



SECRETARIAT

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27 June 2016

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 21 to 23 June 2016

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg, from 21 to 23 June 2016:

- **Tuesday 21 June 2016, from 8.30am to 10.00am**: with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the chair, as regards:
 - ***Communication from the Chairperson***: heard a communication on the priorities of the Estonian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe presented to the PACE Standing Committee on 27 May 2016, on cooperation with Council of Europe bodies, the United Nations and the European Union, and on the project “Women in public space”;
 - ***The protection of the rights of parents and children belonging to religious minorities*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Valeriu Ghilechi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and rejected an amended preliminary draft resolution and a preliminary draft recommendation; decided to ask the Bureau of the Assembly for an extension of the reference until 31 December 2016, and to suspend work until the Bureau of the Assembly had considered the opinion on *Procedures for the adoption of reports in committees and plenary session* of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs.
- **Tuesday 21 June 2016, from 2.00 to 3.30pm**: with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the chair, as regards:
 - ***Women in the armed forces: promoting equality, putting an end to gender-based violence*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maryvonne Blondin, France, SOC*): took note that no amendment had been tabled;
 - ***The political rights of persons with disabilities: a democratic issue*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Mechthild Rawert, Germany, SOC*): held an exchange of views on the replies received to the questionnaire sent by the rapporteur, with the participation of Ms Liri Kopaci-Di Michele, Head of the Equality Division, Directorate General on Democracy, Council of Europe;
 - ***Female genital mutilation in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report;
 - ***Ending cyberdiscrimination and online hate*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marit Maij, Netherlands, SOC*): considered an information memorandum;

- **Council of Europe No Hate initiatives:** heard a presentation of the No Hate Speech Movement by Mr Matthew Johnson, Director, Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe;

Work programme: appointed:

- Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for report on “Women in public space: putting an end to sexual violence and street harassment” (follow-up to Resolution 2093 (2016), referred to the Committee by the Bureau of the Assembly on 29 January 2016) and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - Mr Killion Munyama (Poland, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for report on “Promoting diversity and equality in politics” and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for report on “Women’s empowerment in the economy and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest.
- **Wednesday 22 June 2016, from 2.00 to 3.30pm:** with Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC), Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, and Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination jointly chairing, held a hearing on “Discrimination and violence against women refugees” with the participation of: Ms Mina Jaf, women refugees rights activist; Mr Arne Treves, Protection Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for Europe (UNHCR), Geneva; Dr Richard Matis, Vice-Chair of Gynaecology without Borders (France); Ms Baldé, refugee; also heard, from Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC) the presentation of an introductory memorandum on her report: “Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence”.

Thursday 23 June 2016, from 8.30 to 10am, first with Ms Rózsa Hoffmann (Hungary, EPP/CD) then with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the chair, as regards:

- **Women in public space:** held a hearing on “Women’s empowerment in the economy”, with the participation of: Ms Valerie Frey, Researcher, Social Policy Division, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Ms Sam Smethers, Chief Executive of the Fawcett Society, United Kingdom; Mr Henrik Kristensen, Deputy Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe;
- **Work programme:**
 - Consultation on the follow-up to be given to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Jonas Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC) and other members of the Assembly on “Private and family life: achieving equality regardless of sexual orientation: decided to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to refer the motion to it for report;
 - heard a declaration of absence of conflict of interest from Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC) for the report “Gender equality and child maintenance”;
 - authorised Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC) to make fact-finding visits to Sweden and to Germany, in the framework of the preparation of her report on “Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence”;
 - authorised Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC), rapporteur on “Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence”, and Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC), General Rapporteur on violence against women to make a fact-finding visit to Lampedusa (Italy) (*subject to the availability of funds*);
- **World Forum for Democracy:** appointed Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) and Mr Saša Magazinović (Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC) as members of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy which will take place from 7 to 9 November 2016 in Strasbourg (*at no cost for the Assembly*);

- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC) to participate in a high-level event on “Confronting Anti-Gypsyism: The role of political leaders in countering discrimination, racism, hate crimes and violence against Roma and Sinti communities”, event of the OSCE Chairman in Office hosted in co-operation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, to be held on 6 September 2016 in Berlin (Germany) (*subject to the availability of funds*) and took note of the participation of Ms Gabriela Heinrich (Germany, SOC), Mr Florian Kronbichler (Italy, SOC) and Mr Tobias Zech (Germany, EPP/CD) (*at no cost for the Assembly*).

- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Paris (Senate, Palais du Luxembourg), 9 September 2016 ;
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th Part-Session 2016 of the Assembly (10-14 October 2016) ;
 - Paris, 6 December 2016.

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
General Directors
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