



SECRETARIAT

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 9 to 12 October 2017

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 9 to 12 October 2017,

- **Monday 9 October 2017, from 2pm to 3pm:** with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) and Ms Stella Kyriakides (Cyprus, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Women in public space:** held a joint hearing with the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development on “Women and breast cancer” with the participation of Ms Donata Lerda, European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC), Joint Research Centre, and Ms Elizabeth Bergsten Nordström, President of the Swedish Breast Cancer Association and Former President of Europa Donna, European Breast Cancer Coalition (Sweden);
- **Tuesday 10 October 2017, from 8.30 to 10am:** with Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Work programme:**
 - draft terms of reference of a General Rapporteur on Women in politics: decided to continue the discussion on this issue at its next meeting;
 - appointed:
 - Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) as General Rapporteur on violence against women,
 - Ms Gabriela Heinrich (Germany, SOC) as General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance,
and heard a declaration of absence of conflict of interest from them, in accordance with Article 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly;
 - accepted the invitation from the delegation of Romania to hold a meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities in Bucharest on 21 November 2017 (*subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly*);
 - **Women in the economy: promoting gender equality and women’s access to STEM education and careers (science, technology, engineering and maths)** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elena Centemero, Italy, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Kathleen Noonan, Director, Philanthropies & Education Communications, Microsoft Europe, and Mr Julian Lambertin, Managing Director Europe, Middle-East and Africa (EMEA), KRC Research, Cologne;

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- **Gender equality and child maintenance** (*Rapporteur: Ms Gisela Wurm, Austria, SOC*) : held a hearing with the participation of Ms Sumi Rabindrakumar, Research Officer, Gingerbread, London, and Ms Amalia Fernández Doyague, Attorney, Chair of the Association of Women Lawyers “Themis”, Madrid;
- **Thursday 12 October 2017, from 2 to 3pm:** with Ms Rózsa Hoffmann (Hungary, EPP/CD), second Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people** (*Rapporteur: Mr Piet De Bruyn, Belgium, NR*): took position on 6 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and asked the Chairperson to propose that the amendment unanimously approved be declared as adopted by the Assembly, in accordance with Rule 34.11 of the Rules of the Assembly;
 - **Growing hate speech and the role of political leaders in fighting hate crime: follow-up to ECRI recommendations** (*Rapporteur: Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum;
 - **Promoting diversity and equality in politics** (*Rapporteur: Mr Killion Munyama, Poland, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum;
 - **World Forum for Democracy:** appointed Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) as member to 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 to the Assembly*), in addition to the members appointed on 19 May and 27 June 2017;
 - **Work programme:** appointed
 - Mr Piet De Bruyn (Belgium, NR) as Rapporteur for report on *Alleged extreme discrimination and crimes against homosexuals in the Chechen Republic (Russian Federation)*, and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - Ms Angela Smith (United Kingdom, SOC) as Rapporteur for 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”?*, subject to hear from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest at a next meeting;
 - **Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes in the composition of the sub-committees:
 - *Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities:* Mr Gábor Harangozó (Hungary, SOC) became full member and Mr Jérôme Lambert (France, SOC) became substitute member of Ms Josette Durrieu (France, SOC);
 - *Sub-Committee on Gender Equality:* Ms Bérangère Poletti (France, NR) became substitute member of Ms Maryvonne Blondin (France, SOC);
 - *Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination:* Ms Albane Gaillot (France, NR) became full member;
 - **Appointment of representatives:** appointed Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) in her capacity as Chairperson of the Committee and Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) in her capacity as General Rapporteur on violence against women to participate in the Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting of the European Parliament organised on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2017 on "The Istanbul Convention: combating violence against women at national and EU level", to be held in Brussels on 21 November 2017 (*subject to the availability of funds*);
 - **Other business:** authorised Ms Gabriela Heinrich (Germany, SOC) to carry-out a fact-finding visit on 2-3 November 2017 to Milan (Italy), in the framework of the preparation of her report on “Migration from a gender perspective: empowering women as key actors for integration” ;

- **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee:

Paris, 7 December 2017 (Council of Europe office);
Strasbourg, during the 1st part-session 2018 of the Assembly (22-26 January)
Copenhagen, 1-2 March 2018 (*subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly*).

Sub Committee on the Rights of Minorities:

Bucharest, 21 November 2017 (*subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly*).

The Parliamentary Network Women Free From Violence, meeting in Strasbourg, on Wednesday 11 October 2017 from 2.30 to 3.30 pm, with Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Shelters for victims of gender-based violence:** held a hearing with the participation of Ms Anne-Marie Von Arx-Vernon, Former Director of the accommodation centre “Le Coeur des grottes” and expert on action against trafficking in human beings, Geneva, and Ms Rosa Logar, President and Co-Founder of Women against Violence Europe (WAVE).

The Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities, meeting in Strasbourg, on 12 October 2017 from 8.30 to 9 am, with Mr Damien Thiéry (Belgium, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities:** proceeded with a preliminary examination of replies received to the questionnaire sent to the eight Council of Europe member States that are not parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Andorra, Belgium, France, Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Turkey);
- **Next meeting:** confirmed its next meeting as follows: Bucharest, 21 November 2017 (*subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly*).

The Sub-Committee on Gender Equality meeting in Strasbourg, on 12 October 2017 from 9 to 10 am, with Mr Manuel Tornare (Switzerland, SOC), oldest member present, and Ms Martine Mergen (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Public Health and Sustainable Development, in the Chair, as regards:

- **“European Contraception Atlas”:** held a joint hearing with the Sub-Committee on Public Health and Sustainable Development (of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development), with the participation of Ms Marina Davidashvili, Senior Policy Officer, European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, Brussels;
- **Next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to propose the date and place of the next meeting.

Elise Cornu, Sarah Burton, Giorgio Loddo, Géraldine Grenet, Nina Thiery

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