



**AS/Ega/CB (2017) 04**

22 May 2017

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Milan (Italy) from 18 to 19 May 2017

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Milan on 18 and 19 May 2017, heard a welcoming address by Mr Michele Nicoletti, Chairperson of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, and a video message by Mr Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament, and :

- **Thursday 18 May 2017:** with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:
  - **Women's empowerment in the economy** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elena Centemero, Italy, EPP/CD*) : held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Gaëla Bernini, responsible for science and social issues, Bracco Foundation, Milan, and Ms Sandra Mori, Chairperson of Valore D association, Milan, considered an information memorandum and authorised the rapporteur to make a fact-finding visit to Iceland;
  - **Putting an end to sexual violence and harassment of women in the public space** (*Rapporteur: Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch, Luxembourg, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted an amended draft resolution;
  - **Work Programme:**
    - decided to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to be seized for an opinion on “Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the “Cairo Declaration?”” (Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: Antonio Gutiérrez, Spain, SOC);
    - heard a communication from the Chairperson on the #Inspiring Women initiative and on the new Council of Europe gender equality strategy;

#### **Women in public space: seminar on Women's empowerment in the economy, jointly organised with the Italian Chamber of Deputies and the Region of Lombardia:**

- **Session 1: The position of women in large companies:** with Ms Paola Profeta, Associate Professor of Public Finance, Department of Policy Analysis and Public Management, Bocconi University, Milan, as moderator, held an exchange of views with Ms Elisabeth Richard, manager at ENGIE, Paris (France) and in charge of gender equality, and Ms Barbara Saba, Director General, Johnson & Johnson foundation, Milan;

- **Session 2: Female entrepreneurship: the rise of women-led startups:** with Mr Michele Nicoletti, Chairperson of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly as moderator, held an exchange of views with Ms Marie Georges, Chairperson, Paris Pionnières, Paris (France), Ms Paola Del Zotto Ferrari, founder of the Accademia di Gagliato delle Nanoscienze (Academy of Nanoscience of Gagliato) (Italy), and Mr Paolo Penati, Chief Executive Officer of QVC Italy;
- **Friday 19 May 2017:** with first Ms Rózsa Hoffmann (Hungary, EPP/CD) and then Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards :
  - **Integration of refugees in times of critical pressure: learning from recent experience and examples of best practice** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elena Centemero, Italy, EPP/CD*): considered and approved the Committee's opinion on the report by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, including six amendments to the draft resolution;
  - **Promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities** (*Rapporteur: Mr Viorel Riceard Badea, Romania, EPP/CD*): heard a communication by the Rapporteur and approved an amended questionnaire to be sent to national delegations;
  - **Appointment of representatives:**
    - appointed Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, EPP/CD) to participate as a speaker at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights, to be held on 4-7 June 2017 in Dublin (Ireland) (*subject to the availability of funds*);
    - appointed Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) to participate in the presentation of the White Paper on Equality of the Principality of Andorra, to be held on 21 June 2017 in Andorra (*subject to the availability of funds*);
  - **World Forum for Democracy:** appointed Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC), Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), Mr Florian Kronbichler (Italy, SOC), Ms Maria Edera Spadoni (Italy, NR), Mr Damien Thiéry (Belgium, ALDE), Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), Ms Dovilė Šakalienė (Lithuania, ALDE), Ms Cristina-Mădălina Prună (Romania, NR), Ms Alice-Mary Higgins (Ireland, SOC) and Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, 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 8 to 10 November 2017 in Strasbourg (*at no cost for the Assembly*);
  - **Reporting back:** heard a statement from Mr Jonas Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC) on his participation in the international conference on Rainbow families in Europe organised by NELFA on 24 March 2017 in Naples (Italy);
  - **Joint hearing with the Parliamentary Network Women Free From Violence on Combating violence against women in Italy:** with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) and Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC) in the chair: held a hearing with the participation of: Ms Lucia Annibali, Undersecretariat for Equal Opportunities, Italy; Ms Concetta Carrano and Ms Sara Menichetti, lawyers representing Ms E. Talpis in the case Talpis vs Italy, before the European Court of Human Rights; and Ms Ilaria Marzi, Director of the Action and Measures for Autonomy and Social Inclusion Unit, Region of Lombardia;
  - **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
    - Strasbourg, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session 2017 of the Assembly (26-30 June 2017);
    - Paris, 18 September 2017;
    - Strasbourg, during the 4<sup>th</sup> part-session 2017 of the Assembly (9-13 October 2017);
    - Paris, 7 December 2017.

Elise Cornu, 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