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Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination
Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence
Sub-Committee on Gender Equality

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

Synopsis
of the meeting held in Berlin
on 12 and 13 May 2016

The Sub-Committee on Gender Equality and the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence,
jointly meeting in Berlin on 12 and 13 May 2016:

- **Thursday 12 May, from 9 am to 6.30 pm:** with Ms Maria Edera Spadoni (Italy, NR), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality and with Ms Sahiba Gafarova (EC), Political Coordinator of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, jointly in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Opening:** heard statements from:
 - Ms Ulla Schmidt, Vice-Chairperson of the Bundestag;
 - Ms Mechthild Rawert, member of the Bundestag and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and from;
 - Ms Sahiba Gafarova, General Rapporteur on violence against women of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Political Coordinator of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence;
 - **Istanbul Convention – Germany on the way to ratification:** held an exchange of views with:
 - Mr Christian Lange, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection of Germany;
 - Ms Rosa Logar, First Vice-President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic violence (GREVIO), Council of Europe, and;
 - Dr Petra Follmar-Otto, Head of the Unit Human Rights Policies Germany / Europe, German Institute for Human Rights;
 - **Aligning legislation with the Istanbul Convention: national perspectives:** heard statements from Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, member of the Parliament of Monaco, Ms Nina Kasimati, member of the Hellenic Parliament, and Mr Manuel Tornare, member of the Parliament of Switzerland, and held an exchange of views;
 - **Best practices on Gender Equality:** held an exchange of views with:
 - Ms Elke Ferner, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany, and;
 - Ms Hannelore Buls, President of the National Council of German Women's Organisations and heard statements from Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch, member of the Parliament of Luxembourg, Ms Josette Durrieu, member of the French Senate, Ms Nezha El-Ouafi, member of the House of

Representatives of Morocco and from Ms Reem Abu Dalbough, member of the House of Representatives of Jordan;

- **Visit of refugee shelters:** visited a refugee shelter for women and a large refugee shelter;
- **Friday 13 May, from 9 am to 1 pm:**
- **Visits to shelters and organisations providing support to women:** visited the organisation LARA (project against sexual violence against women) and the Domestic Interpersonal Violence Centre Charité, Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

Elise Cornu, Giorgio Loddo, 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