



SECRETARIAT

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14 September 2016

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 9 September 2016

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris, on 9 September 2016 with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the chair, as regards:

- **Communication from the Chairperson:** heard a communication from the Chairperson and took note of the invitation to the Committee to meet in Italy in 2017;
- **Female genital mutilation in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted an amended draft resolution;
- **Promoting the inclusion of Roma and Travellers** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tobias Zech, Germany, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted an amended draft resolution;
- **Ending cyber-discrimination and online hate** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marit Maij, Netherlands, SOC*): held a hearing on “The role of internet platforms and social media companies in countering online hate” with the participation of Ms Brittany Smith, Senior Policy Analyst, Google, and Mr Anton’Maria Battesti, Public Policy Manager, Facebook France, and authorised the rapporteur to make a fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom;
- **Women in public space: putting an end to sexual violence and street harassment** (*Rapporteur: Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch, Luxembourg, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum, decided to change the title as follows: “Putting an end to sexual violence and harassment of women in public space” and authorised the rapporteur to make a fact-finding visit to Germany;
- **Women’s empowerment in the economy** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD)*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities:** heard a communication by the Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee;
- **Women in public space:** held a hearing on this theme and heard, first a presentation of the activities of the Delegation for Women’s Rights and Equal Opportunities Between Men and Women of the French Senate by Ms Brigitte Gonthier-Maurin, Vice-Chairperson and former Chairperson of the Delegation, then a presentation of the activities of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe by Mr Sergiy Kyslytsya, Chairperson of the Commission, and held an exchange of views;

- **Work programme:**
 - appointed Mr Piet de Bruyn (Belgium, NR) as rapporteur for report on “Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people”, and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - authorised Ms Mechthild Rawert (Germany, SOC) to make fact-finding visits to Austria and Malta, in the framework of the preparation of her report on “The political rights of persons with disabilities: a democratic issue”;
- **Reporting back:** heard declarations from:
 - Mr Florian Kronbichler (Italy, SOC) on his participation in the 2nd meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller Organisations, organised by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues, on 2-3 June 2016, in Strasbourg (France);
 - Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) on her participation 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);
 - Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC) on her participation at the 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, on 6 September 2016 in Berlin (Germany);
- **No Hate Parliamentary Alliance:** heard a communication by the General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance;
- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed (*subject to the availability of funds*):
 - Mr Piet de Bruyn (Belgium, NR) to participate in the opening session of Belgrade Pride Forum 2016, on 17 September 2016, and to take part in the Pride March 2016, on 18 September 2016 in Belgrade (Serbia);
 - Mr Jonas Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC) in his capacity as General Rapporteur on the Rights of LGBT people, to participate in ILGA-Europe’s 20th Annual Conference on “Power to the People - Celebrating 20 years of the strength within”, which will take place from 19 to 22 October 2016 in Nicosia (Cyprus);
 - Ms Mechthild Rawert (Germany, SOC) to participate in an Expert Seminar on “Our right to participate – promoting the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life”, organised by OSCE/ODIHR from 31 October to 1 November 2016 at the Finnish Parliament, in Helsinki (Finland);
- **World Forum for Democracy:** appointed Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC) and Ms Carmen Quintanilla (Spain, EPP/CD), in addition to Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) and Mr Saša Magazinović (Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC) appointed on 23 June 2016, 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 to the Assembly*);

- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:

Committee meetings

- Strasbourg, during the 4th Part-Session 2016 of the Assembly (10-14 October 2016) ;
- Paris, 6 December 2016

Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities: Paris, 27 October 2016.

No Hate Parliamentary Alliance: Paris, 5 December 2016.

Elise Cornu, Sarah Burton, Giorgio Loddo

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