



SECRETARIAT

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27 April 2018

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 April 2018

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 April 2018, with first Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, and then Mr Manuel Tornare (Switzerland, SOC), First Vice-Chairperson in the Chair:

- **Monday 23 April 2018, from 2 to 3 pm**, as regards:
 - **Conference on *Private and family life for LGBTI people*** (Copenhagen, 2 March 2018): declassified the minutes;
 - **Promoting diversity and equality in politics** (*Rapporteur: Mr Killion Munyama, Poland, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
 - **Forced marriage in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE*): considered a preliminary draft report;
 - **For a disability-inclusive workforce** (*Rapporteur: Mr Adão Silva, Portugal, EPP/CD*): considered an information memorandum;
 - **Other business**: decided to hold its next meeting in Paris on 5 June 2018 instead of 23 May 2018;
- **Tuesday 24 April 2018, from 2 to 2.30 pm**, as regards:
 - **Election of the Bureau of the Committee**: elected Mr Viorel Riceard Badea (Romania, EPP/CD) as Second Vice-Chairperson, by acclamation;
 - **Private and family life: achieving equality regardless of sexual orientation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jonas Gunnarsson, Sweden, SOC*):
 - considered an information memorandum on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights;
 - and decided to propose that Ms Katherine Zappone, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs of Ireland, be invited to address the Assembly in the context of the debate on the report;
 - **Alleged extreme discrimination and crimes against LGBTI people in the Chechen Republic (Russian Federation)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Piet de Bruyn, Belgium, NR*):
 - took note of the letter from Mr Vyacheslav Egorov, Permanent Representative a.i. of the Russian Federation to the Council of Europe, informing the Secretary General of the Assembly that Ms Tatyana Moskalkova, High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation, had

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- declined the invitation by the Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination to participate in the hearing organised by the Committee;
- considered an information memorandum;
- and decided to make the memorandum available to the members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights in view of the joint meeting;
- **Tuesday 24 April 2018, from 2.30 to 3.30 pm, holding a joint meeting with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, as regards:**
 - *Alleged discrimination and crimes against LGBTI people in the Chechen Republic (Russian Federation)*: held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Igor Kochetkov, Chairperson of the Russian LGBT Network, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation;
 - Ms Tanya Lokshina, Russia Programme Director, Human Rights Watch, Moscow, Russian Federation.
- **Thursday 26 April 2018, from 8.30 to 10 am, as regards:**
 - **Detainees with severe disabilities in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Manuel Tornare, Switzerland, SOC*):
 - decided to change the title of the report to *Detainees with disabilities in Europe*;
 - considered and approved a draft report;
 - and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
 - **Establishment of a European academic network on the Istanbul Convention**:
 - held an exchange of views with Mr Michele Nicoletti, President of the Assembly, and Prof. Marina Calloni, President of the Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan-Bicocca (by video-conference);
 - and expressed its full support for the President's initiative to establish a European academic network on the Istanbul Convention;
 - **Promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities** (*Rapporteur: Mr Viorel Riceard Badea, Romania, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Thursday 26 April 2018, from 2 to 3.30 pm, as regards:**
 - **Migration from a gender perspective: empowering women as key actors for integration** (*Rapporteur: Ms Gabriela Heinrich, Germany, SOC*): considered a preliminary draft report;
 - **Work programme**:
 - took note of the work programme;
 - following a vote by secret ballot, appointed Mr Manuel Tornare (Switzerland, 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"?* and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **Appointment of representatives** (*subject to the availability of funds*):
 - appointed:
 - Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), in her capacity as Chairperson, to participate in the *Conference to launch the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023: Gender Equality: paving the way* to be held in Copenhagen on 3-4 May 2018;
 - and Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), in her capacity as Rapporteur on *Forced marriage in Europe*, to participate in the 15th plenary meeting of the *Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM)* to be held in Athens on 22-25 May 2018;
 - in the absence of candidates, authorised its Chairperson to appoint a member of the Committee to participate in the conference *Ten years of implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: impact and challenges ahead*, to be held in Strasbourg on 22 May 2018;

- **Reporting back:** heard reports from:
 - Mr David Davies (United Kingdom, EC) on his participation in the 75th meeting of the *European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)* held in Strasbourg on 21-23 March 2018;
 - Ms Gabriella Heinrich (Germany, SOC) on her participation in *The Evaluation and Closing Conference of the No Hate Speech Movement youth campaign*, held on 10-12 April 2018 at the European Youth Centre, Strasbourg;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Paris, 5 June 2018 (Council of Europe Office);
 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd part-session 2018 of the Assembly (25-29 June);
 - Paris, 19 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).

The Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg, on Tuesday 24 April from 8.30 to 10 am, with Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/DC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:** elected Mr Olli-Poika Parviainen (Finland, SOC) as Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;
- **Best practices for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market:** in the framework of the preparation of a report on *For a disability-inclusive workforce* by Mr Adão Silva (Portugal, EPP/CD) held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Edurne Alvarez De Mon, Human Resources Senior Consultant, Foundation once Inserta, Spain;
 - Ms Agnès Gerber-Hauptert, Director General, Action et Compétence, France;
 - Mr David Kennaugh, Small Business Owner, France;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to propose the date and place of the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities, meeting in Strasbourg, on Wednesday 25 April from 2 to 3.30 pm, with Mr Damien Thiéry (Belgium, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Twenty years on: Shortcomings and challenges in the use of regional or minority languages at local and regional level:** held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Vesna Crnić-Grotić, Chairperson of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;
 - Mr Andrew Dawson, member of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, rapporteur of the Governance Committee on *The use of languages by local and regional authorities*;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to propose the date and place of the next meeting.

Sonia Sirtori, Sarah Burton, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer

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