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13 September 2011

Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

Synopsis N° 2011/6

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Paris on 9 September 2011, with Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

heard a statement by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, and held an exchange of views with him.

As regards:

- ***Violent and extreme pornography*** (Rapporteur: Mr Stuligrosz, Poland, EPP/CD): considered and approved a draft report; unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution and a preliminary draft recommendation;
- ***Pre-natal sex selection*** (Rapporteur: Ms Stump, Switzerland, SOC): considered and approved a draft report; unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution and a preliminary draft recommendation;
- ***Fighting the global backlash against women's human rights*** (Rapporteur: Ms Err, Luxembourg, SOC): considered a revised memorandum; held an exchange of views with Ms Dagmar Schumacher, Director of the UN Women Office in Brussels and decided to ask the Bureau to invite Ms Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women, to address the Assembly in the context of the debate to be held during the January part-session 2012;
- ***Muslim women: for equal opportunities*** (Rapporteur: Ms Ferić-Vac, Croatia, SOC): considered a revised memorandum; held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Ms Andrea Murray, Director of Policy in the Strategy Directorate of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, United Kingdom;
 - Ms Noura Jaballah, President of the European Forum of Muslim Women (Brussels);
- ***The impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the Council of Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD): considered a preliminary draft opinion;
- ***Best practices for promoting gender equality in political parties*** (Rapporteur: Ms Stavrositu, Romania, EPP/CD): considered an outline for a report;

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
Members of observer and partner for democracy delegations
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

- **Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Palestinian National Council** (*Rapporteur: Ms Hägg, Sweden, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs:** appointed:
 - Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for report on *Promoting the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence*, subject to ratification of the reference by the Assembly and in view of a joint debate with the report on Fighting the global backlash against women's human rights;
 - Ms Myller (Finland, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *European norms concerning the enforcement and supervision of restraining orders in case of gender-based violence*, following the resignation of the previous Rapporteur, Ms Kiuru (Finland, SOC); and
 - Ms Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG) as rapporteur for opinion on *Granting of participatory status to the international non-governmental organisation Andante*, following the resignation of the previous Rapporteur, Ms Gautier (France, EPP/CD);
- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed:
 - Ms Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) to participate in the 6th Meeting of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Strasbourg, 26 September 2011; and
 - Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC) to participate in the 9th Information seminar on Parliaments and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Bern (Switzerland), 20 October 2011;
- **Future work:**
 - **Meeting of the Committee in Azerbaijan:** took note of a letter by Mr Seiydov, Chairperson of the delegation of Azerbaijan, inviting the Committee to hold a meeting in Baku in 2011; decided to accept the invitation and agreed to hold the meeting on 1 and 2 December 2011, subject to the Bureau's authorisation;
 - **Conference on the Role of women and democratic changes in the countries of the Southern shore of the Mediterranean**, organised by the Council of Europe North-South Centre (Rome, 24 and 25 October 2011): heard a statement by Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD), President of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre; took note of the decision of the Bureau to set up an ad hoc Committee to attend the conference; and decided to postpone the appointment of its representatives to sit in the ad hoc Committee to the October part-session 2011;
- **Place and date of the next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the 2011 4th part session of the Assembly (3-8 October);
 - Baku (Azerbaijan), 1-2 December 2011 (*subject to the Bureau's authorisation*);
 - Strasbourg, during the 2012 1st part session of the Assembly (23-27 January).

Sonia Sirtori, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer