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9 December 2011

Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

Synopsis N° 2011/8

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Paris on 8 December 2011, with Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **2011: Taking stock of achievements and results:** held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum prepared by its Chairperson, endorsed its conclusions and paid tribute to its Chairperson for his leadership and commitment during his mandate;
- **Fighting the global backlash on women's rights** (Rapporteur: Ms Err, Luxembourg, SOC): decided to change the title of the report to 'Advancing women's rights worldwide'; considered and approved a draft report; amended and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution, in view of a debate to be held during the January 2012 part-session;
- **Promoting the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence** (Rapporteur: Mr Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD): considered and approved a draft report; unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution, in view of a debate to be held during the January 2012 part-session;
- **Gender equality and the status of women in the Council of Europe southern neighbourhood** (Rapporteur: Ms Saïdi, Belgium, SOC): heard a statement by the Chairperson on the participation of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau in the conference "Women as agents of change in the South of the Mediterranean" organised by the North-South Centre (Rome, 24-25 October 2011); considered a memorandum; held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Khadija Mohsen-Finan, political scientist at the University Paris VIII and at the *Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques* (IRIS, France); and decided to ask the Bureau to authorise the Rapporteur to conduct fact-finding visits to Morocco and Tunisia, in preparation of her work;

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
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

- **Best practices for promoting gender equality in political parties** (Rapporteur: Ms Stavrositu, Romania, EPP/CD): considered a memorandum and a questionnaire to be sent out to the political parties represented in the Assembly; held a hearing with Professor Lovenduski, Anniversary Professor of Politics at Birkbeck College, University of London, and Dr Saskia Ravesloot, gender expert at the Belgian Development Agency;
- **Muslim women in Europe: for equal opportunities** (Rapporteur: Ms Ferić-Vac, Croatia, SOC): heard a statement by the rapporteur; decided to propose that the debate on this report is held during the April part-session 2012; held a hearing on the French law on the prohibition of concealing the face in public spaces, with the participation of Mr Julien Le Gars, Deputy Director for public liberties, Minister of the Interior, Ms Nathalie Tournyol du Clos, Head of the Department of Women's rights and gender equality, Ministry of solidarity and social cohesion, and Mr Didier Joubert, Technical advisor, Chief of the centre for public order - defense - intelligence, Office of the Director General of the National Police (France);
- **Activities undertaken by members to promote the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence:** heard a statement by Ms Ferić-Vac (Croatia, SOC) on her participation in the Regional Conference "Effective ways to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence" (Bratislava, 29 November 2011) and on her participation in the First Regional Seminar to promote the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Sarajevo, 24-25 October 2011); held an exchange of views on activities conducted at the national level;
- **Members' participation in external events:** heard a statement by Ms Stavrositu (Romania, EPP/CD) on her participation in the Conference "Current Trends of Development of National Gender Mechanisms in European Countries" (Kyiv, 25-26 October 2011);
- **Place and date of its next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the 2012 1st part session of the Assembly (23-27 January).
 - Strasbourg, during the 2012 2nd part session of the Assembly (23-27 April).
 - Strasbourg, during the 2012 3rd part session of the Assembly (25-29 June).

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