



SECRETARIAT

AS/Ega/CB (2017) 06
19 September 2017

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 18 September 2017

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on Monday 18 September 2017, with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people** (*Rapporteur: Mr Piet de Bruyn, Belgium, NR*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Women's empowerment in the economy** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elena Centemero, Italy, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with Ms Brigitte Longuet, Honorary Chairperson of the *Fédération des femmes administrateurs*, Paris, heard a communication from the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Iceland (29-30 August 2017) and decided to change the title of the report as follows: "Women in the economy: promoting gender equality and women's access to STEM education and careers (science, technology, engineering and maths)";
- **Gender equality and child maintenance** (*Rapporteur: Ms Gisela Wurm, Austria, SOC*): considered an information memorandum, agreed to request an extension of the reference for the report until 31 March 2018 and authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Lithuania;
- **Forced marriage in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD*): considered an information memorandum;
- **Women in public space**: heard a communication from the Chairperson of the Committee and held an exchange of views with Ms Eva Fehringer, Chairperson of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission;
- **Detainees with severe disabilities in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Manuel Tornare, Switzerland, SOC*): considered an information memorandum;
- **Work programme:**

Appointment of rapporteurs:

- appointed Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for opinion on "The protection and promotion of regional and minority languages in Europe" and heard a declaration of absence of conflict of interest from her;

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- appointed Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for opinion on “Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the parliament of Morocco” and heard a declaration of absence of conflict of interest from her;

Consultations by the Bureau of the Assembly on possible follow-up to be given:

- decided to inform the Bureau of the Assembly that the elements discussed during the current affairs debate on “European values under threat: addressing rising xenophobia, antisemitism and islamophobia in Europe” which was held on 26 April 2017, would be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Growing hate speech and the role of political leaders in fighting hate crime: follow-up to ECRI recommendations” (Rapporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD);
- decided to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to be seized for report on “Making sign language one of Europe’s official languages”;

Call for candidatures: called for candidates for the following report and opinions:

- for report on “Alleged extreme discrimination and crimes against homosexuals in the Chechen Republic (Russian Federation)”, motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Johan Nissinen (Sweden, NR) and other members of the Assembly;
- for opinion on:
 - o “Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the “Cairo Declaration”?”;
 - o “Protecting the rights of people with psychosocial disabilities with regard to involuntary measures in psychiatry”;
- **Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence:** heard a communication on recent activities from Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC), General Rapporteur on violence against women;
- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed:
 - Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD) to participate in the 6th meeting of Ad Hoc Committee of experts on the rights of persons with disability (CAHDPH) of the Council of Europe, to be held in Strasbourg, on 27-29 of September 2017 (*subject to availability of funds*);
 - Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), in her capacity as Chairperson of the Committee, to participate in a debate on “Women’s participation in political life at regional level”, organised by the Chamber of Regions of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, to be held in Strasbourg, on 19 October 2017 (*subject to the availability of funds*);
 - Mr Killion Munyama (Poland, EPP/CD) to participate in the 14th meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) of the Council of Europe, to be held in Strasbourg, on 24-27 October 2017 (*subject to availability of funds*);
 - Mr Piet De Bruyn (Belgium, NR), in his capacity as General rapporteur on the Rights of LGBTI people, to participate in the Annual Conference of ILGA-Europe, to be held in Warsaw (Poland), on 1-4 November 2017 (*subject to the availability of funds*);
 - Mr Piet De Bruyn (Belgium, NR), in his capacity as General rapporteur on the Rights of LGBTI people, to participate in the international conference on “Different Paths to Equality: Marriage Equality and Civil Unions” organised by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia, in co-operation with the University of Ljubljana and civil society organisation Društvo informacijski center Legebitra, to be held in Brdo pri Kranju (Slovenia), on 15-16 November 2017 (*at no cost to the Assembly*);

- **Reporting back:** heard reports from:
 - Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) on her participation as a speaker on gender equality in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), at the seminar "Where Science and People Meet", in Gagliato (Italy), on 23-28 July 2017;
 - Mr Manuel Tornare (Switzerland, SOC) on his participation in a general discussion on equality and non-discrimination organised by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in Geneva (Switzerland), on 25 August 2017;
- **Follow-up to be given to resolutions adopted by the Assembly:** heard communications from:
 - Ms Maryvonne Blondin (France, SOC) on the follow-up given to her report on "Women in the armed forces: promoting equality, putting an end to gender-based violence";
 - Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, EPP/CD) on the follow-up to her report on "Female genital mutilation in Europe";
- **Next meetings:**
 - Committee:*
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2017 of the Assembly (9-13 October 2017);
 - Paris, 7 December 2017;
 - Sub-Committees:*
 - Sub-Committee on Gender Equality, Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2017 of the Assembly (9-13 October 2017);
 - Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities:
 - o Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2017 of the Assembly (9-13 October 2017);
 - o Bucharest (Romania) on 21 November 2017 (*to be confirmed*);
 - Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence:*
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2017 of the Assembly (9-13 October 2017).

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