



SECRETARIAT

AS/Ega/CB (2019) 03

11 April 2019

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 8 to 11 April 2019

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 8 to 11 April 2019, with first Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, and then Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality, in the Chair:

- **Monday 8 April 2019, from 2 to 3 pm**, as regards:
  - **International Roma Day, 8 April 2019**: adopted a declaration on behalf of the Committee;
  - **Promoting parliaments free of sexism and sexual harassment** (*Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC*): approved an amendment to the draft recommendation to be tabled on behalf of the Committee;
  - **Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC*): approved a draft opinion, including six amendments;
  - **Discrimination against Roma and Travellers in the field of housing** (*Rapporteur: Mr František Kopřiva, Czech Republic, ALDE*): considered an introductory memorandum;
  - **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2019: call for nominations**: heard a statement by its Chairperson recalling the deadline of 30 April 2019 for submitting nominations;
- **Tuesday 9 April 2019, from 8.30 to 10 am**, as regards:
  - **Promoting parliaments free of sexism and sexual harassment** (*Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC*): unanimously approved the amendments which had been tabled to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation and asked its Chairperson to propose that they be declared as adopted by the Assembly under Rule 34.11 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
  - **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC*): approved a draft opinion, including three amendments;

- **The gender dimension of foreign policy** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Stienen, Netherlands, ALDE*): considered an introductory memorandum; authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Sweden in the framework of the preparation of her report (*subject to the availability of financial resources*); and held a hearing with the participation of:
  - Mr Torbjörn Haak, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe;
  - Ms Laila Ait Baali, Political Coordinator, Wo=Men, Dutch Gender Platform, Netherlands;
- **Joint debate on *The role and responsibilities of political leaders in combating hate speech and intolerance*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*) and **Stop hate speech and acts of hatred in sport** (*Rapporteur: Mr Goran Beus Richembergh, Croatia, ALDE*): appointed Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality, to represent the Committee during the debate in plenary;
- **Tuesday 9 April 2019, from 2 to 2.15 pm, as regards:**
  - **The role and responsibilities of political leaders in combating hate speech and intolerance** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*): unanimously approved the amendment which had been tabled to the draft resolution and asked its Chairperson to propose that it be declared as adopted by the Assembly under Rule 34.11 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
  - **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63)** (United Nations Headquarters, New York, United States, 11-13 March 2019): heard the reporting back from Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Chairperson of the *Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in the CSW 63;
  - **Meeting of the Committee in Belgrade and of the Sub-Committee on the rights of Minorities in Novi Sad, Serbia** (respectively on 5 and 6 June 2019): considered the draft programme and the practical information of the meeting;
- **Tuesday 9 April 2019, holding a joint meeting with the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, from 2.15 to 3.30 pm, as regards:**
  - **Forced sterilisations of Roma women:** in the context of the preparation of the report on *Obstetrical and gynaecological violence* (*Rapporteur: Ms Maryvonne Blondin, France, SOC*), held a hearing with the participation of:
    - Ms Elena Gorolová, Spokesperson, Group of Women Harmed by Forced Sterilisation in the Czech Republic;
    - Ms Gwendolyn Albert, human rights advocate, Czech Republic;
    - Mr Adam Weiss, Director of the European Roma Rights Centre, Budapest, Hungary;
    - Mr Stefan Ivanco, Programme Coordinator and Researcher, Poradňa, Center for Civil and Human Rights, Slovak Republic;
  - **Violence against women:** heard a statement by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on violence against women, on the Network's priorities and activities;
- **Wednesday 10 April 2019, from 2 to 3.30 pm, as regards:**
  - **Ethnic profiling in Europe: a matter of high concern** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and held a hearing with the participation of:
    - Ms Lanna Hollo, Legal Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative, Paris;
    - Mr Michael Whine, Member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in respect of the United Kingdom;
  - **Sign language rights in the framework of the Council of Europe and its member States:** heard a presentation by Ms Eeva Tupi, Executive Director, World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), Finland, on the study funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland;
  - **An ambitious Council of Europe agenda for gender equality** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report;

- **Reply from the Committee of Ministers:** considered the reply of the Committee of Ministers to Assembly Recommendation 2138 (2018) on *Persecution of LGBTI people in the Chechen Republic (Russian Federation)*;
- **Appointment of representatives** (*subject to the availability of funds*):
  - appointed Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC) to participate in the meeting of international and regional mechanisms to combat violence against women organised by the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe (GEC) on 23-24 May 2019 in Strasbourg; and Mr František Kopřiva (Czech Republic, ALDE) to participate in the meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) on 11-14 June 2019 in Toulouse, France;
  - left it to its Chairperson to appoint a member of the Committee to participate in the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe (GEC) on 22-24 May 2019 in Strasbourg;
- **Work programme:** took note of the work programme;
- **Composition of Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
  - Mr Georgios Kyritsis (Greece, UEL) joining the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality as a full member instead of Ms Athanasia Anagnostopoulou (Greece, UEL);
  - Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC), joining the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality as a full member;
  - Ms Elissavet Skoufa (Greece, UEL) joining the Sub-Committee on Disability, Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination as a full member, instead of Mr Georgios Mavrotas (Greece, SOC);
  - Mr Gianni Marilotti (Italy, NR) joining the Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities as the alternate of Mr Maurizio Buccarella (Italy, NR);
- **Reporting back:** heard reports from Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) on her participation in the 7<sup>th</sup> International Roma Women's Conference on *Roma And Traveller Women's Access to Justice and Rights*, organised under the Finnish Presidency of the Committee of the Ministers of the Council of Europe, on 25-27 March 2019 in Espoo (Finland); and in the Conference *Tackling gender stereotypes and sexism*, organised by the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe (GEC), on 28-29 March 2019 in Helsinki;
- **Thursday 11 April 2019, from 2 to 2.45 pm**, as regards:
  - **Empowering women: promoting access to contraception in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:
    - Ms Camille Butin, Advocacy Advisor, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) European Network, Brussels;
    - Mr Neil Datta, Executive Director, European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), Brussels;
  - **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 

*Plenary Committee*

    - Belgrade, 5 June 2019;
    - Strasbourg, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session 2019 of the Assembly (24-28 June);
    - Paris, 12 September 2019 (Council of Europe Office);
    - Strasbourg, during the 4<sup>th</sup> part-session 2019 of the Assembly (30 September - 4 October);
    - Paris, 4 December 2019 (Council of Europe Office).

*Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities*

    - Novi Sad, Serbia, 6 June 2019.

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**The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance**, meeting in Strasbourg on 11 April 2019 from 8.30 to 10 am, with Ms Gabriela Heinrich (Germany, SOC), General rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Islamophobia in Europe:** held a hearing with the participation of:
  - Prof. Ian Law, Centre for Ethnicity and Racism Studies, University of Leeds;
  - Ms Sandra Pertek, Chairperson, European Forum of Muslim Women, Brussels;
- **Parliamentary conference on “Counterstrategies against hate speech – Where are we at and what is our goal?”** (Berlin, 14 October 2019): considered a draft programme;
- **Next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to decide the date and place of its next meeting.

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**The Sub-Committee on Gender Equality**, meeting in Strasbourg on 11 April 2019 from 2.45 to 3.30 pm with Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) in the Chair:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:** elected Mr Robert Troy (Ireland, ALDE) As Vice-Chairperson, by acclamation;
- **Work programme and priorities:** held an exchange of views;
- **Next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to decide the date and place of its next meeting.

Sonia Sirtori, Sarah Burton, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer

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