



SECRETARIAT

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 24 May 2013

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris, on 24 May 2013, with Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity** (*Rapporteur: Mr Håkon Haugli, Norway, SOC*): heard an oral statement by the rapporteur on recent developments to be included in the explanatory memorandum; approved a draft report; unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution and a preliminary draft recommendation; decided to ask the Bureau to invite Ms Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, French Minister of Women's Rights, to address the Assembly in the context of the debate; took note of a motion for a resolution on discrimination against transgender people in Europe;
- **Parental leave as a way to foster gender equality** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): took a unanimous position in favour of the amendments tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development and asked its Chair to propose that they should be declared as adopted by the Assembly, according to Rule 33.11 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
- **So-called 'honour' crimes in the North Caucasus** (*Rapporteur: Ms Tina Acketoft, Sweden, ALDE*): considered an outline for a report, authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Moscow and held a hearing with the participation of Dr Anna Neistat, Associate Director for Programme and Emergencies Divisions, Human Rights Watch, Paris;
- **Equality between women and men: a condition for the success of the Arab Spring - follow-up to Assembly Resolution 1873 (2012)** (*Former rapporteur: Ms Fatiha Saïdi, Belgium, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;
- **Empowering women in politics**: held an exchange of views on the organisation of parliamentary seminars on improving women's representation in national parliaments, in the context of the follow-up to Assembly Resolution 1898 (2012) on political parties and women's political representation;

- **Equality and non-discrimination in the access to justice** (*Rapporteur: Ms Federica Mogherini Rebesani, Italy, SOC*): considered an outline for a report and took note of the rapporteur's resignation;
- **The situation of transgender persons in Europe**: held a hearing with the participation of Ms Vanessa Lacey, Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI), and Mr Nicolas Beger, Director of Amnesty International European Institutions Office;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs**:
 - following a secret vote, appointed Mr Jonas Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC) as rapporteur on "A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe" and heard from him a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;
 - decided to postpone the appointment of a rapporteur on "Focusing on the perpetrators to prevent violence against women" to its next meeting;
- **External representation**:
 - a) Reporting back**: heard a statement by Ms Maria Giannakaki (Greece, NR) on her participation in the 5th plenary meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM), held from 14 to 16 May 2013 in Strasbourg.
 - b) New appointments**: appointed:
 - Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) to participate in the Annual Conference of ILGA Europe on 24 October 2013 in Zagreb (Croatia);
 - Ms Maria Giannakaki (Greece, NR) to participate in the Conference on "Media and the Image of Women", organised by the Council of Europe in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands in The Hague on 4-5 July 2013;
 - Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG) to take part in the above-mentioned Conference on "Media and the Image of Women" at no cost for the Assembly and Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) to take part in it subject to availability of funding by the Assembly;
 - Other business**: heard an update by Ms Federica Mogherini Rebesani (Italy, SOC) on progress towards the ratification of the Istanbul Convention in Italy; a report back from Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG) on the parliamentary seminar on the Istanbul Convention held in Baku on 7 May 2013; and a proposal on future activities by Baroness Judith Wilcox (United Kingdom, EDG).
 - Dates and places of the next meetings of the Committee**: decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd part-session 2013 of the Assembly (24-28 June),
 - Madrid, 16-17 September 2013 (*subject to the Bureau's authorisation, failing this the meeting will be held in Paris on 12-13 September 2013*),
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2013 of the Assembly (30 September – 4 October),
 - Paris, 5-6 December 2013.

Sonia Sirtori, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer

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
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