



SECRETARIAT

AS/EGA/CB (2014) 04

4 June 2014

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 2 June 2014

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on 2 June 2014 with Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Exchange of views with Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly:** held an exchange of views on a number of issues under its mandate, including violence against women, the resurgence of various forms of extremism in Europe and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- **No Hate Parliamentary Alliance:** held an exchange of views on the basis of an oral statement by Ms Maria Giannakaki, General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance; and considered and approved the Charter of commitments for membership in the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, as amended;
- **The situation of women in emerging democracies following the Arab revolutions (Rapporteur: Ms Fatiha Saïdi, Belgium, SOC):**
 - held a hearing with the participation of Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Ms Wassyla Tamzali, Algerian lawyer, essayist and editorial writer, former director of the UNESCO Programme for the promotion of the status of women in the Mediterranean region;
 - considered a revised memorandum;
 - endorsed the Rapporteur's request to conduct a fact-finding visit to Morocco;
 - decided to set up an hoc sub-committee to take part in the 3rd international Conference of the North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women on "Women's participation in political life in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries: Challenges and opportunities", which would take place on 17 and 18 June in Rabat (Morocco) and appointed Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG), Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba (Spain, EPP/CD), Ms Fatiha Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) and Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC) as its members;
- **Current affairs: the Boko Haram kidnapping and the widespread human rights violations against girls and women in Nigeria:** held a hearing with the participation of Dr Marc-Antoine Pérouse de Montclos, Professor, French Institute of Geopolitics, Paris 8 University, Associate Researcher, Population and Development Centre (CEPED) and Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House;

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- **Discrimination against transgender people in Europe** (Rapporteur: Ms Deborah Schembri, Malta, SOC): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Julia Ehrt, Executive Director, TGEU – Transgender Europe, and considered a memorandum;
- **Tackling intolerance and discrimination in Europe with a special focus on Christianity** (Rapporteur: Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views, considered a revised memorandum and authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to the Netherlands;
- **Focusing on the perpetrators to prevent violence against women** (Rapporteur: Ms Athina Kyriakidou, Cyprus, SOC): considered a memorandum;
- **Equality and inclusion for people with disabilities** (Rapporteur: Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba, Spain, EPP/CD): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Future work**: considered a motion for a resolution on “The protection of the rights of parents and children belonging to religious minorities”, tabled by Mr Ghiletschi (Moldova, EPP/CD) and other members of the Assembly and decided to ask the Bureau to be seized for report;
- **Appointment of a rapporteur**: appointed Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) rapporteur on “Equality and shared parental responsibility: the rights of fathers” and heard from her a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;
- **Reporting back**:
 - heard a report from Ms Maria Giannakaki (Greece, SOC) on the Seminar organised by The Hellenic Presidency of the EU and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in cooperation with the Centre of International and European Economic Law (CIEEL) on “How can EU Member States combat hate crime effectively?”, in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 28-29 April 2014;
 - heard a report from Mr Robert Biedroń (Poland, SOC) on the 2nd European IDAHO (International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia) Forum, in Valletta, Malta, on 13-14 May 2014, and on the conference “Is Moldova the Region’s Champion State in Ensuring LGBT Rights?”, organised by Genderdoc-M, in Chisinau, Moldova, on 16 May 2014;
- **Free debate**: took note of the proposal by Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), General Rapporteur on violence against women, that members celebrate the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention, on 1st August 2014, by visiting shelters for women who have been victims of violence, and heard an update from Mr Robert Biedroń (Poland, SOC), Ms Ana Birchall (Romania, EPP/CD), Mr Jonas Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC) and Ms Deborah Schembri (Malta, SOC) on the recent steps taken towards ratification of the Istanbul Convention by their respective countries;
- **Date and place of the next meetings of the Committee**: decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd Part-Session 2014 of the Assembly (23-27 June);
 - Paris, 8 September 2014;
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th Part-Session 2014 of the Assembly (29 September-3 October);
 - Paris, 2 and 3 December 2014 (on 2 December 2014, joint meeting with the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development).

Sonia Sirtori, Giorgio Loddo, Elise Cornu

Cc.: Secretary General of the Assembly
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