



SECRETARIAT

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1 July 2013

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 24, 25, 26 and 27 June 2013

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 24 to 27 June 2013, with Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **On Monday 24 June 2013, from 2.00 to 3.00 pm,**
 - ***Evaluation of the Partnership for Democracy status in respect of the Parliament of Morocco*** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Sahiba Gafarova, Azerbaijan, EDG*): approved a draft opinion to the report tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy;
 - ***Putting an end to coercive sterilisations and castrations*** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Fatiha Saïdi, Belgium, SOC*): approved a draft opinion to the report tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development;
 - ***Stalking*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Gisela Wurm, Austria, SOC*): approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution;
 - ***Appointments of representatives***: appointed Mr Mendes Bota to take part in the meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Women from the Organisation of the American States on 13 October 2013 in Brasilia, Brazil (*subject to the Bureau's authorisation and to the availability of financial resources*).
- **On Tuesday 25 June 2013, from 8.30 to 10.00 am, with Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:**
 - ***Addressing age discrimination on the labour market*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Sahiba Gafarova, Azerbaïdjan, EDG*): decided to change the title of the report to "Combating discrimination against older persons on the labour market"; approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution;
 - ***Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Håkon Haugli, Norway, SOC*): heard a presentation of the Opinion from the Venice Commission on the issue of the prohibition of so-called "Propaganda of homosexuality" in the light of recent legislation in some member states of the Council of Europe by Mr Thomas

- Markert, Director, Secretary of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and approved an addendum to the report, including 6 amendments to be tabled on behalf of the Committee;
- **The situation and rights of traditional national minorities in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Ferenc Kalmár, Hungary, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur following his fact-finding visit to Italy (9 - 10 May 2013);
 - **Criminalising the purchase of sex to combat the trafficking of people for sexual exploitation** (*Rapporteur: Mr José Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur following his fact-finding visits to Sweden (21-22 May 2013) and to Germany (12-14 June 2013);
 - **Tackling racism in the police** (*Rapporteur: Mr David Davies, United Kingdom, EDG*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur following his fact-finding visit to Greece (12- 13 June 2013);
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs**: appointed
 - Mr Viorel Riceard Badea (Romania, EPP/CD) on “Equality and non-discrimination in the access to justice” (Doc. 13046) and heard from him a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;
 - Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) on “Violence against women in Europe” (Doc. 13188) and heard from him a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;
 - Ms Katherine Zappone (Ireland, NR) on “Improving co-operation between National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Parliaments in addressing Equality and Non-Discrimination Issues” (Doc. 13190), subject to hearing from her a declaration on the absence of conflicts of interest;
 - Ms Athina Kyriakidou (Cyprus, SOC) on “Focusing on the perpetrators to prevent violence against women” (Doc. 13153) and heard from her a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest.
 - **On Wednesday, 26 June 2013, from 2.00 to 3.30 pm, holding a joint meeting with the Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence”, with Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:**
 - **Progress towards the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention**: heard statements by Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG), Ms Silvia Bonet-Perot (Andorra, SOC) and Ms Ismeta Dervoz (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD);
 - **“Women, violence and art”**: held a hearing with the participation of Mr Amer Kapetanović, photographer and responsible for the 2011 UN Women campaign *16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women* (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Ms Zora Bachmann, director of the human rights film festival *This Human World* (Austria).
 - **On Thursday, 27 June 2013, from 2.00 to 3.30 pm, room 6**
 - **Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity** (*Rapporteur: Mr Håkon Haugli, Norway, SOC*): took position on the 28 amendments to the draft resolution and on the 8 amendments to the draft recommendation 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;
 - **Violence against women and domestic violence**: held an exchange of views with Ms Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, Minister of Women’s Rights, France, with the participation of Mr Jean Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

- **Dates and places of the next meetings of the Committee:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - **Madrid, 16-17 September 2013,**
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2013 of the Assembly (30 September – 4 October),
 - Paris, 5-6 December 2013.

The Sub-committee on gender equality, meeting in Strasbourg on Tuesday 25 June 2013, from 2.00 to 3.30 pm, with Mme Fatiha Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Vice-Chairperson:** elected Ms Marie-Jo Zimmerman, France (EPP/CD) as Vice-Chairperson.
- **Women in the Southern Mediterranean:** held an exchange of views on Council of Europe activities, with the participation of Ms Marja Ruotanen, Director of the Justice and Human Dignity Directorate, Ms Pilar Morales, Head of Division on Strategic Programming and Resource Mobilisation in Southern Mediterranean Countries and Ms Caroline Martin, Democratic Institutions and Fundamental Rights Division of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);
- **Abortion legislation in Europe: recent developments:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Neil Datta, Director, European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development
- **Next meeting:** agreed to meet during the October 2013 part-session of the Assembly.

The Sub-committee on the rights of minorities, meeting in Strasbourg on Thursday 27 June 2013, from 8.30 to 10.00 am, first with Mr Biedroń (Poland, SOC) in the Chair, and then Ms Athina Kyriakidou (Cyprus, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-committee:** elected Mr Ferenc Kalmár (Hungary, EPP/CD) Vice-Chairperson;
- **Roma inclusion: from theory to practice (follow-up to the Assembly Resolution 1927 (2013) on "ending discrimination against Roma children"):** held a hearing with the participation of Ms Stojanka Dimkowska, Vice-President of the Association for Roma Community Development Sumnal ("The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"); Mr Marcos Andrade, ROMED Project Manager, Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues, Council of Europe; Mr Fernand Milo Delage, ROMED mediator, Chairperson of France Liberté Voyage, Spokesperson of travellers in France and Vice-Chairperson of the French Union of Gypsy Associations and Ms Anina Ciuciu, Law student at the Sorbonne (Paris), author of "Je suis tzigane et je le reste – des camps de réfugiés Roms à la Sorbonne".
- **Next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to decide the date and place of the next meeting.

Sonia Sirtori, Marine Trévisan, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer and 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
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