

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Synopsis No. 2008/05  
11 June 2008

**The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men**, meeting in Paris on 6 June 2008, with Mr Sigfússon (Iceland, UEL) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Involving men to achieve gender equality* (Rapporteur: Mr Sigfússon, Iceland, UEL): considered an outline report;
- *"Marital rape"* (Rapporteur: Ms Rupperecht, Germany, SOC): considered an outline report;
- *The urgent need for action on so-called "honour crimes"* (Rapporteur: Mr Austin, United Kingdom, SOC): held a hearing on this issue with the participation of the following experts:
  - Ms Gita Sahgal, Head of Gender Unit, Amnesty International (United Kingdom)
  - Ms Maria Hagberg, Expert, MD in social work, Network against honour related violence (Sweden)
  - Ms Diana Nammi, Director of the International Campaign against honour killings (ICAHK) (United Kingdom)
  - Ms Usha Sood, barrister-at-law, Head of Trent Chambers (United Kingdom)
- *The state of democracy in Europe -Specific challenges facing European democracies: the case of diversity and migration:*
  - ✓ appointed Ms Memecan (Turkey, ALDE), Rapporteur for opinion
  - ✓ heard a statement by the Chairperson
- *"Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women": review of the Council of Europe Campaign and prospects* (Rapporteur: Mr Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the Chairperson;
- *4th meeting of women members of the Parliamentary Assembly* (26 June 2008): prepared the meeting;
- *Sub-Committee on violence against women*: heard a statement by Mr Branger (France, EPP/CD) on the meeting held in Paris on 15 May 2008 on the occasion of the Parliamentary Colloquy on "Domestic Violence against women: Prevention as the key to action" co-organised by the French delegation;
- *Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making*: heard a statement by the Chairperson on the meeting held in Paris in the morning;

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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 Ms Rupprecht (Germany, SOC) Rapporteur for opinion on *Children who witness domestic violence*;
- *Appointment of representatives to meetings organised by other bodies*: appointed:
  - ✓ Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC) to take part in the Tripartite Forum between the Knesset, the Palestinian Legislative Council and the PACE organised by the Sub-Committee on the Middle-East of the Political Affairs Committee (Rhodes, 11-12 June 2008), to represent the Committee within the Ad Hoc Committee set up by the Assembly Bureau on 29 May;
  - ✓ left it to the Chairperson to appoint a representative to take part in the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG), Strasbourg, 30 June – 2 July 2008;
  - ✓ Ms Stump (Switzerland, SOC) to take part in the Conference of the Network of Parliamentary Committees for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union (NCEO), Paris, 3 July 2008;
- "*Abduction and illegal confinement of women and girls in the name of practices contrary to human rights*" (Rapporteur: Ms Papadopoulou, Cyprus, ALDE): was informed that the Bureau had approved the extension of the reference for the preparation of the report until 31 December 2008; national delegations therefore will have the possibility to send back the questionnaire prepared by our committee until 30 June 2008;
- "*Femicides*" (Rapporteur: Ms Err, Luxembourg, SOC): decided to ask the Bureau for an extension of the deadline of this report until 31 December 2008;
- *its Sub-committees*: appointed the following new members on behalf of Russia:
  - *Sub-Committee on violence against women*  
Mr V. Zhidkikh (titular member), Ms T. Volozhinskaya (alternate)
  - *Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making*:  
Ms T. Volozhinskaya (titular member), Mr V. Zhidkikh (alternate)
- *Reply from the Committee of Ministers*: took note of the reply on "Sexual assaults linked to 'date-rape drugs'";
- asked the Secretariat to provide the Committee with information on a recent French court ruling which had resulted in a marriage being annulled on the grounds that the bride had lied about her virginity, and decided to come back to the matter at one of its next meetings;
- *its next meetings*: decided to meet in:
  - **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);
  - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Friday, 12 September 2008;
  - **Strasbourg**, during the 2008 4<sup>th</sup> part-session of the Assembly (29 September – 3 October)
  - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Friday, 5 December 2008 (to be confirmed).

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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 Paris on 6 June 2008, with Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *The Parliamentary Assembly "Gender Equality Prize"*: approved the draft rules of procedure and decided to submit them to the Committee for approval during the June 2008 part-session ;
- *Its next meeting*: left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Tanja Kleinsorge / Sylvie Affholder / Jannick Devaux