

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
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26 June 2008

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Strasbourg, on 24 and 26 June 2008, with Mr Sigfússon (Iceland, UEL) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Empowering women in a modern, multicultural society* (Rapporteur: Ms Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD): took position on the amendments tabled;
- *The state of democracy in Europe - Specific challenges facing European democracies: the case of diversity and migration* (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Memecan, Turkey, ALDE): adopted the Committee's opinion, including eleven amendments;
- *Women in prison* (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Hägg, Sweden, SOC): adopted the Committee's opinion, including four amendments;
- *The Parliamentary Assembly "Gender Equality Prize"*: adopted the rules of the PACE "Gender Equality Prize" and noted the timetable for the first award of the prize in 2009;
- *"Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women": review of the Council of Europe Campaign and prospects* (Rapporteur: Mr Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD): considered and declassified an introductory memorandum, and asked the Chairperson to bring it to the attention of relevant Council of Europe bodies;
- *Conference on specific challenges facing European democracies – the case of diversity and migration and measures to improve the democratic participation of migrants*:
 - ✓ held an exchange of views on the conference organised by the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and population to be held in Strasbourg on 24 June 2008 (5 pm – 8 pm);
 - ✓ appointed Ms Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) and Ms Keleş (Turkey, SOC) to take part in this conference;
- *The rights of today's girls, the rights of tomorrow's women* (Rapporteur: Ms Cliveti, Romania, SOC): prepared the hearing to be held on Friday, 5 December 2008 (afternoon), in Paris;
- *Reply from the Committee of Ministers*: welcomed the reply on "*prostitution - which stance to take?*";

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

- *Judgment handed down by the Court of first instance of Lille (France) of 1 April 2008 which annulled a marriage on the grounds that the bride had lied about her virginity:* took note of an information document on this case and of Ms Err's written question to the Committee of Ministers on this issue, and authorised the Chairperson to issue a statement on this matter should further developments occur before the next Committee meeting;

- *its next meetings:* decided to meet in:

- **Paris** (Council of Europe), Friday, 12 September 2008;
- **Strasbourg**, during the 2008 4th part-session of the Assembly (29 September – 3 October);
- **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Friday, 5 December 2008: Plenary Committee meeting (morning) and hearing on "the rights of today's girls – the rights of tomorrow's women" (afternoon);

Resuming its meeting on 26 June 2008 :

As regards:

- *4th meeting of women members of the Parliamentary Assembly* (Thursday, 26 June 2008 at 1 pm): heard statements by :

- ✓ Ms Gisele Halimi, French lawyer, who presented the project of the "Most favoured European woman";
- ✓ Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

and held an exchange of views on the project.

Tanja Kleinsorge / Sylvie Affholder / Jannick Devaux / Guillaume Parent