



SECRETARIAT

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26 June 2015

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 22 to 25 June 2015

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 22 to 25 June 2015, with Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- on Monday 22 June, from 2 to 3 pm:
 - **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Sahiba Gafarova, Azerbaijan, EC / Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Mr Bogdan Klich, Poland, EPP/CD*): approved a draft opinion to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, including four amendments;
 - **Female genital mutilation in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur and authorised her to conduct fact-finding missions to the Reproductive Health Institute (ISG) in Saint-Germain-en-Laye (France) and to the United Kingdom;
 - **Composition of Sub-Committees**: approved the following changes in the composition of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality:
 - Ms Maryvonne Blondin (France, SOC) became a full member ;
 - Ms Theodora Tzakri (Greece, UEL) became a full member and Ms Vasiliki Katrivanou (Greece, UEL) an alternate ;
- on Tuesday 23 June, from 8.30 to 9.15 am:
 - **Systematic collection of data on violence against women** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maria Edera Spadoni, Italy, NR*):
 - heard a statement by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Madrid on 6 and 7 May 2015 and on the meetings held in Rome on 18 June 2015,
 - authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Finland,
 - hold a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Sylvia Walby, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, UNESCO Chair in Gender Research, Lancaster University, United Kingdom, and
 - Ms Therese Murphy, Head of Operations, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Vilnius, Lithuania ;

- **on Tuesday 23 June, from 2 to 3.30 pm**, meeting of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, jointly organised with the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development:
 - held a hearing on **“Preventing Islamophobia while combating radicalisation of young people”** in the presence of Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, and Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, with the participation of :
 - Professor Tahir Abbas, Department of Sociology, Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey,
 - Mr Bernard De Vos, Ombudsman for Children’s Rights of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels, Belgium, and
 - Dr Francesco Ragazzi, Lecturer of International Relations, Institute of Political Science, Leiden University, the Netherlands;
- **on Wednesday 24 June, from 2 to 3.30 pm**, meeting of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence:
 - **Female genital mutilation in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD*): considered an outline for a report and held a hearing with the participation of :
 - Ms Naana Otoo-Oyortey, Executive Director of FORWARD (United Kingdom) and President of the Board of End FGM European Network (Belgium), and
 - Dr Pierre Foldès, Surgeon, and Ms Frédérique Martz, Director, Reproductive Health Institute (ISG), St-Germain-en-Laye, France ;
- **on Thursday 25 June, from 2 to 3.30 pm**:
 - **Recognising and preventing neo-racism** (*Rapporteur: Ms Milena Santerini, Italy, SOC*): took note that no amendment to the draft resolution had been tabled;
 - **Promoting best practices in tackling violence against women** (*Rapporteur: Ms Sahiba Gafarova, Azerbaijan, EC*): considered a revised memorandum;
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs**: heard a statement on the absence of conflict of interest from Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC), rapporteur on “Renewed commitment in the fight against anti-Semitism in Europe”;
 - **Reporting back**: heard a statement from :
 - Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) on her participation in the 16th meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and to the Conference marking the 10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, in Strasbourg, on 15 and 16 June 2015,
 - Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC) on her participation in the Parliamentary Seminar on the Istanbul Convention organised by the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 16 June 2015,
 - Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) on his participation in the 67th meeting of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), in Strasbourg, from 16 to 19 June 2015;
 - **Appointment of representatives**: appointed *subject to availability of funds*:
 - Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC), in her capacity as General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance, to participate in the 2015 Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue – Building inclusive societies together, on 8 and 9 September 2015, in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina),
 - Mr Jonas Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC), in his capacity as General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people, to participate in the International Conference on Transgender issues in the medical and social context, organised by the NGO Insight in cooperation with the Bureau of the Ombudsman from Ukraine, from 22 to 24 October 2015, in Kiev (Ukraine);

- **World Forum for Democracy:** in addition to Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC) who was appointed on 1 June 2015, appointed Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) as representative in the ad hoc committee of the Bureau of the Assembly attending the World Forum for Democracy which will take place from 18 to 20 November 2015 in Strasbourg;

- **Date and place of the next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:

Plenary meetings

- Paris, 10 September 2015;
- Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2015 of the Assembly (28 September - 2 October);
- Paris, 1 December 2015.

Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence

- Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2015 of the Assembly (28 September - 2 October).

The Sub-committee on Gender Equality, meeting in Strasbourg on 23 June 2015 from 9.15 to 9.30 am, with Ms Maria Edera Spadoni (Italy, NR) in the Chair as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-committee:** elected by acclamation Ms Guguli Magradze (Georgia, SOC) Vice-Chairperson ;
- **Future activities:** held an exchange of views;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to decide the date and place of the next meeting.

The Sub-committee on the Rights of Minorities, meeting in Strasbourg on 23 June 2015 from 9.30 to 10 am, with Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC), oldest member present, and then Mr Viorel Riceard Badea (Romania, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:** elected by acclamation Mr Viorel Riceard Badea (Romania, EPP/CD) Chairperson and decided to postpone the election of the Vice-Chairperson to a next meeting;
- **Trends and challenges for minority protection in Europe:** held a hearing with the participation of Ms Michèle Akip, Head of Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe ;
- **Future activities:** held an exchange of views;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to decide the date and place of the next meeting.

Elise Cornu, Sarah Burton, Giorgio Loddo, Géraldine Grenet and Yanna Parnin

cc.: Secretary General of the Assembly
 Director General, Director 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