



AS/EGA/synopsis (2012) 03
27 April 2012

Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Synopsis N° 2012/3

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 April, with Ms Ackefors (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Women in the Arab Spring:** held a joint hearing with the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, with the participation of:
 - Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly,
 - Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
 - Ms Bassima Hakkaoui, Minister of Solidarity, Family, Women and Social Development of Morocco,
 - Ms Meherzia Labidi Maïza, First Deputy Speaker of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia,
 - Ms Gamila Ismail, political activist and journalist (Egypt),
 - Ms Sara Maziq, activist, Representative of Women4Libya and founder of Libyan Civil Society Organization (Libya),
 - Ms Rima Flihan, activist and writer (Syria), and
 - Ms Sarah Ahmed Jamal, co-founder of Support Yemen, activist and researcher (Yemen);
- **Equality between women and men: a condition for the success of the Arab Spring** (*Rapporteur: Ms Saïdi, SOC*): took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation;
- **The rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (LGBTs)** (*General rapporteur: Mr Haugli, Norway, SOC*): heard a statement by the General rapporteur and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
 - Ms Evelyn Paradis, Executive Director, ILGA-Europe (International lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex association), and

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
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

- Ms Kate Jones, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe,

and authorised the General Rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Ukraine, in the framework of his mandate;

- **Reinforcing the selection processes of experts of the monitoring mechanisms of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): held a joint meeting with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, during which it heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held a hearing with the participation of:

- Mr Jenö Kaltenback, Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI),
- Ms Marieke Sanders, member of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and the Committee of Experts for the European Charter for Regional and Minority languages (ECRML), and
- Mr Trevor Stevens, Executive Secretary of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT);

- **Muslim women in Europe: for equal opportunities** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kyriakidou, Cyprus, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Mr Marco Perolini, researcher on discrimination at Amnesty International, and considered a preliminary draft report;

- **Best practices for promoting gender equality in political parties** (*Rapporteur: Ms Stavrositu, Romania, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on the basis of a preliminary draft report;

- **Gender equality in South-East Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visits to Croatia (20 - 22 February 2012) and Serbia (26 - 28 February 2012) and considered a memorandum;

- **Parental leave as a way to foster gender equality** (*Rapporteur: Mr Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): considered an outline for a report;

- **Violence against women** (*General rapporteur: Mr Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the General rapporteur;

- **Ending discrimination against Roma children**: decided to table a motion for a resolution on behalf of the Committee;

- **Counteraction to manifestations of neo-nazism and xenophobia** (*Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD*): decided to ask the Bureau to be seized for opinion;

- **Composition of sub-committees**: approved the following changes:

- Ms Andreja Črnak Meglič (Slovenia, SOC) joining the sub-committee on gender equality, as a member,
- Ms Tanja Vrbat (Croatia, SOC) joining the sub-committee on the rights of minorities, as a member;

- **Appointment of rapporteurs**: appointed:

- Ms Wurm (Austria, SOC) as rapporteur on Stalking and Mr Kalmár (Hungary, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for opinion on the situation of Roma in Europe: movement and migration, and heard from them a declaration on the absence of conflicts of interest;
- Ms Mattila (Finland, NR) as rapporteur for opinion on trafficking of migrant workers for forced labour: time for a closer look, subject to hearing from her a declaration on the absence of conflicts of interest;

- **Feedback from members' participation in external events**: heard a statement by Ms Gafarova on her participation in the Round Table on combating trafficking in human beings organised by the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation), on 18 April 2012;

- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed:
 - Ms Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) to participate in the 8th Meeting of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (Strasbourg, 11 June 2012);
 - Mr Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC) and Mr Shpigel (Russian Federation, EDG) to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 5-11 October);
- **Date and place of the next meetings of the Committee:** confirmed its meetings as follows:
 - Tirana (Albania), 4 June 2012;
 - Tirana (Albania), 5 June 2012, meeting of the Parliamentary Network women free from violence;
 - Strasbourg, during the 2012 3rd part-session of the Assembly (25-29 June);
 - Paris, 10 September 2012 (to be confirmed);
 - Strasbourg, during the 2012 4th part-session of the Assembly (1-5 October)
 - Paris, 3 December 2012.

The Parliamentary Network women free from violence, meeting in Strasbourg on 25 April 2012, with Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), General Rapporteur on violence against women, in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Police response to women victims of violence:** held a hearing with participation of :
 - Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
 - Ms Catherine Lepage, Psychologist at the Office for Police Assistance to Victims, Brussels (Belgium),
 - Mr Christian Binetruy, Honorary police commander, Departmental Directorate of public safety, Bas-Rhin (France) and
 - Ms Karmela Martinović-Grčić, Head of the Juvenile Delinquency Department of the Osječko-baranjska County Police Department (Croatia);
- **Future work:** heard a statement by the General Rapporteur and held an exchange of views;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** confirmed that its next meeting would take place in Tirana (Albania), on 5 June 2012.

Sonia Sirtori, Marine Trévisan, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer