



SECRETARIAT

AS/EGA/CB (2012) 06rev
19 September 2012

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

Revised synopsis of the meeting held in Tirana on 13 and 14 September 2012

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Tirana with Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), First Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- on Thursday 13 September 2012, as regards:
 - **Exchange of views with the Albanian authorities:** held an exchange of views on a wide range of issues falling within its remit with:
 - Ms Jozefina Topalli, Speaker of Parliament,
 - Mr Spiro Ksera, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities,
 - Ms Filloreta Kodra Vice-Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities,
 - Ms Irma Baraku, Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, and
 - Ms Iva Zajmi, former National Co-ordinator of the Government for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings;
 - **Status of chairpersons of political groups in Assembly committees** (*Rapporteur of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): took note of a letter by the Rapporteur addressed to the Chairpersons of the Assembly committees; following an exchange of views, agreed that, although an harmonisation of the rights of *ex officio* members would be advisable, there should be no change as regards the committees in which Chairpersons of political groups can be *ex officio* members;
 - **Best practices for promoting gender equality in political parties** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maria Stavrositu, Romania, EPP/CD*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, considered a draft report, decided to change the title to “Political parties and women’s political representation” and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution;
 - **NGOs’ role in combating intolerance, racism and xenophobia** (*Rapporteur: Ms Federica Mogherini Rebesani, Italy, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution;
 - **Follow-up to Resolution 1873 (2012) on Equality between women and men: a condition for the success of the Arab Spring** (*Rapporteur: Ms Fatiha Saïdi, Belgium, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;

- **Tackling racism in law enforcement institutions** (*Rapporteur: Mr David Davies, United Kingdom, EDG*): considered an outline for a report and authorised Mr David Davis to conduct fact-finding visits to the United Kingdom and Germany;
- **Hearing on equality and non-discrimination in the access to justice – a regional perspective**: held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Yesim Oruc, UNDP Albania Country Director;
 - Ms Gordana Igrić, Regional Network Director of the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
 - Professor Aurela Anastasi, Executive Director of the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives, Albania; Mr Francesco Florit, President of the EULEX Assembly of Judges, Kosovo;¹
- **Violence against women** (*General rapporteur: Mr José Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the General rapporteur and authorised him to participate in the European Women's Lobby's strategic seminar on violence against women (Brussels, Belgium, 8 October 2012) and in the 14th Conference of the WAVE network - Women against violence in Europe (London, United Kingdom, 18-20 October 2012);
- **Appointment of representatives**: appointed Ms Fatiha Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) as its representative to participate in the Conference "Making Prevention Work: Addressing the Root Causes of Human Trafficking in Europe", organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Bulgarian National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Sofia, Bulgaria, 4 and 5 December 2012, *at no cost for the Assembly*);
- **Conference on Promoting the social and political empowerment of women** (organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Turkish parliament, Istanbul, 3-6 November 2012): took note of the programme; decided to set up an ad hoc sub-committee to participate in the conference and appointed Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG), Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), Ms Federica Mogherini Rebesani (Italy, SOC) and Ms Fatiha Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) as its members;
- **Feedback on members' participation in external events**: heard a statement by Ms Fatiha Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) on her participation in the 4th meeting on Violence against Women "Identical facts, multiple legal answers", organised by the German Agency for Co-operation (GIZ), the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC), the Centre for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR), l'Association démocratique des femmes du Maroc, Casablanca, 4-6 June 2012, and in the 8th Meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings on 11 June 2012 in Strasbourg; as well as a statement by Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) on his participation in the Roundtable discussion on "Gender Quota" organised by the UNDP, in partnership with the Gender Equality Council and the Central Electoral Commission of Georgia in Tbilisi, on 2-3 July 2012;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs**: appointed:
 - Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) as rapporteur on Criminalising the purchase of sex to combat the trafficking of people for sexual exploitation,
 - Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG) as rapporteur on Addressing age discrimination on the labour market;

and heard from them a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;
- **Date and place of the next meetings**:
 - 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).

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- **on Friday, 14 September 2012, holding a joint meeting with the Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence”, as regards:**
- **Conference on “Legislators to make freedom from violence a reality”:** held a conference with the participation of:
 - Ms Jozefina Topalli, Speaker of Parliament,
 - Ms Filloreta Kodra Vice-Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities,
 - Ms Feride Acar, Member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey,
 - Ms Hilary Fisher, expert consultant, former member of CAHVIO and former Chair of the Council of Europe Expert Task Force on Violence against Women,
 - and Baroness Scotland, former Attorney General for England and Wales and Advocate General for Northern Ireland;and approved a final declaration;
- **Handbook on the Istanbul Convention:** launched the Handbook on the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** confirmed that its next meeting would be held in Strasbourg, on 3 October 2012.

Sonia Sirtori, Marine Trévisan, 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