



SECRETARIAT

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29 June 2012

To the members of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 25-29 June 2012

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg with Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair:

- on Tuesday 26 June 2012 at 8.30 am, as regards:
 - **Multiple discrimination against Muslim women in Europe: for equal opportunities** (*Rapporteur: Ms Athina Kyriakidou, Cyprus, SOC*): took position on the amendments which had been tabled to the draft resolution, approved two sub-amendments and asked its Chair to propose that amendments which were unanimously approved should be declared as adopted by the Assembly, according to Rule 33.11 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
 - **Roma migrants in Europe** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Ferenc Kalmár, Hungary, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a draft opinion to the report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, including three amendments;
 - **NGOs' role in combating intolerance, racism and xenophobia** (*Rapporteur: Ms Federica Mogherini Rebesani, Italy, SOC*): considered a memorandum;
 - **Organisation of the meeting in Albania**: held an exchange of views with Ms Lajla Pernaska (Albania, EPP/CD) concerning the meeting of the Committee in Tirana (13 and 14 September 2012) and the meeting of the Parliamentary Network "Women Free from Violence" (14 September 2012);
- on Tuesday 26 June 2012 at 2 pm, held a joint meeting with the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, as regards:
 - **Countering intolerance and discrimination against Muslims in Europe and launching event of the 'Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims: Addressing Islamophobia through Education' (Council of Europe, OSCE/ODIHR, UNESCO)**: held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Sjur Bergan, Head of Education Department, Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Directorate General II – Democracy, Council of Europe,
 - Ms Floriane Hohenberg, Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe/ Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR),

- Professor Lynn Davies, Emeritus Professor of International Education, Centre for International Education and Research, School of Education, University of Birmingham,
 - Professor Kamel Meziti, Historian of religions, author, specialist of Islam, Adviser of COJEP (Council for Justice, Equality and Peace) and member of EMISCO (European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion),
 - Ms Malika Hamidi, General Manager of the European Muslim Network, Researcher;
- **on Wednesday 27 June 2012 at 2 pm**, as regards:
 - ***The rights of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender Persons (LGBTs)*** (General rapporteur: Mr Håkon Haugli, Norway, SOC): held an exchange of views with Ms Françoise Tulkens, Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights; heard a statement by the General rapporteur on the basis of a revised memorandum; took note of the Committee of Ministers' reply to written question No. 608 on "Criminalisation of homosexuality in the northern part of Cyprus", and decided to table a motion on "Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity" on behalf of the Committee;
 - ***Gender equality in South-East Europe*** (Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD): considered a revised memorandum;
 - ***Violence against women*** (General rapporteur: Mr José Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the General rapporteur and authorised him to go to Brussels to meet with representatives of the European institutions. Having taken note of his presence in Morocco, at the invitation of the Moroccan authorities, to take part in an event organised by them on 7 July 2012, the Committee decided to ask the Bureau to authorise him to extend his visit until 9 July 2012, in order to hold bilateral meetings in the framework of his mandate (*with the understanding that the Assembly would only cover the cost of the additional per diems*);
 - ***Parental leave as a way to foster gender equality*** (Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE): considered a memorandum and authorised the Rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Sweden, in the framework of the preparation of his report;
 - ***Appointment of rapporteurs***: heard declarations of absence of conflicts of interest from Ms Pirkko Mattila (Finland, NR) and Ms Nursuna Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) and therefore concluded the procedure for their appointment, respectively, as Rapporteur for opinion on Trafficking of migrant workers for forced labour: time for a closer look and Rapporteur for report on Ending discrimination against Roma children;
 - ***Representation of the committee***: appointed the following representatives to sit in the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the "World Forum for Democracy" (Strasbourg, 5-11 October 2012):
 - Ms Ismeta Dervoz (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD),
 - Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba (Spain, EPP/CD) and
 - Ms Federica Mogherini Rebesani (Italy, SOC);
 - ***Changes in the composition of sub-committees***: took note that Mr József Nagy (Slovakia, EPP/CD) would join the sub-committee on the rights of minorities;
 - ***Dates and places of the next meetings***:
 - Tirana, 13 and 14 September 2012 (on 14 September, also meeting of the Parliamentary Network "*Women Free from Violence*");
 - Strasbourg, during the 2012 4th part-session of the Assembly (1-5 October);
 - Paris, 3 December 2012;
 - Strasbourg, during the 2013 1st part-session of the Assembly (21-25 January).

The Parliamentary Network "*Women Free from Violence*" meeting in Strasbourg on 28 June 2012, with Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), General rapporteur on violence against women, in the Chair,

heard a statement by Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and paid tribute to her important contribution to the work accomplished by the Council of Europe in the areas of gender equality and violence against women.

As regards:

- **Marital rape:** held a hearing with the participation of: Ms Liz Kelly, Professor at the London Metropolitan University, London (*United Kingdom*) and Mr Gilles Lazimi, General Practitioner and coordinator of the 2011 national campaign on marital rape, *Women's Group against rape*, Paris (*France*);
- **Network activities:** heard a statement by the General rapporteur;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** confirmed that its next meeting would take place in Tirana (Albania) on 14 September 2012.

The Sub-Committee on gender equality of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg, on 28 June 2012, with Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Activities of the North-South Centre:** held an exchange of views with Mr Denis Huber, Executive Director of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre) and Ms Nursuna Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) on the "Euro-Med Women Network" and the forthcoming International Conference on "Promoting the social and political empowerment of women" (Istanbul, 3-6 November 2012);
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chair to convene its next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on the rights of minorities and the Sub-Committee on racism and xenophobia of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 28 June 2012, with Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD) and Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDF) as co-Chairs, as regards:

- **Ending discrimination against Roma children:** held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Rudko Kawczynski, President of the European Roma and Travelers Forum,
 - Ms Elena Gaia, Policy Analysis Specialist and Focal Point for Roma issues - UNICEF Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States and
 - Mr Dominique Steinberger, Director of the NGO ARPOMT (Strasbourg);
- **Activities of the sub-committees:** were informed by Mr Ferenc Kalmár (Hungary, EPP/CD) that a motion on the rights of traditional national minorities had been tabled and held an exchange of views on respective future activities;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to their Chairs to convene their next meetings.

Sonia Sirtori, Marine Trévisan, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer, Géraldine Grenet

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