



SECRETARIAT

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7 October 2014

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 29 September to 2 October 2014

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 29 September to 2 October 2014, first with Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC) and then Ms Mechthild Rawert (Germany, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- on Monday 29 September 2014, from 2 to 3 pm:
  - **Tackling intolerance and discrimination in Europe with a special focus on Christianity** (*Rapporteur: Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur following his fact-finding visit to the Netherlands (25-26 August 2014) and considered a preliminary draft report;
  - **Recognising and preventing neo-racism** (*Rapporteur: Ms Milena Santerini, Italy, NR*): heard a declaration by the Rapporteur on the absence of conflicts of interest and considered an outline for a report;
  - **No Hate Parliamentary Alliance**: heard a statement by its Chairperson who took note that the following national delegations had not appointed a member; Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Georgia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, the Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, « The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia » and Ukraine ;
- on Tuesday 30 September 2014, from 8.30 to 10 am:
  - **Women's rights and prospects for Euro-Mediterranean co-operation** (*Rapporteur: Ms Fatiha Saidi, Belgium, SOC*): took note that no amendments to the draft resolution and recommendation had been tabled;
  - **Equality and inclusion for people with disabilities** (*Rapporteur: Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba, Spain, EPP/CD*): considered a memorandum;
  - **Equality and shared parental responsibility: the rights of fathers** (*Rapporteur: Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch, Luxembourg, EPP/CD*): considered an outline for a report;
  - **Work programme**: considered the work programme and decided to request to the Bureau of the Assembly an extension of the reference on "Equality and non-discrimination in the access to justice" (*Rapporteur: Mr Viorel Riceard Badea, Romania, EPP/CD*) until 31 May 2015;

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- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers:** took note of the replies from the Committee of Ministers to Assembly recommendations 2021 (2013) on “Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity”, 2032 (2014) on “A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe” and 2040 (2014) on “The situation and rights of national minorities in Europe”;
- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed:
  - Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) to participate in the conference on “Human Trafficking, Prostitution and Modern Slavery in Europe – from a Human Rights Perspective” organised by the University of Uppsala and Scandinavian Human Rights Lawyers on 15 October 2014 in Uppsala (Sweden) (*subject to the availability of funds*) and in a conference on the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), organised by the NGO “Centre for Women War Victims – ROSA”, on 21 October 2014 in Zagreb (*at no cost for the Assembly*);
  - Mr Robert Biedroń (Poland, SOC) to participate in the XXVII International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) World Conference, from 27 to 28 October 2014, in Mexico City, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau (*travel costs covered by the Assembly*);
  - and Ms Maria Giannakaki (Greece, SOC) to participate in the 8th Meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM), from 28 to 31 October in Sarajevo (*subject to the availability of funds*);
- **Reporting back:** heard statements by:
  - Ms Guguli Magradze (Georgia, SOC), on the participation of the Ad hoc sub-committee in the Conference “Safe from fear, safe from violence. Celebrating the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention”, which took place on 18 and 19 September 2014 in Rome;
  - Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) on his participation in the Nordic Seminar on “Best practices in combating violence against women”, which took place on 25 September 2014 in Reykjavik;
  - and Mr David Davies (United Kingdom, EC) on his participation in the 64th meeting of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) on 17-20 June 2014 in Strasbourg;
- **Other business:**
  - authorised Ms Deborah Schembri (Malta, SOC) to conduct fact-finding visits to Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom in the framework of the preparation of her report on “Discrimination against transgender people in Europe”;
  - decided to accept the invitation to hold a meeting of the Sub-Committee on gender equality and the Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence” on 9 December 2014 at the House of Commons in London, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau;
  - agreed to the Chairperson’s proposal to delegate Ms Mechthild Rawert (Germany, SOC), in her capacity as Chairperson of the Sub-committee on disability and inclusion, to chair the Committee meeting on Thursday;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
  - Paris, 3 December 2014;
  - London, 9 December 2014, Sub-Committee on Gender Equality and Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence”;
  - Strasbourg, during the 1st Part-Session 2015 of the Assembly (26-30 January).

- **on Tuesday 30 September 2014, from 2 to 3.30 pm**, holding a meeting of the Parliamentary Network “*Women Free from Violence*”:
  - heard a statement by Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
  - **16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence** (25 November – 10 December): heard a statement by Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), General Rapporteur on violence against women, proposing coordinated activities of the members of the Network for the 16 days of activism;
  - **Sexual violence against women in armed conflicts**: held a hearing with the participation of:
    - Ms April Pham, GenCap Advisor at the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (Switzerland);
    - Ms Monika Hauser, Director of Medica Mondiale and recipient of the 2012 North-South Prize of the Council of Europe, Cologne (Germany);
    - and Ms Hana Ayele, Member of the NGO Survivors Speak OUT (United Kingdom);
- **on Wednesday 1 October 2014, from 2 to 3.30 pm**, holding a joint meeting with the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, held a hearing on “Gender dimensions of corruption” with the participation of:
  - Mr Matthias Kopetzky, Member of the Board of Institute Internal Audit, Leader of the Anti-Fraud Study Group, Austria;
  - and Ms Helena Lišuchová, GRECO Gender Equality Rapporteur and Bureau Member, Head of International Co-operation Department, Ministry of Justice, Czech Republic;
- **on Thursday 2 October 2014, from 1.30 to 3.30 pm**, Ms Mechthild Rawert (Germany, SOC) and Mr Dimitris Nikolsky, President of the Council of Europe’s Committee of experts on the rights of persons with disabilities (DECS-RPD) in the chair, held a joint meeting with the DECS-RPD and a hearing on “One of us? The right of persons with disabilities to live in the community” with the participation of:
  - Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
  - Mr Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;
  - Ms Karina Chupina, Senior trainer for the Council of Europe Youth Sector, President of the Federation of hard of hearing young people;
  - and Professor Gerard Quinn, Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy at the University of Galway, Ireland.

Sonia Sirtori, Giorgio Loddo, Elise Cornu, 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