Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
  - Mr Alfred Gusenbauer, Chancellor of the Republic of Austria
  - Mr Chris Green, Manager of the White Ribbon Campaign, United Kingdom
  - Ms Nicola Duckworth, Director of Amnesty International’s Europe and Central Asia Programme
  - Ms Rosa Logar, Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre (Vienna, Austria) and Network of Women Against Violence in Europe (WAVE)
  - Ms Hilary Fisher, Chairperson of the Council of Europe Task Force to combat violence against women, including domestic violence
  - Ms Gisela Wurm, Chairperson of the Austrian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
  - Ms Carina Hägg, Chairperson of the PACE Sub-Committee on violence against women

and adopted the Vienna Declaration: “*parliaments: act now to stop domestic violence!*”

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**The Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making** (of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men), meeting in Vienna on 29 April 2008, with Mr Sigfússon (Iceland, UEL) in the Chair:

- elected Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC), Chairperson and Ms Fertuzinhos (Portugal, SOC), Vice-Chairperson.

Tanja Kleinsorge / Sylvie Affholder / Jannick Devaux / Guillaume Parent