



SECRETARIAT

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19 September 2013

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Madrid on 16 and 17 September 2013

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Madrid on 16 and 17 September 2013, with Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair,

heard a welcome address by Ms Celia Villalobos, Vice-Speaker of the Congress of Deputies, Mr José M^a Beneyto, Chairperson of the Spanish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality of the Congress of Deputies.

- **On Monday 16 September 2013,**

as regards:

- **Gender equality in Spain: current situation and perspectives:** held an exchange of views with Ms Carmen Plaza, Director General for Equal Opportunities, Ministry for Health, Social Services and Equality, Director of the Spanish Institute for Women's Affairs;
- **Prostitution and human trafficking in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with Mr Jorge Fernández Díaz, Minister for Home Affairs of Spain, considered a preliminary draft report, decided to change the title of the report to "Prostitution and human trafficking in Europe" and authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Switzerland;
- **Violence against women in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr José Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report.

Joint meeting of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, with Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- **'The economic dimensions of violence against women'**: held an exchange of views with Ms Blanca Hernández, Spanish Government Commissioner for Gender-based Violence, and a hearing with the participation of Mr Javier Truchero, lawyer, former representative of Spain at the Ad hoc Committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO) and Ms Melissa Morbeck, Executive Director of the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence (CAADV).

- **On Tuesday, 17 September 2013,**

as regards:

- **The situation and rights of traditional national minorities in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Ferenc Kalmár, Hungary, EPP/CD*): considered a revised memorandum; held a hearing on minorities and language rights, with the participation of Ms Athanasia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and Mr Stefan Oeter, Chair of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and held a discussion on the Spanish language policy with the participation of Mr Rafael Rodríguez Ponga, Secretary General of *Instituto Cervantes* and Mr Fernando Rey Martínez, President of the Council for the promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin;
- **Tackling racism in the police** (*Rapporteur: Mr David Davies, United Kingdom, EDG*): considered a revised memorandum;
- **A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jonas Gunnarsson, Sweden, SOC*): considered an outline for a report;
- **Legislation on same-sex marriage in Spain** : held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Ronny de la Cruz Carbonel, Vice-president, COGAM Colectivo LGBT of Madrid;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs:**
 - appointed:
 - M. Nikolaj Villumsen (Denmark, UEL) on “*Equality and the crisis*” (Doc. 13202) and heard from him a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;
 - Ms Fatiha Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) on “*The situation of women in emerging democracies following the Arab revolutions*” (Doc. 13218) subject to hearing from her a declaration on the absence of conflicts of interest;
 - Ms Olga Kazakova (Russian Federation, EDG) rapporteur for opinion on “*Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism and xenophobia*” (Doc. 12661) following the resignation of Mr Boris Shpigel (Russian Federation, EDG);
 - Mr Robert Biedroń (Poland, SOC) as General Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBTs) following the resignation of Mr Håkon Haugli (Norway, SOC);
 - heard a declaration on the absence of conflicts of interest from Ms Katherine Zappone (Ireland, NR) following her appointment as Rapporteur on “Improving co-operation between National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Parliaments in addressing Equality and Non-Discrimination Issues” last June;
- **Call for candidates for reports:** took note of the interest of Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba (*Spain, EPP/CD*) for the report on “*Equality and inclusion for people with disabilities*” and of Ms Deborah Schembri (*Malta, SOC*) for the report on “*Discrimination against transgender people in Europe*”;
- **Appointment of representatives:**
 - appointed Mr Viorel Ricard Badea (*Romania, EPP/CD*), Ms Nunzia Catalfo (*Italy, NR*) and Mr David Davies (*United Kingdom, EDG*) as members of the ad-hoc committee of the Bureau to take part in the World Forum for Democracy on “Re-wiring Democracy: connecting institutions and citizens in the digital age” on 27-29 November 2013 in Strasbourg;
 - took note of the interest of 9 members to participate in the Seminar on “the participation of women in political life” organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at the invitation of the Moroccan Parliament on 30 October 2013 in Rabat and decided to

postpone the appointment to the October Part-Session (*subject to the authorisation of the Bureau and to the availability of financial resources*);

- took note of the interest Ms Deborah Schembri (*Malta, SOC*) and with Mr Mendes Bota (*Portugal, EPP/CD*) to take part in the hearing on “Access to justice for women victims of violence” organised by the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe in partnership with the French authorities on 9 December 2013 in Paris and decided to postpone the appointment to the October Part-Session (*subject to the availability of financial resources*);

- **Dates and places of the next meetings of the Committee**

- Strasbourg, during the 4th Part-Session 2013 of the Assembly (30 September - 4 October),
- Paris, 5 December 2013,
- Strasbourg, during the 1st Part-Session 2014 of the Assembly (27 - 31 January);

heard a closing address by Mr Juan Manuel Moreno, Secretary of State for Social Affairs and Equality.

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
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe