



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
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15 September 2010

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Paris on 10 September 2010, with Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), in the Chair:

As regards:

- *Gender mainstreaming in the work of the Assembly*: heard a statement from the President, held an exchange of views and instructed him to submit working proposals at its next meeting;
- *Women's access to lawful medical care: the problem of unregulated use of conscientious objection* (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD): in the absence of the rapporteur, and further to the Chairperson's proposal, decided to postpone the adoption of the draft opinion to the October 2010 part-session;
- *Gender-related claims for asylum* (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Hägg, Sweden, SOC): in the absence of the rapporteur, considered and unanimously approved (with one abstention) a draft opinion including nine amendments to the draft resolution and recommendation tabled by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population;
- *The real situation of rural women in Europe* (Rapporteur: Ms Quintanilla Barba, Spain, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the rapporteur and considered an introductory memorandum;
- *Extending the "most favoured European woman clause" to all Council of Europe member states* (Rapporteur: Ms Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD): considered an introductory memorandum;
- *More women in economic and social decision-making bodies* (Rapporteur: Ms Gautier, France, EPP/CD): heard a statement from the rapporteur, examined an outline for a report and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - ✓ Ms Béatrice Castellane, Lawyer, Paris Bar Association, former member of the Bar Council, France;
 - ✓ Ms Veronica Nilsson, administrator in charge of the file « Equality for Women and Men », European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Brussels, Belgium;
 - ✓ Ms Leena Linnainmaa, Director of the Central Chamber of Commerce of Finland, Helsinki, Finland.

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Observers to the Assembly
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisational Development and Reform
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- *Interparliamentary conference on trafficking in human beings (Paris, 3 December 2010)*: held an exchange of views in preparation of the conference based on a preliminary draft programme;
- *Implementation of Recommendation 1847 (2008) and Resolution 1635 (2008) on Combating violence against women: towards a Council of Europe convention*:
 - ✓ appointed Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) as the PACE representative to the 6th meeting of the CAHVIO (Strasbourg, 27 – 30 September 2010);
 - ✓ heard a statement by Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-committee on violence against women, on the preparation of the meeting of the PACE network of contact parliamentarians (Strasbourg, October 2010 part-session);
 - ✓ decided to invite Ms Waris Dirie, President of the Waris Dirie Foundation, as a guest speaker for this occasion;
 - ✓ agreed with the other work proposals of the Sub-Committee (see below);
 - ✓ mandated its Chairperson to seek the bureau's agreement in order to organise an event on combating violence against women by the Sub-committee on violence against women, in parallel of the PACE Standing Committee (Antalya, 12 November 2010) and in cooperation with the PACE Turkish delegation (to be confirmed), to mark the celebration of the Paneuropean Parliamentary Day dedicated to combating violence against women;
 - ✓ heard a statement by its Chairperson on his participation in the Regional Workshop for Arab Parliaments on "Implementing CEDAW and ending violence against women", organised in Beirut on 27-29 July 2010 by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Lebanese Parliament and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- *Cooperation with the European Union*: heard a statement by Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) on the exchange of views with the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) of the European Parliament, held in Brussels on 14 July 2010;
- *Appointment of a rapporteur*: appointed the following rapporteur for opinion:
 - ✓ Ms Nursuna Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) on *Request from the Parliament of Morocco for partner for democracy status within the Parliamentary Assembly*;
- *Appointment of representatives to meetings organised by other bodies*: appointed the following members:
 - ✓ Ms Doris Stump (Switzerland, SOC) to take part in the *Thematic Debate on Partnerships among international organisations active in the field of trafficking in human beings: need for co-ordinated action in the framework of the 4th meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Strasbourg, 13 September 2010*;
 - ✓ Ms Pernille Frahm (Denmark, UEL) to take part in the *10th meeting of the Informal Network on Gender Mainstreaming (Strasbourg, 22 September 2010)*.
- *Other business*:
 - ✓ welcomed the letter addressed by the President of the Assembly to H.E. Ali Larijani, President of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran on 8 September 2010, related to the death sentence by stoning of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, held an exchange of views on this subject and asked its Chairperson to draft a declaration;

- ✓ was informed by Ms Doris Stump (Suisse, SOC), rapporteur on “combating sexist stereotypes in the media” of the misleading coverage given to her report by some press;
 - ✓ took note of the adoption of Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)10 of the Committee of Ministers on the role of women and men in preventing and resolving conflicts and consolidating peace (30 June 2010).
- *Date and place of the next meetings of the Committee:* decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
- **Strasbourg**, during the 2010 4th part-session of the Assembly (4-8 October);
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Thursday and Friday, 2-3 December 2010;
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 2011 1st part-session of the Assembly (24-28 January);
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Monday, 21 March 2011;
 - **Strasbourg**, during the 2011 2nd part-session of the Assembly (11-15 April);
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Friday, 27 May 2011.

The Sub-Committee on violence against women, meeting in Paris on 10 September 2010 with Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC) in the chair:

As regards:

- *Election of the vice-chairperson of the Sub-Committee:* postponed the election of the vice-chairperson to its next meeting;
- *PACE network of contact parliamentarians dedicated to combating violence against women:*
 - ✓ prepared the next meeting of the PACE network of contact parliamentarians (Strasbourg, October 2010 part-session), heard a statement from its chairperson and held an exchange of views;
 - ✓ recalled that the Committee invited the national parliaments to associate themselves in the PACE Paneuropean parliamentary day (on the occasion of the celebration of the international day on combating violence against women (25 November 2010)), heard a statement from its Chairperson, held an exchange of views and identified the examination of legal developments in the member states since the closing of the Council of Europe campaign “stop domestic violence against women” (2006-2008) as its main theme;
 - ✓ suggested to devote the celebration of the next International Women’s Day (8 March 2011) to promoting the future Council of Europe convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.
- *Its next meeting:* left it to its Chairperson to call the next meeting.

Mark Neville, Sylvie Affholder, Guillaume Parent