



SECRETARIAT

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4 October 2013

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 30 September to 3 October 2013

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 30 September to 3 October 2013, with Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **On Monday 30 September 2013, from 2.00 to 3.00 pm,**
 - ***A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jonas Gunnarsson, Sweden, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the basis of a memorandum and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of DGII (Directorate General of Democracy) of the Council of Europe;
 - Mr Marc Leyenberger, member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance in respect of France;
 - Mr Thomas Markert, Director, Secretary of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).
- **On Tuesday 1 October 2013, from 8.30 to 10 am,**
 - ***Violence against women in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr José Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD*): approved a draft report; unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution and a preliminary draft recommendation;
 - ***The situation and rights of traditional national minorities in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Ferenc Kalmár, Hungary, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the basis of a revised memorandum and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Michèle Akip, Head of Secretariat, Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the protection of National Minorities (FCNM);
 - Professor Stefan Wolff, Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer, College of Social Sciences, University of Birmingham.
- **On Wednesday, 2 October 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:**

- **Violence against women: does the rehabilitation of perpetrators work?:** heard an opening address by Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Frédéric Matwies, author of the book “There was a monster in me”;
 - Ms Thangam Debonnaire, Research Manager, Respect, United Kingdom;
 - Ms Rosa Logar, co-founder of Women against violence Europe (WAVE).
 - **On Thursday, 3 October 2013, from 2.00 to 3.30 pm,** with Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
 - **The spreading of racism and intolerance in Europe:** approved a declaration by its sub-committee on racism and xenophobia and decided to propose that the Bureau of the Assembly invite Ms Cécile Kyenge, Minister for Integration of Italy, to address the Assembly in the context of the debate on *A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe (Rapporteur: Mr Jonas Gunnarsson, Sweden, SOC)*;
 - **The rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBTs) (General Rapporteur: Mr Robert Biedroń, Poland, SOC):** authorised the General Rapporteur to conduct fact-finding visits to Lithuania and the Russian Federation (*subject to the availability of financial resources by the Assembly*), authorised him to replace its Chairperson at the Annual Conference of ILGA Europe on 24 October 2013 in Zagreb, and heard a statement by Ms Nunzia Catalfo (Italy, NR) on the Italian draft law against homophobia;
 - **Addressing discrimination against older persons on the labour market (Rapporteur: Ms Sahiba Gafarova, Azerbaijan, EDG):** took position on the amendments that had been tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **So-called “honour” crimes in the North Caucasus (Rapporteur: Ms Tina Acketoft, Sweden, ALDE):** considered a memorandum and decided to change the title of the report to “Women’s rights in the North Caucasus”;
 - **Tackling intolerance and discrimination in Europe with a special focus on Christianity (Rapporteur: Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi, Moldova, EPP/CD):** heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views;
 - **Meetings in 2014:** accepted the invitation of the Austrian delegation to hold a meeting of the Committee as well as the Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence” in Vienna in March 2014, subject to authorisation by the Bureau;
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs:** finalised the appointment of Ms Fatiha Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *The situation of women in emerging democracies following the Arab revolutions* and appointed:
 - Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba (Spain, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for a report on *Equality and inclusion for people with disabilities*;
 - Ms Deborah Schembri (Malta, SOC) as rapporteur for a report on *Discrimination against transgender people in Europe*,
- and heard from them declarations on the absence of conflicts of interest; appointed:
- Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG) as rapporteur for opinion on *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco*;
 - Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi (Moldova, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for opinion on *Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan*;
 - **Appointment of representatives:** appointed:
 - Ms Nunzia Catalfo (Italy, NR) to participate in the 6th Meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM) on 28-31 October in Rome;

- Mr Jonas Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC) to participate in the Annual Fundamental Rights Conference 2013 dedicated to "Combating hate crime in the EU", on 12-13 November in Vilnius, Lithuania;
 - Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) to participate in the 6th Session of the Forum on Minority Issues and a panel discussion on "Linguistic rights of minorities in a digital era: Protection of existence", respectively to be held on 26-27 November 2013 and 28 November 2013 in Geneva (*at the organisers' cost*);
 - Ms Deborah Schembri (Malta, SOC) to participate 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 (*subject to the availability of financial resources by the Assembly*);
 - Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi (Moldova, EPP/CD) to participate in the conference on the *Participation of Women in Public and Political life in the Eastern Partnership countries*, organised by the European Union and the Council of Europe in Chisinau on 10 December 2013.
- **Dates and places of the next meetings of the Committee:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
- Paris, 5 December 2013;
 - Strasbourg, during the 1st Part-Session 2014 of the Assembly (27-31 January 2014);
 - 5-6 or 10-11 March 2014 (*to be decided*);
 - Strasbourg, during the 2nd Part-Session 2014 of the Assembly (7-11 April 2014).

The Sub-committee racism and xenophobia, meeting in Strasbourg on Tuesday 1 October 2013, from 2.00 to 3.30 pm, with Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Recent developments in Greece and Sweden:** held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Ms Anastasia Tsoukala, criminologist and associate professor at the University of Paris XI;
 - Ms Agneta Broberg, Equality Ombudsperson of Sweden;
- **The spreading of racism and intolerance in Europe:** approved a declaration;
- **Dates and places of the 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