



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
Synopsis No. 2009/02
27 March 2009

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Paris, on 23 March 2009, with first Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD), then Ms Čurdová (Czech Republic, SOC), and finally Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

As regards:

- *The rights of today's girls: the rights of tomorrow's women* (Rapporteur: Ms Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD): considered a draft report and asked the Rapporteur to present a revised version to the Committee at its next meeting;
- *Migrant women: at particular risk of domestic violence* (Rapporteur: Ms Woldseth, Norway, EDG): considered an introductory memorandum and held an exchange of views with the following two experts:
 - ✓ Ms Stéphanie Condon, researcher, National Institute of Demographic Studies (INED), France
 - ✓ Ms Olga Trostiansky, Chairperson of the French branch of the European Women's Lobby;
- *Cases of sexual violence against women in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo* (Rapporteur: Ms Smet, Belgium, EPP/CD): considered an outline report and decided to change the title to: "*Sexual violence against women in armed conflict*";
- "*Marital rape*" (Rapporteur: Ms Rupprecht, Germany, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum, held an exchange of views with Ms Kräuter-Stockton, public prosecutor (Germany) and member of the European Women Lawyers Association (EWLA), and decided to change the title to: "*rape, including marital rape*";
- *The urgent need for action on so-called "honour crimes"* (Rapporteur: Mr Austin, United Kingdom, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum;
- *Implementation of Resolution 1635 (2008) on Combating violence against women: towards a Council of Europe convention*: prepared the meeting of the contact parliamentarians on violence against women to be held in Istanbul (Turkey) on 15 May 2009;

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

- *Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making*: prepared the conference to be held in Lisbon (Portugal) on 2 and 3 April 2009, in cooperation with the North-South Centre, on "*Status and political participation: women as agents of change in the euromediterranean region*";

- *Appointment of rapporteurs*: appointed the following Rapporteurs for opinion:

- ✓ Women's access to lawful medical care: the problem of unregulated use of conscientious objection: Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD);
- ✓ Requiring a minimum of 30 % of each sex on Assembly's national delegations: Ms Keleş (Turkey, SOC);
- ✓ The state of human rights in Europe: the need to eradicate impunity: Ms Čurdová (Czech Republic, SOC);

and heard from each member a declaration on the absence of a conflict of interest;

- *Appointment of representatives to meetings organised by other bodies*: appointed:

- ✓ Meeting of the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG), Strasbourg, 15-17 April 2009: Ms Stantcheva (Bulgaria, ALDE);
- ✓ 2nd meeting of the ad hoc Committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, Strasbourg, 25-27 May 2009: Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD);
- ✓ Meeting of the Sub-Committee on the election of judges for the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg, Sunday, 26 April 2009: Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD);

- *Statement by representatives at meetings organised by other bodies*: heard statements by:

- ✓ Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC) on :
 - the Colloquy on "*the Clause of the most favored European Woman*", Paris, 27-28 November 2008;
 - the *Arab Forum for female politicians: comparative perspectives* organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women in cooperation with the Algerian Parliament, Algiers, 24-25 January 2009;
 - the event on "*the role of parliaments in promoting equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men*" organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women on the occasion of the 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New-York, 3-4 March 2009;
- ✓ Ms Quintanilla (Spain, EPP/CD) on the Extraordinary meeting of the Network of the Parliamentary Committees for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union (NCEO) on "*women candidates for the European elections*" organised by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament, Brussels, 5 March 2009;

- *Constitution of an ad hoc Sub-Committee to take part in the Conference on "State budgets: a key factor in real equality between women and men"*, organised jointly by the Greek Minister for the Interior, the Secretary General for Gender Equality in the Greek Ministry for the Interior and the Council of Europe, Athens, 5-6 May 2009: appointed Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD), Ms Čurdová (Czech Republic, SOC), Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC), Ms Fertuzinhos (Portugal, SOC), Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), Ms Papadopoulou (Cyprus, ALDE), Ms Stantcheva (Bulgaria, ALDE) and Ms Quintanilla Barba (Spain, EPP/CD);

- *its Sub-Committees*: approved the following changes:

- **Sub-Committee on violence against women**:

Ms WOLDSETH	Norway
Mr AUSTIN (substitute to Ms McCAFFERTY)	United Kingdom

- **Sub-Committee on trafficking in human beings**

Mr COSTELLO	Ireland	Mr LEYDEN
Ms WOLDSETH	Norway	

- **Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making**

Mr NOLLET (substitute to Ms SMET)	Belgium	
Mr LEYDEN	Ireland	Mr COSTELLO
Mr KARPINSKI (substitute to Mr WIKINSKI)	Poland	

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

a) *Plenary meetings:*

- **Strasbourg**, during the 2009 2nd part-session of the Assembly (27-30 April);
- **Istanbul (Turkey)**, Thursday, 14 May 2009: plenary Committee and Friday, 15 May 2009: meeting of the contact parliamentarians on violence against women;
- **Strasbourg**, during the 2009 3rd part-session of the Assembly (22-26 June);
- **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Tuesday, 8 September 2009;
- **Strasbourg**, during the 2009 4th part-session of the Assembly (28 September – 2 October);
- **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Monday, 30 November 2009.

b) *Sub-committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making*

- **Lisbon**, Thursday 2 and Friday 3 April 2009.

and, continuing its meeting on 24 March 2009, with Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- held a hearing on *Combating sexist stereotypes in the media* (*Rapporteur: Ms Stump, Switzerland, SOC*) with the following participants:

- ✓ Ms Lavinia Mohr, Deputy General Secretary and Director of Programmes, World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) (Canada)
- ✓ Professor Dr Luise F. Pusch, linguist and writer (Germany)
- ✓ Dr Angelika Paseka, University College of Teacher Education of Vienna (Austria)
- ✓ Ms Marie-Thérèse Casman, Senior Lecturer, University of Liège (Belgium)
- ✓ Ms Brigitte Grésy, Rapporteur, General Inspector at the General Inspectorate of Social Affairs (IGAS, France) and Member of the Board of the EU European Institute for Gender Equality
- ✓ Ms Pamela Morinière, Programme officer for gender equality projects, International/European Federation of Journalists.

Tanja Kleinsorge, Sylvie Affholder, Jannick Devaux