



SECRETARIAT

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25 April 2016

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 18 to 21 April 2016

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 18 to 21 April 2016:

- **Monday 18 April 2016, from 2 to 3 pm**: with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the chair, as regards:
 - ***Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council*** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Marit Majj, Netherlands, SOC*): unanimously approved a draft opinion to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, including one amendment;
 - ***Preventing the radicalisation of children by fighting the root causes*** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Gabriella Heinrich, Germany, SOC*): unanimously approved a draft opinion to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, including nine amendments;
 - ***Composition of Sub-Committees***: approved the following change:
 - Sub-Committee on Gender Equality: Mr Davis Davies (United Kingdom, EC) became full member.
- **Tuesday 19 April 2016, from 8.30 to 10am**: first with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the chair, and then with Ms Rózsa Hoffmann (Hungary, EPP/CD), Second Vice-Chair, as regards:
 - ***Women in public space***: held an exchange of views on the Chairperson's proposal to work on "Women in public space";
 - ***Guaranteeing equal rights and protecting women against violence in the armed forces*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maryvonne Blondin, France, SOC*): considered a preliminary draft report;
 - ***Female genital mutilation in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD*): heard a communication from the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to London (1-2 March 2016);
 - ***Reporting back***: heard a declaration from:
 - Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC) on her participation in the Round Table on "Combating Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Europe" organised by the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI) held on 16 February 2016 in Brussels (Belgium);
 - Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC) on her participation in the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) on "Women Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the EU", organised by the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) held on 3 March 2016 in Brussels (Belgium);

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- Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) on his participation in the Landmark German Parliamentary Conference, organised by the Federal Foreign Office and the Parliament of Germany, together with the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism (ICCA), “Berlin Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism”, held on 13 to 15 March 2016 in Berlin (Germany);
- Ms Snežana Jonica (Montenegro, SOC) on her participation in the International Expert Level Conference held on 22 March 2016 in Sofia (Bulgaria);
- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) to participate in the Conference “Are we there yet? Assessing progress, inspiring action – The Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017”, organised by the Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission and the Estonian authorities, on 30 June 2016 in Tallinn (Estonia) (*subject to availability of funds*).
- **Tuesday 19 April 2016, from 2 to 3.30pm:** with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the chair, as regards:
 - **Renewed commitment in the fight against antisemitism in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): took position on the 10 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and asked its Chair to propose that the six 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;
 - **The protection of the rights of parents and children belonging to religious minorities** (*Rapporteur: Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report;
 - **The political rights of persons with disabilities: a democratic issue** (*Rapporteur: Ms Mechthild Rawert, Germany, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
 - **Work programme:**
 - appointed Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC) as General Rapporteur on violence against women and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - heard a declaration of absence of conflict of interest from Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC) for the report on “Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence”;
 - called for candidatures for the following report: “Women in public space: putting an end to sexual violence and street harassment”, referred to the Committee by the Bureau of the Assembly on 29 January 2016;
 - **Meeting in Stockholm:** considered a draft agenda of the meeting to be held in Stockholm on 17-18 May 2016.
- **Thursday 21 April 2016, from 8.30 to 10am:** first with Ms Rózsa Hoffmann (Hungary, EPP/CD) in the chair, and then with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) as regards:
 - **Assessing the impact of measures to improve women’s political representation** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elena Centemero, Italy, EPP/CD*): took position on the 15 amendments and the two sub-amendments tabled to the draft resolution and asked its Chair to propose that the three 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;

- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Berlin (Germany), 12 May 2016: Joint meeting of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence together with the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality;
 - Stockholm (Sweden), 17-18 May 2016: Plenary meeting and No Hate Parliamentary Alliance;
 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd Part-Session 2016 of the Assembly (20-24 June 2016) ;
 - Paris, 9 September 2016 ;
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th Part-Session 2016 of the Assembly (10-14 October 2016) ;
 - Paris, 5 December 2016.

Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence

- **Wednesday 20 April 2016, from 2 to 3.30pm**: with Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC), political coordinator of the Network, in the Chair, held a hearing on ***violence against women in the armed forces*** with the participation of:
 - Lieutenant-Colonel Nevyana Miteva, Chair of the Bulgarian Women in Armed Forces Association, Sofia (Bulgaria);
 - Mr Jacques Bessy, President, Adefdromil, Association for the Protection of the Rights of Military Personnel, Assistance to Victims, Paris (France);
 - Ms Megan Bastick, Gender and Security Fellow, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Geneva (Switzerland).

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

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