

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
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17 September 2008

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Paris on 12 September 2008, with Mr Sigfússon (Iceland, UEL) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *"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 a draft report, and amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation with a view to presenting the report for debate in the Assembly at the October 2008 part-session;
 - upon the Rapporteur's proposal, agreed to change the title as follows: *"Combating violence against women: towards a Council of Europe convention"*;
- *Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights* (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Err, Luxembourg, SOC): considered and unanimously adopted the Committee's opinion, including two amendments;
- *Double discrimination of Romani women and girls* (Rapporteur for information: Ms Stantcheva, Bulgaria, ALDE): held an exchange of views with Ms Sebihana Skenderovska ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), Representative of the European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF);
- *Involving men to achieve gender equality* (Rapporteur: Mr Sigfússon, Iceland, UEL): considered an introductory memorandum and requested that the report be put on the draft agenda of the Standing Committee meeting to take place in Madrid on 27 November 2008;
- *"Femicides"* (Rapporteur: Ms Err, Luxembourg, SOC): considered an outline report;
- *The role of parliamentarians in promoting the rapid entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its ratification by as many states as possible* (Rapporteur: Mr Branger, France, EPP/CD) : considered an outline report and agreed to change the title to: *"Action against trafficking: parliamentarians' involvement in promoting the widest possible ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings"*;
- *Appointment of rapporteurs*: appointed Ms Woldseth (Norway, EDG) Rapporteur for report on *Migrant women: at particular risk of domestic violence*;

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 representatives to meetings organised by other bodies:* appointed:
 - ✓ Ms Jonker (Netherlands, EPP/CD) to take part in the European Conference “*The right to abortion: what is at stake for women in Europe?*” organised by the Mouvement Français pour le Planning Familial, Paris, 19-20 September 2008 (at no cost to the Assembly);
 - ✓ Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) to take part in a *hearing on violence against women* organised by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament, Brussels, 13 October 2008;
 - ✓ Mr Branger (France, EPP/CD) to take part in the National study day “*What networks, what partnerships to protect and help women faced with forced marriage in France?* “ organised by the association “Voix de femmes”, Paris, 17 October 2008;
- *Statements by representatives at meetings organised by other bodies:* heard statements by :
 - ✓ Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC) on 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;
 - ✓ Ms Stump (Switzerland, SOC) on the Conference of the Network of Parliamentary Committees for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union (NCEO), Paris, 3 July 2008;
- *other business:* encouraged members of the Committee to sign the commitment to the objectives of the roadmap for equality between women and men, as adopted by the European Commission for 2006-2010;
- *its next meetings:* decided to meet in:
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 2008 4th part-session of the Assembly (29 September – 3 October);
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Friday, 5 December 2008:
 - (9 am- 10 am): Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making,
 - (10 am – 5 pm): Plenary Committee meeting (morning) and hearing on “the rights of today’s girls – the rights of tomorrow’s women” (afternoon);
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 2009 1st part-session of the Assembly (26 – 30 January);
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 March 2009.

Tanja Kleinsorge / Sylvie Affholder / Jannick Devaux