



SECRETARIAT

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 7 December 2017

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on Thursday, 7 December 2017, with Ms Maryvonne Blondin (France, SOC), First Vice-Chairperson, and then, Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Gender equality and child maintenance** (*Rapporteur: Ms Gisela Wurm, Austria, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Discrimination in access to employment** (*Rapporteur: Mr Damien Thiéry, Belgium, ALDE*): considered a revised information memorandum;
- **Forced marriage in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Dominique Barthe-Bougenaux, honorary judge, board member, and Ms Christine-Sarah Jama, lawyer and director, Voix de Femmes association, Île de France;
- **Detainees with severe disabilities in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Manuel Tornare, Switzerland, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Jenny Talbot OBE, Director, *Care not Custody*, Prison Reform Trust, United Kingdom, and Professor Timothy Harding, expert of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, former Director of the University Centre for Legal Medicine of the University of Geneva;
- **The protection and promotion of regional and minority languages in Europe** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*): in the absence of the rapporteur for opinion, heard an oral communication from Ms Rózsa Hoffmann (Hungary, EPP/CD), rapporteur for report for the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media;
- **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*): heard an oral communication from the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom (4-5 December 2017) and her preliminary conclusions and recommendations;
- **Sub-Committees**: approved the following changes in the composition of the sub-committees:
 - *Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities*: Mr Jérôme Lambert (France, SOC) became a full member and Mr René Danesi (France, NR) became a substitute member; Sir Jeffrey Donaldson (United Kingdom, EC) became a full member and Ms Stella Creasy (United Kingdom, SOC) became a substitute member;

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- *Sub-Committee on Gender Equality*: Mr David Davies (United Kingdom, EC) became a full member and Ms Mary Robinson (United Kingdom, EC) became a substitute member;
- *Sub-Committee on Disability, Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination*: Ms Maggie Throup (United Kingdom, EC) became a full member and Mr Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EC) became a substitute member;
- **Work programme:**
 - heard a communication from the Chairperson on the activities carried out within the Women in public space project (2016-2017);
 - considered and took note of the Activity report 2017;
 - draft terms of reference of a General Rapporteur on Women in politics: decided to continue the discussion during the 2018 January part-session;
 - *Appointment of rapporteurs:*
 - appointed Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for report on *For a disability-inclusive workforce*, and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - appointed Ms Miren Edurne Gorrotxategui (Spain, UEL) as rapporteur for report on *Making sign language one of Europe's official languages*, and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - *Call for candidatures*: called for candidates for the following opinions:
 - *Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the "Cairo Declaration"?*, motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD), and other members of the Assembly;
 - *Protecting the rights of people with psychosocial disabilities with regard to involuntary measures in psychiatry*, motion for a resolution tabled by Ms Stella Kyriakides (Cyprus, EPP/CD) and other members of the Assembly;
- **Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities**: heard a communication by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meetings held in Strasbourg on 12 October 2017 and Bucharest on 21 November 2017;
- **Reporting back**: heard reports from:
 - Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) on her participation 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, held in Strasbourg on 19 October 2017;
 - Mr Killion Munyama (Poland, EPP/CD) on his participation in the 14th meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) of the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg on 24-25 October 2017;
 - Mr Piet De Bruyn (Belgium, NR) on his participation in the Annual Conference of ILGA-Europe, held in Warsaw on 1-4 November 2017, and 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, held in Brdo pri Kranju (Slovenia) on 15-16 November 2017;
- **Appointment of representatives**: appointed Mr Piet De Bruyn (Belgium, NR), in his capacity as General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI people, to participate in the Intersex rights symposium to be held in Reykjavik, Iceland, 17-18 February 2018 (*subject to the availability of funds*);
- **Follow-up given to resolutions adopted by the Assembly**: considered the replies of the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 2101 (2017) on *The protection of the rights of parents and children belonging to religious minorities*, and to Recommendation 2098 (2017) on *Ending cyberdiscrimination and online hate*;

- **Any other business:** took note of the call for participation in the regional survey on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe, which will start in January 2018, in cooperation with IPU;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:

Plenary committee

- Strasbourg, during the 1st part-session 2018 of the Assembly (22-26 January);
- Copenhagen, 1-2 March 2018;
- Strasbourg, during the 2nd part-session 2018 of the Assembly (23-27 April);
- Paris, 23 May 2018 (Council of Europe Office);
- Strasbourg, during the 3rd part-session 2018 of the Assembly (25-29 June);
- Paris, 17 September 2018 (Council of Europe Office);
- Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2018 of the Assembly (8-12 October);
- Paris, 3 December 2018 (Council of Europe Office).

Elise Cornu, Sarah Burton, Elodie Fischer

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