



SECRETARIAT

AS/Ega/CB (2018) 07

12 October 2018

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 8 to 11 October 2018

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 8 to 11 October 2018, with Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **Monday 8 October 2018, from 2 to 3 pm, as regards:**
  - **Making sign language one of Europe's official languages** (*Rapporteur: Ms Miren Edurne Gorrotxategui, Spain, UEL*): changed the title of the report to *Protecting and promoting sign languages in Europe*; considered and approved a draft report; and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
  - **For a disability-inclusive workforce** (*Rapporteur: Mr Adão Silva, Portugal, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a draft report; unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
  - **IPU-PACE joint regional study on Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe**: was informed about the launch event to be held in Geneva (Switzerland), on 16 October 2018, in the context of the IPU Assembly, and authorised its Chairperson to represent it at this event (*subject to the availability of funds*);
  - **World Forum for Democracy**: appointed Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC) as representative to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 19 to 21 November 2018) on *Gender Equality: Whose Battle? (at no cost to the Assembly)*; and took note of the wish of Ms Aicha Lakbar, member of the delegation of Partner for democracy of Morocco, to participate in the Forum (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **Tuesday 9 October 2018, from 8.30 to 10 am, holding a joint meeting with the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, as regards:**
  - **Protecting the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities with regard to involuntary measures in psychiatry** (*Rapporteur of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: Ms Reina de Bruijn-Wezeman, Netherlands, ALDE ; Rapporteur of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, for opinion: Ms Sahiba Gafarova, Azerbaijan, EC*): held a public hearing with the participation of:
    - Ms Beatrice Ioan, Chairperson of the Council of Europe Committee on Bioethics;
    - Ms Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities;
    - Ms Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
    - Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law of the Council of Europe;
    - Ms Olga Runciman, Psychologist and owner of *Psycovery*;

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<http://assembly.coe.int/extranet>

- **Wednesday 10 October 2018, from 2 to 3.30 pm**, as regards:
  - **IPU-PACE joint regional study on *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe***: appointed Ms Nina Kasimati (Greece, UEL), in her capacity as a member of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, to participate in the launch event to be held in Geneva (Switzerland), on 16 October 2018, in the context of the IPU Assembly (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
  - **Private and family life: achieving equality regardless of sexual orientation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jonas Gunnarsson, Sweden, SOC*): took position on the amendment which had been tabled to the draft resolution;
  - **Protecting the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities with regard to involuntary measures in psychiatry** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Sahiba Gafarova, Azerbaijan, EC*): considered and unanimously approved its comments on the revised Draft Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine concerning the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment, to be transmitted to the Council of Europe Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO) in the context of its informal consultation on the draft Additional Protocol;
  - **Promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities** (*Rapporteur: Mr Viorel Riceard Badea, Romania, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Thursday 11 October 2018, from 8.30 to 10 am**, as regards:
  - **Election of the Third Vice-Chairperson**: elected Ms Miren Edurne Gorrotxategui (Spain, UEL), by acclamation;
  - **Migration from a gender perspective: empowering women as key actors for integration** (*Rapporteur: Ms Gabriela Heinrich, Germany, SOC*): took position on the amendments to the draft resolution; approved two sub-amendments to be tabled on its behalf; and asked its Chairperson to propose that the amendments which had been unanimously approved by the committee be declared as adopted by the Assembly under rule 34.11 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
  - **Discrimination in access to employment** (*Rapporteur: Mr Damien Thiéry, Belgium, ALDE*): considered and approved a draft report; unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
  - **An ambitious Council of Europe agenda for gender equality** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum;
  - **Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the "Cairo Declaration"?** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Manuel Tornare, Switzerland, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;
  - **Sub-Committee on Disability, Inclusion and Intersectional Discrimination**: approved a change in the composition of the Sub-Committee, with Mr Nagif Hamzayev (Azerbaijan, FDG) becoming a full member;
  - **Work programme**:
    - decided to ask the Bureau to be seized for opinion on the report on *Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*;
    - appointed Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) as rapporteur on *Ethnic profiling in Europe: a matter of high concern*, subject to hearing from him a declaration of interests;
    - appointed Ms Miren Edurne Gorrotxategui (Spain, UEL) as rapporteur on *Preserving Europe's linguistic, ethnic, cultural and national diversity* and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
    - appointed Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) as General Rapporteur on *Violence Against Women* and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
  - **Reporting back**: heard a report from Ms Albane Gaillot (France, NR) on the participation of the ad hoc sub-committee to participate in the *Regional conference on women in politics: how to progress towards equality?* (Rabat, 5 July 2018);

- **Next meetings of the Committee:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
  - Paris, 3 December 2018 (Council of Europe Office);
  - Strasbourg, during the 1<sup>st</sup> part-session 2019 of the Assembly (21-25 January);
- **Thursday 11 October 2018, from 2 to 3.30 pm, holding a joint meeting with the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence**, as regards:
  - **Address by the President of the Assembly:** heard a statement by the President of the Assembly on her priorities in the areas of promoting gender equality and ending violence against women and held an exchange of views;
  - **Is there a backlash against women's rights?:** held a hearing with presentations on:
    - *Backlash in Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Rights*, by Ms Borbála Juhász, independent expert and co-author of the study for the FEMM Committee of the European Parliament (June 2018);
    - *Promoting the Istanbul Convention* by Ms Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe;
  - **IPU-PACE joint regional study on Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe:** was informed about the launch event to be held in Geneva (Switzerland), on 16 October 2018, in the context of the IPU Assembly;
  - **Activities to mark the 2018 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November):** heard a statement by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Political Co-ordinator of the Network, on the organisation of a coordinated visibility action by Network members on social media.

Sonia Sirtori, Sarah Burton, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer

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