



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
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11 October 2010

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Strasbourg on 4, 6 and 7 October 2010, with Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), in the Chair;

as regards:

- **Extending the “most favoured European woman clause” to all Council of Europe member states** (Rapporteur: Ms Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD): changed the title of the report to: “Promoting the most favourable gender equality laws in Europe”, examined and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution and a preliminary draft recommendation;
- **Women’s access to lawful medical care: the problem of unregulated use of conscientious objection** (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD): examined and approved a draft opinion to the report tabled by the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, including 7 amendments;
- **A minimum of 30% of each sex in Assembly national delegations** (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Keleş, Turkey, SOC): examined and approved a draft opinion to the report tabled by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, including 7 amendments;
- **Second meeting of the PACE network of contact parliamentarians committed to combating violence against women (Strasbourg, 6 October 2010):**
 - ✓ convened the contact parliamentarians and held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
 - Mr Eric Ruelle, Co-Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO).
 - ✓ heard statements by Mr Mendes Bota, Chairperson of the Committee, and Ms Wurm, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Violence against Women, on the relevant activities of the Assembly and the Committee;
 - ✓ prepared the launching of a *Pan-European Parliamentary Day* on “Two years after the Council of Europe Campaign “Stop domestic violence against women”, what next?”, on the basis of proposals of the Sub-Committee on Violence against Women and invited national

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Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
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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
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- parliaments to join in the celebration of the *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women* (25 November 2010);
- **Gender mainstreaming in the work of the Assembly:** held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum prepared by the Chairperson and decided to continue the discussion at its next meeting, in the light of the written comments which would be sent by its members;
 - **More women in economic and social decision-making bodies** (Rapporteur : Ms Gautier, France, EPP/CD): took note of an introductory memorandum and decided to postpone the discussion to its next meeting;
 - **Interparliamentary conference on trafficking in human beings** (Paris, 3 December 2010): took note of a revised draft programme;
 - **Fighting the global backlash against women's human rights** (Rapporteur: Ms Err, Luxembourg, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to New York on the occasion of the "UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals";
 - **Implementation of Recommendation 1847 (2008) and Resolution 1635 (2008) on Combating violence against women: towards a Council of Europe convention:** adopted the Committee's position on the third revised draft text of the Convention in view of the 7th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO) (Strasbourg, 8-10 November 2010) and appointed Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) as the representative of the Assembly for the 7th CAHVIO meeting;
 - **European norms concerning the enforcement and supervision of restraining orders in case of gender-based violence** (Rapporteur: Ms Kiuru, Finland, SOC): at the Rapporteur's request, agreed to relying on an expert for the preparation of the report;
 - **Action to combat violence against women must also take account of psychological violence** (Rapporteur: Ms Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD): at the Rapporteur's request, agreed to relying on an expert for the preparation of the report;
 - **Changes in the composition of sub-committees:** took notes of the following nomination in the membership of its Sub-committees:
 - ✓ Sub-committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making: Ms Alena Gajdůšková (Czech Republic, SOC);
 - ✓ Sub-committee on violence against women: Ms Dana Váhalová (Czech Republic, SOC) and Ms Virág KAUFER (Hungary, SOC);
 - ✓ Sub-committee on trafficking in human beings: Ms Alena Gajdůšková (Czech Republic, SOC).
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs:** appointed:
 - ✓ Ms Mirjana Ferić-Vac (Croatia, SOC) as Rapporteur for report on *Muslim Women in Europe: for Equal Opportunities*;
 - ✓ Mr Renato Farina (Italy, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur for opinion on *Reaffirming the universal nature of human beings*.
 - **Appointment of representatives to meetings organised by other bodies:** appointed the following members:
 - ✓ Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), to take part in the 12th WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe) Conference organised by the WAVE Network & European Info Centre Against Violence in cooperation with *Centrum Praw Kobiet - Women's Rights Center* : "Europe united: Ending violence against women- towards better laws, policies and support services", Warsaw, 14 - 16 October 2010 (at no cost for the Assembly);

- ✓ Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), to take part in the Information Seminar on the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings to be held in Moscow, Russian Federation, on 10 November 2010, organised by the Directorate of Cooperation, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe in close co-operation with the authorities of the Russian Federation (subject to financial availability);
 - ✓ Ms Mirjana Ferić -Vac (Croatia, SOC) to take part in the regional conference on “Women and the security sector, UN Security Council Resolution 1325”, organised by the Serbian Ministry for Defence (Belgrade, 13 - 15 October 2010) (at no cost for the Assembly);
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers:** took note of the replies of the Committee of Ministers to the following recommendations : “Increasing women’s representation in politics through the electoral system”, “Action against trafficking in human beings: promoting the Council of Europe convention”, “Migrant women: at particular risk from domestic violence”.
- **Date and place of the next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
- **Paris** (Council of Europe office), Thursday 2 December 2010;
 - **Paris** (OECD Conference Center), Friday 3 December 2010, Interparliamentary conference on trafficking in human beings;
 - **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 Strasbourg on 5 October 2010 with Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) and then Ms Nursuna Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **Election of the vice-chairperson of the Sub-Committee:** elected Ms Nursuna Memecan (Turkey, ALDE), by acclamation;
- **PACE network of contact parliamentarians dedicated to combating violence against women:** held an exchange of views in preparation of the meeting to be held the following day;
- **Preparation of the PACE Pan-European Parliamentary Day around 25 November 2010** “Two years after the Council of Europe Campaign “Stop domestic violence against women”, what next?”: heard a statement by the Vice-Chairperson on the possibility to organise the launching of the *PACE Pan-European Parliamentary Day* in Antalya, on the occasion of the meeting of the Standing Committee and in the framework of the Sub-Committee meeting (subject to an invitation from the Turkish delegation and the Bureau’s authorisation), held an exchange of views on modalities for this launching and the organisation of activities and visibility actions in national parliaments;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** 11 November 2011, Antalya, Turkey (*subject to an invitation from the Turkish delegation and the Bureau’s authorisation*).

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