



SECRETARIAT

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2 October 2015

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

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Strasbourg

from Monday 28 September to Thursday 1 October 2015

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 28 September to 1 October 2015, with Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- on Tuesday 29 September, from 8.30 to 10 am, meeting of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance:
 - **“Refugees not welcome”: political and media approaches to the current refugee and migrant crisis** : in presence of Ms Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Tim Finch, Consultant and Writer, former Director of Communications, Refugee Council (United Kingdom), and
 - Mr Yousef Kak, General Practitioner, Syrian refugee, living in France;
- on Tuesday 29 September, from 2 to 3.30 pm:
 - **Promoting best practices in tackling violence against women** (*Rapporteur: Ms Sahiba Gafarova, Azerbaijan, EC*): approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
 - **Female genital mutilation in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD*): considered a memorandum;
 - held an exchange of views with Ms Manizha Naderi, Executive Director of the organisation Women for Afghan Women, candidate for the Vaclav Havel Prize;
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs:**
 - appointed Mr Tobias Zech (Germany, EPP/CD) for report on “Promoting Roma inclusion” and heard from him a statement on the absence of conflict of interest,
 - appointed Ms Marit Majj (Netherlands, SOC) for report on “Ending cyberdiscrimination and online hate”, subject to hearing from her a statement on the absence of conflict of interest;
 - **World Forum for Democracy:** appointed, in addition to Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC), who was appointed on 1 June 2015, and Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC), who was appointed on 25 June, Mr Saša Magazinović (Bosnie-Herzégovine, 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;

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- **on Wednesday 30 September, from 2 to 3.30 pm**, meeting of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence:
 - ***The role of national parliaments and of the Parliamentary Assembly in monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention***: held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Ambassador Erdoğan Şerif Işcan, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Council of Europe and Chairperson of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention, and
 - Ms Gabrielle Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
 - held an exchange of views with Ms Samira Meraïi Friâa, Minister for Women, Family and Children Affairs of Tunisia;
- **on Thursday 1 October 2015, from 2 to 3.30 pm**:
 - ***Equality and shared parental responsibility: the role of fathers*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch, Luxembourg, EPP/CD*): took position on the two amendments that had been tabled to the draft resolution and asked its Chair to propose that these two amendments which were unanimously approved should be declared as adopted by the Assembly, according to Rule 34.11 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
 - ***Renewed commitment in the fight against anti-Semitism in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
 - ***Guaranteeing equal rights and protecting women against violence in armed forces*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maryvonne Blondin, France, SOC*): considered a memorandum and authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Norway;
 - ***Reply from the Committee of Ministers***: took note of the reply of the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 2064 (2015) on "Equality and inclusion for people with disabilities";
 - ***Appointment of representatives***: appointed at no cost to the Assembly:
 - Mr Damien Thiéry (Belgium, ALDE) to participate in the thematic debate on "Regional and minority languages in Europe: recent developments, challenges and good practices", organised by the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg (France), on 21 October 2015,
 - Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) and Ms Guguli Magradze (Georgia, SOC) to participate in the Regional Conference on Gender Equality in Electoral Processes, organised by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), in Tbilisi (Georgia), on 25 and 26 November 2015;
 - ***Conference on "Monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention: New Synergies", Sarajevo, 20 October 2015***:
 - appointed, in addition to Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC), Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC), Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), Mr Saša Magazinović (Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC), Ms Maria Edera Spadoni (Italy, NR), Ms Marit Majj (the Netherlands, SOC), Ms Athina Kyriakidou (Cyprus, SOC) and Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, EPP/CD) who were appointed on 10 September 2015, Ms Snežana Jonica (Montenegro, SOC) as member of the ad hoc sub-committee to take part in the Conference,
 - ***Date and place of the next meetings***: agreed to hold its next meeting in Paris, on 2 December 2015.

The Sub-committee on the Rights of Minorities and the Sub-committee on Gender Equality, jointly meeting in Strasbourg on 28 September 2015 from 2 to 3 pm, with Ms Guguli Magradze (Georgia, SOC), Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-committee on Gender Equality, as regards:

- **State of ratification of Council of Europe instruments with respect to minority rights:** held an exchange of views;
- **The situation of women belonging to minorities :** held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Inger Elin Utsi, member of the Sami Parliament, Norway,
 - Ms Cerasela Claudia Bănică, Centre for Advocacy and Human Rights (CADO), Romania, and
 - Ms Tove H. Malloy, member of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in respect of Denmark;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:** left it to their Chairpersons to decide the date and place of the next meeting.

Elise Cornu, Sarah Burton, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer, 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