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28 April 2017

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 24 au 27 April 2017

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 24 to 27 April 2017, with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), in the Chair, as regards:

- **Monday 24 April 2017, from 2pm to 3pm:**
 - ***Election of the Bureau of the Committee:*** following Ms Marit Majj's resignation (Netherlands, SOC), elected Ms Maryvonne Blondin (France, SOC) as first Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, and Mr Manuel Tornare (Switzerland, SOC) as third Vice-Chairperson of the Committee;
 - ***Women in public space*** : heard a communication from the Chairperson on the "Inspiring Women" initiative and on the hearing organised by the European Parliament on the occasion of Women's Day on 8 March; after having checked the quorum, adopted a revised statement on Current threats to women's rights;
 - ***Women's empowerment in the economy*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elena Centemero, Italy, EPP/CD*): considered an information memorandum;
 - ***Addressing forced marriage in Europe: legal provisions and promising practices*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum and decided to change the title as follows: "Forced marriage in Europe";
 - ***Appointment of representatives:*** appointed:
 - Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC) to participate as a speaker in the Seminar on antisemitic hate speech organised by the Council of Europe on 9-11 May 2017 in Strasbourg (France) participate (*subject to the availability of funds*) and Mr David Davies (United-Kingdom, EC) to participate in the same event (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - Ms Alice-Mary Higgins (Ireland, SOC) to participate in the 13th meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) of the Council of Europe, to be held from 31 May to 3 June 2017 in Prague (Czech Republic) (*subject to availability of funds*);

- **Sub-Committees:**

- heard a statement from Mr Damien Thiéry (Belgium, ALDE), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities;
- authorised Mr Adão Silva, as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Disability, Multiple and intersectional Discrimination, and Mr Manuel Tornare, rapporteur on “Detainees with severe disabilities in Europe” to make a fact-find visit to Geneva (Switzerland) to meet with representatives of international organisations active in the field of disability;
- approved the following changes in the composition of the sub-committees:
 - Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities: Ms Lotta Johnson Fornave (Sweden, UEL) replaced Ms Borian Åberg as a full member; Ms Annicka Engblom (Sweden, EPP/CD) became a substitute member;
 - Sub-Committee on Gender Equality: Ms Athanasia Anagnostopoulou (Greece, UEL) replaced Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis as a full member; Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis became a substitute member.

● **Tuesday 25 April 2017, from 2pm to 3.30pm:**

- **Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence** (*Rapporteur: Ms Gisela Wurm, Austria, SOC*): took position on the 8 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and asked the Chairperson to propose that the 7 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;
- **Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people** (*Rapporteur: Mr Piet De Bruyn, Belgium, NR*): considered an information memorandum; authorised the rapporteur to make a fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom and to Norway and accepted the proposal from the rapporteur to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to invite Mr Vitit Muntarbhorn, United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity to be invited for the debate of his report during the October 2017 part-session;
- **Work programme**: heard a declaration of absence of conflict of interest from Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) concerning the opinion on “Integration of refugees in times of critical pressure: learning from recent experience and examples of best practice”;
- **Meeting in Milan, 18-19 May 2017**: considered the draft agenda;
- **Reporting back**: heard reports from:
 - Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) on her participation in the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women on “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”, and a number of side events, which was held from 13 to 14 March 2017 in New York and authorised her to make a fact-finding visit to Spain and to Greece, in the framework of her report on “Women’s empowerment in the economy”;
 - Mr Killion Munyama (Poland, EPP/CD) on his participation in a workshop on "Strengthening diverse leadership, participation and representation of Roma, including women and youth, in public and political life" organised by OSCE/ODIHR on 27-28 March 2017 in Brussels (Belgium) and authorised him to make a fact-finding visit to Brussels (Belgium) in the framework of his report on “Promoting diversity and equality in politics”;
 - Mr Adão Silva, (Portugal, EPP/CD) and Mr Manuel Tornare (Switzerland, SOC) on their participation in the Launching conference of the Council of Europe Disability Strategy 2017-2023, “Human Rights – a reality for all”, on 27-28 March 2017 in Nicosia (Cyprus);
 - Mr Piet De Bruyn (Belgium, NR) on his participation in the seminar on “Legal Gender Recognition” organised by the Portuguese Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality on 31 March 2017 in Lisbon (Portugal);
 - Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE) on his participation in the 11th meeting of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Committee (GEC) on 5 – 7 April 2017 in Strasbourg (France).

- **Thursday 27 April 2017, from 8.30am to 10am:**
 - ***Putting an end to sexual violence and harassment of women in public space*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch, Luxembourg, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report;
 - ***The protection of the rights of parents and children belonging to religious minorities*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD*): took position on the 5 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and on the amendment tabled to the draft recommendation;
 - ***Follow-up given to resolutions adopted by the Assembly***: heard a communication from Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) on the follow-up given to her report on “Assessing the impact of measures to improve women’s political representation”;
 - ***Next meetings***: confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Milan (Italy), 18-19 May 2017;
 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd part-session 2017 of the Assembly (26-30 June 2017);
 - Paris, 18 September 2017;
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2017 of the Assembly (9-13 October 2017);
 - Paris, 7 December 2017;
- **Thursday 27 April 2017, from 2pm to 3.30pm:** held a joint hearing with the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy in the framework of the report of Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/DC) on “Setting minimal standards for electoral systems in order to offer the basis for free and fair elections”, with the participation of Prof. Dr Florian Grotz, Chair of Comparative Politics, Institute of Political Science, Helmut Schmidt University of Hamburg; Ms Marilisa D’Amico, Professor of constitutional law, University of Milan; and Ms Ana Rusu, Senior Election Adviser, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

- **Wednesday 26 April 2017, from 2pm to 3.30pm:**

The Parliamentary Network Women Free From Violence, meeting in Strasbourg, on 26 April 2017, with Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC) in the chair: held a hearing on “**Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians**” with the participation of: Ms Brigitte Fillion, Programme Officer, Programme for Partnership between Men and Women, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); Ms Urska Umek, Secretary to the Committee of experts on Media Pluralism and Transparency of Media Ownership, Council of Europe.

Elise Cornu, Sarah Burton, Giorgio Loddo, Aysegul Elveris, 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