

SECRETARIAT

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7 June 2019

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

### Synopsis of the meetings held in Belgrade and Novi Sad, Serbia on 5-6 June 2019

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Belgrade on 5 June 2019, with first Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, then Mr Manuel Tornare (Switzerland, SOC), First Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Welcoming address by Ms Maja Gojković, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia:** heard a welcoming address;
- **Exchange of views with the Serbian authorities:** held an exchange of views with Ms Brankica Janković, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, on the protection of equality of groups within the remit of the Commissioner and on equality and non-discrimination issues in Serbia;
- **The Istanbul Convention on violence against women: achievements and challenges** (*Rapporteur: Ms Zita Gurmai; Hungary, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report, and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Violence against women: progress and challenges in Serbia:** held a hearing with the participation of:
  - Ms Biljana Popović Ivković, State Secretary, Ministry of the Interior, Republic of Serbia;
  - Ms Dubravka Filipovski, Member of the Women's Parliamentary Network, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia;
  - Ms Tanja Ignjatović, Programme Coordinator, Autonomous Women's Centre, Belgrade;
- **An ambitious Council of Europe agenda for gender equality** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report, decided to change the title of the report to *Towards an ambitious Council of Europe agenda for gender equality*, approved the draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution, as amended, and a draft recommendation;
- **Women, peace and security: a regional perspective:** held a hearing with the participation of:
  - Ms Stana Božović, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy, Republic of Serbia;
  - Ms Sonja Licht, President of the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence;
- **Ending coercion in mental health: the need for a human-rights based approach** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Sahiba Gafarova, Azerbaijan, EC*): approved a draft opinion, including one amendment;
- **The situation of Crimean Tatars** (*Rapporteur: Mr Manuel Tornare, Switzerland, SOC*): considered an information memorandum;

- **Empowering women: promoting access to contraception in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC*): considered an information memorandum;
- **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs**:
  - appointed Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) as rapporteur for report on *Strengthening the fight against so-called "honour" crimes*, subject to hearing from her a declaration of interests;
  - postponed to its next meeting the appointment of a rapporteur for report on *Preventing discrimination caused by the use of artificial intelligence*;
- **World Forum for Democracy** (Strasbourg, 6-8 November 2019): appointed Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), Ms Jette Christensen (Norway, SOC), Mr Momodou Malcolm Jallow (Sweden, UEL) and Mr Robert Troy (Ireland, ALDE) as members of the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **Composition of the Sub-Committee on Disability, Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination**: approved the following change: Mr Georgios Mavrotas (Greece, SOC) becoming a full member, instead of Ms Elissavet Skoufa (Greece, UEL);
- **Reporting back**: heard a report by Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC) on her participation in the side-event on *Translating regional commitments into actions to end violence against women and girls to commemorate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*, organised by UN Women on 6 May 2019 in Vienna;
- **Appointment of representatives**: appointed (*at no cost to the Assembly*):
  - Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) to participate in the afternoon session of the meeting of the Current Affairs Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, to be held in Stuttgart (Germany) on Friday 28 June 2019 and
  - Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) to participate in the conference organised by the Open Society Justice Initiative on *The struggle against ethnic profiling in Europe: Lessons learned, good practices and future developments*, to be held in Valencia (Spain) on 28-30 June 2019;
- **Next meetings**: confirmed its next meetings as follows:
  - 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).

**The Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities**, meeting in Novi Sad, Serbia, on 6 June 2019, with Mr Goran Beus Richembergh (Croatia, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:** postponed to its next meeting the election of a Vice-Chairperson;
- **Minority SafePack Initiative:** heard a presentation by Ms Renata Trischler, Coordinator, Working Group of German Minorities, Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN);
- **Minority protection in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina: good practices and lessons learned:** held a hearing with the participation of:
  - Mr Mihály Nyilas, Vice-President of the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and Provincial Secretary for Education, Administration and National Communities;
  - Mr Jene Hajnal, President of the Hungarian National Minority Council;
  - Ms Jasna Vojnić, President of the Croatian National Minority Council.
- **Next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to propose the date and place of the next meeting.

Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Sarah Burton, Elodie Fischer

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