

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Synopsis No. 2008/08  
7 October 2008

**The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men**, meeting in Strasbourg, on 30 September 2008, with Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Involving men in achieving gender equality* (Rapporteur: Mr Sigfússon, Iceland, UEL): in the absence of the Rapporteur, considered a draft report, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation with a view to presenting the report for debate at the Standing Committee meeting, to be held in Madrid, on 28 November 2008;
- *Feminicides* (Rapporteur: Ms Err, Luxembourg, SOC): considered a draft report and decided to resume its consideration at its next meeting, with a view to presenting the report for debate at the January 2009 part-session, in order to allow the Mexican observer delegation to take part in the debate;
- *Cases of sexual violence against women in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo*: following the Bureau's request for an opinion, decided that it would like to be seized for report on the general subject raised by the motion, i.e. sexual violence against women in conflict situations, but would like to enlarge the scope of the report to include cases of such violence in Europe;

**Resuming its meeting on 2 October 2008** with Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) and Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Combating violence against women: towards a Council of Europe convention* (Rapporteur: Mr Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD) : took position on the amendments tabled;
- *The rights of today's girls, the rights of tomorrow's women* (Rapporteur: Ms Cliveti, Romania, SOC): in the absence of the Rapporteur, took note of the draft programme of the hearing to be held on Friday, 5 December 2008 (afternoon), in Paris;
- *Abduction and illegal confinement of women and girls in the name of practices contrary to human rights* (Rapporteur: Ms Papadopoulos, Cyprus, ALDE): was informed by the Rapporteur of her plans for a fact-finding visit to Morocco at the end of October 2008;
- *Appointment of rapporteurs*: appointed Mr Wille (Belgium, ALDE) for report on *The wage gap between women and men* ;

---

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

Secretary General of the Congress  
Director Generals  
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General  
Director of Communication  
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- *Appointment of representatives to meetings organised by other bodies:* appointed:
  - ✓ Mr Olsson (Sweden, EPP/CD) to take part in the Conference “Churches addressing Trafficking in Human Beings” on the occasion of the 17<sup>th</sup> Churches’ Commission for Migrants in Europe General Assembly, Protaras (Cyprus), 8 October 2008;
  - ✓ Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC) to take part in the Colloquy on “the Clause of the most favored European Woman”, Paris, 27-28 November 2008;
  - ✓ Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG), Strasbourg, 26-28 November 2008: left it to the Chairperson to appoint a member to attend;
  
- *Replies from the Committee of Ministers:* welcomed the replies on:
  - *“Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women”:* mid-term assessment of the campaign;
  - *The feminisation of poverty:* noted that the Committee of Ministers informed the Assembly that the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG) was organising a conference on gender budgeting in Athens, in May 2009, and instructed the Chairperson to write to the Chairperson of the CDEG asking to be associated with the conference in an appropriate manner;
  
- *Its sub-committees:* appointed the following new members:
  - *Sub-Committee on violence against women:* Ms Blanco (Spain, SOC) and Mr Galati (Italy, NR) as titular members, Ms Sanín (Spain, EPP/CD) as alternate member;
  - *Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making:* Ms John-Calame (Switzerland, SOC), Ms Quesada (Spain, SOC) and Ms Soliani (Italy, ALDE) as titular members; Ms Quintanilla (Spain, EPP/CD) as alternate member;
  - *Sub-committee on trafficking in human beings:* Ms Boldi (Italy, NR) and Ms Quintanilla (Spain, EPP/CD) as titular members; Ms Blanco (Spain, SOC) as alternate member;
  
- *Its next meetings:* decided to meet in:
  - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Friday, 5 December 2008:
    - (9 am- 9.30 am): Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making,
    - (9.30 am – 4 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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