



SECRETARIAT

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17 October 2016

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 10 to 13 October 2016

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg, from 10 to 13 October 2016:

- **Monday, 10 October 2016, from 2 to 3pm**: with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the chair, as regards:
  - ***The protection of the rights of parents and children belonging to religious minorities*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD*): considered a revised draft report and decided to continue its consideration at its next meeting;
  - ***Children's rights related to surrogacy***: (*Rapporteur: Mr Pavlo Unhurian, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): considered and rejected an oral draft opinion;
  - ***Composition of Sub-Committees***: approved the following changes:
    - Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities: Mr Georgios Psychogios (Greece, UEL) became full member following the resignation of Ms Nina Kasimati; Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis (Greece, EPP/CD) became a substitute member following the resignation of Mr Vasileios Kokkalis;
    - Sub-Committee on Disability and Inclusion: Mr Vasileios Kokkalis (Greece, EC) became a substitute member following the resignation of Ms Eleni Rapti;
    - Sub-Committee on Gender Equality: Mr Georgios Psychogios (Greece, UEL) became full member following the resignation of Ms Eleni Rapti; Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis (Greece, EPP/CD) became a substitute following the resignation of Mr Georgios Mavrotas;
- **Tuesday 11 October 2016, from 2 to 3.30pm**: with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the chair, as regards:
  - ***Communication from the Chairperson***: heard a communication from the Chairperson concerning the project "Women in public space";
  - ***Ending cyberdiscrimination and online hate*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marit Maij, Netherlands, SOC*): considered an outline report;
  - ***Gender equality and child maintenance*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Gisela Wurm, Austria, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;

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- **Work Programme:** considered two motions referred for one report: “Migrations in a gender perspective”, motion tabled by Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) and other members of the Assembly, and “Empowering women for their role as key-actors for integration”, motion tabled by Ms Gabriela Heinrich (Germany, SOC) and other members of the Assembly, decided to give to this report the title: “Migrations in a gender perspective: empowering women for their role as key-actors for integration” and appointed Ms Gabriela Heinrich (Germany, SOC) as rapporteur for report and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Women in public space:** held a hearing with the participation of Ms Francesca Izzo, Chairperson of the NGO *Se non ora quando* (Italy);
- **Wednesday 12 October 2016, from 2 to 3.30pm:** with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the chair, as regards:
  - **Promoting diversity and equality in politics** (*Rapporteur: Mr Killion Munyama, Poland, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum;
  - **The political rights of persons with disabilities : a democratic issue** (*Rapporteur: Ms Mechthild Rawert, Germany, SOC*): considered an information memorandum;
  - **Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence** (*Rapporteur: Ms Gisela Wurm, Austria, SOC*): considered an information memorandum and heard from her report on her fact-finding visit to Germany;
  - **Appointment of representatives:** appointed, subject to the availability of funds:
    - Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) to participate in the 10th meeting of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) of the Council of Europe to be held from 16 to 18 November 2016 in Strasbourg (France);
    - Mr Jonas Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC), in his capacity as General Rapporteur on the Rights of LGBT people, to participate in the European Governmental LGBTI Focal Point Network Roundtable, which will take place on 17-18 November 2016 in Strasbourg (France);
    - Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC), as General Rapporteur on violence against women, to participate in a hearing on the Istanbul Convention, organised by the European Parliament, to be held on 29 November 2016 in Brussels (Belgium);
  - **Reporting back:** heard the reporting back by Mr Piet de Bruyn (Belgium, NR) on his participation in the opening session of Belgrade Pride Forum 2016, on 17 September 2016, and the Pride March 2016, on 18 September 2016 in Belgrade (Serbia); as well as that of Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) on her participation in a meeting on “Families in a Changing Society – on the road to equal parenthood. Solutions in the European context and their chances and risks for families in Europe”, on 22 September 2016 in Berlin (Germany);
- **Thursday 13 October 2016, from 8.30 to 10am:** joint hearing with the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media with Ms Maryvonne Blondin (France, SOC) in the chair, Third Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, as regards:
  - “Learning for success: promoting gender equality through education”: held a hearing on this topic, with the participation of Ms Nathalie Tournyol du Clos, Director of Training, National School of Administration (ENA), France, and Ms Katie McCracken, Opcit Research, London, United Kingdom;

**Thursday 13 October 2016, from 2 to 2.45pm:** with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CE) in the chair, as regards:

- **Female genital mutilation in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD*): took position on the 6 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and on two oral sub-amendments presented by the rapporteur, and asked the Chairperson to propose that the three amendments which had been unanimously approved be declared as adopted by the Assembly, in conformity with Article 34.11 of the Rules of the Assembly;
- **Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities:** heard a declaration from Mr Viorel Riceard Badea (Romania, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Sub-committee, on the next meeting of the Sub-Committee to be held in Paris on 27 October 2016;
- **Any other business:** the Committee authorised Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) to make fact-finding visits to France and to the United Kingdom, in the framework of the preparation of her report on “Women’s empowerment in the economy”;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
  - Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities, 27 October 2016 in Paris;
  - No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, 5 December 2016 in Paris;
  - Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, 6 December 2016 in Paris.

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**The Sub-Committee on Disability and Inclusion,** meeting in Strasbourg, on 11 October 2016, with Ms Snežana Jonica (Montenegro, SOC) in the chair, as regards:

- **“The right to vote for all and legal capacity”:** held a hearing on this topic, in the framework of the preparation of the report by Ms Mechthild Rawert (Germany, SOC) on “The political rights of persons with disabilities: a democratic issue”, with the participation of Mr Alfredo Ferrante, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Council of Europe (CAHDPH) and Mr Milan Šveřepa, Director of the NGO Inclusion Europe;

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**Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence,** meeting in Strasbourg, on 13 October 2016, with Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC) in the chair: held a hearing on “Men against violence”, with the participation of Mr Seydou Niang, Men Speak Out Project (Belgium) and an exchange of views with Ms Bridget O’Loughlin, Head of the Violence against Women Division, Council of Europe.

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